



Office for
National Statistics

Using administrative data sources to improve our understanding of movements of international migrants within the UK.

Justine McNally, Nicky Rogers
Office for National Statistics

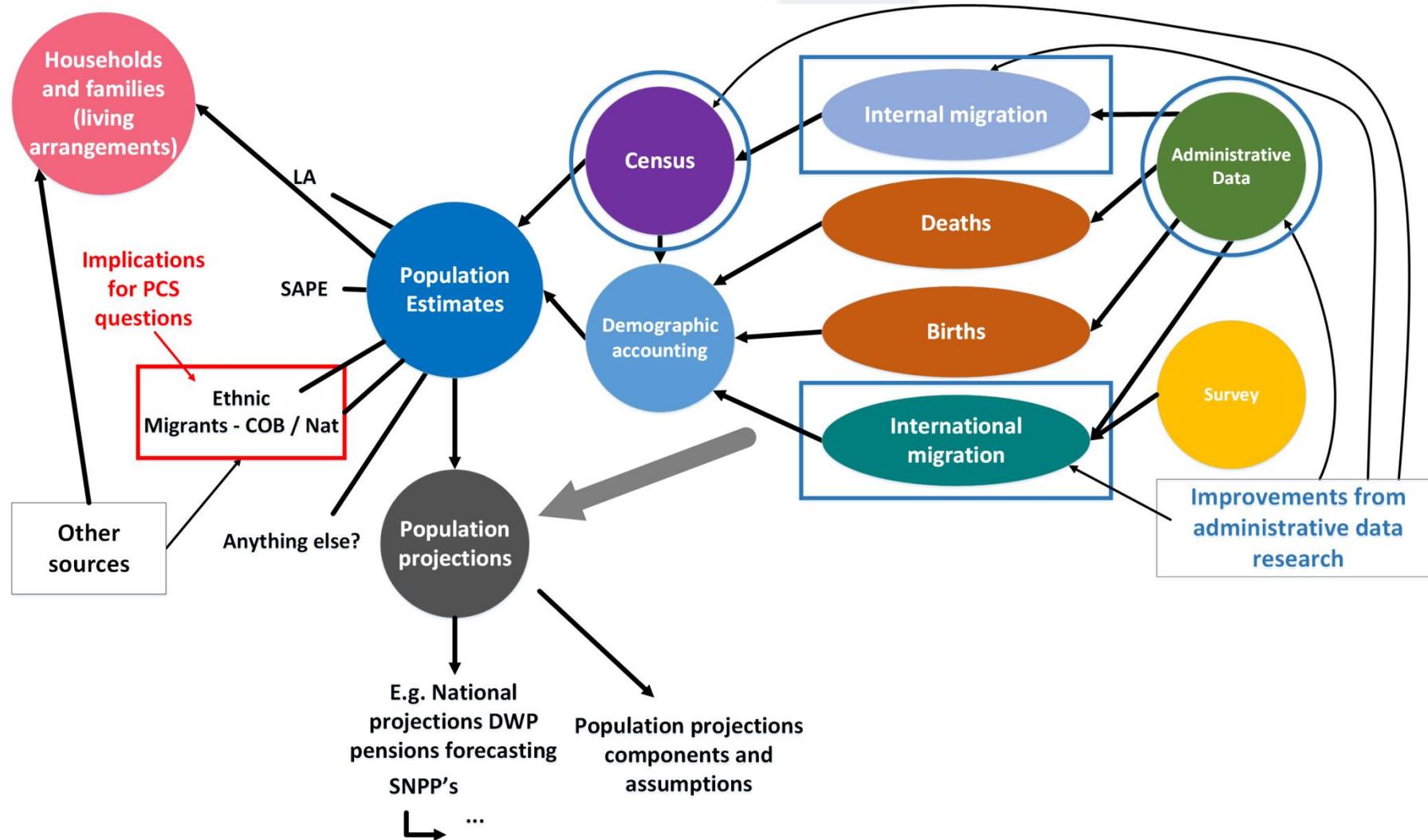
Outline

- Integrated population and migration statistics system: what is it, what are we aiming to do, what is our approach?
- Access to admin sources: UK experience
- Understanding migration flows using integrated admin data: our approach, understanding data sources and how migrants interact with these
- Challenges and next steps

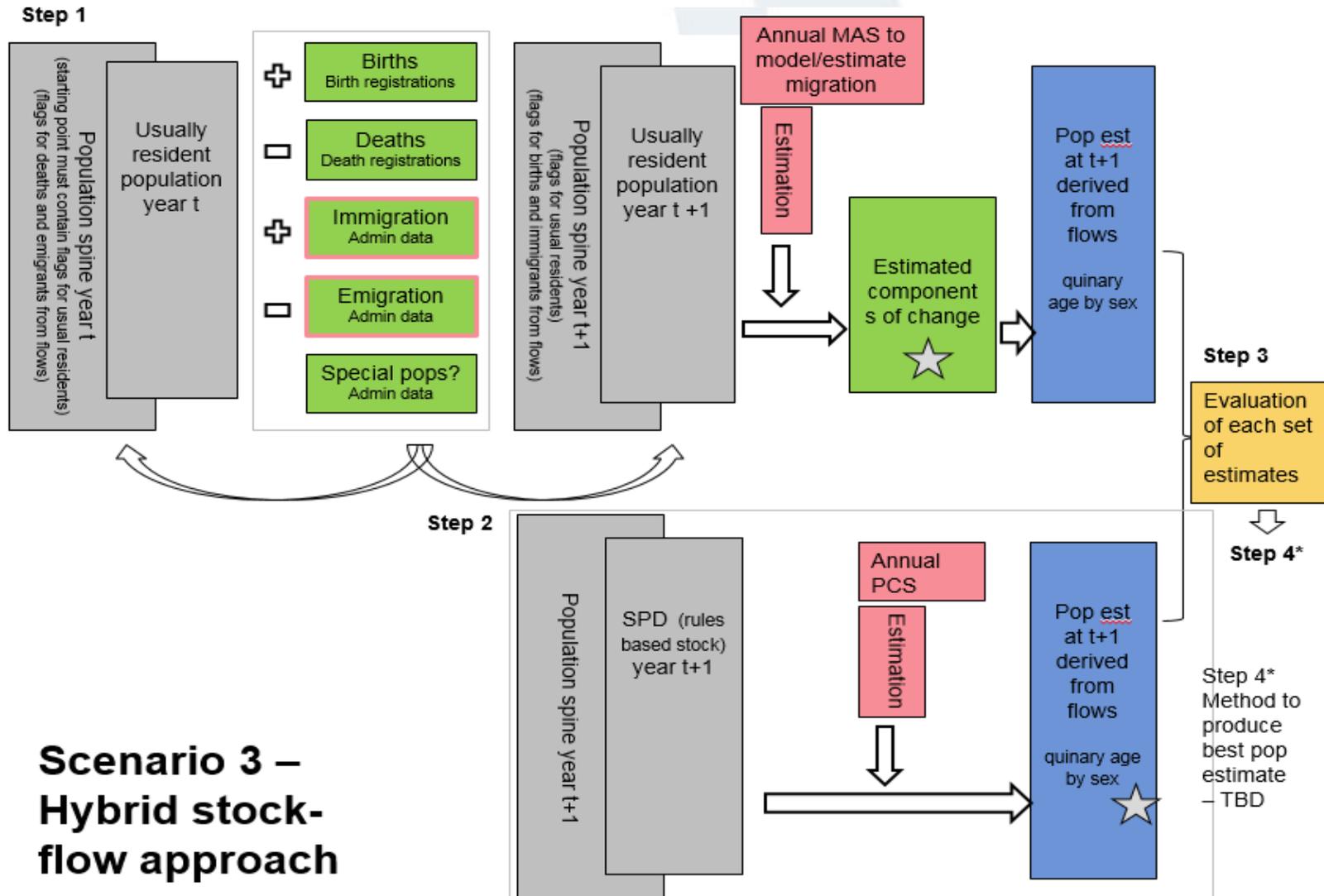
Transforming the population and migration statistics system...

- Strategic - to make better use of all available data to produce better statistics, better decisions
- Current system - challenges to quality of population statistics:
 - 10 years before we can rebase population
 - International Migration statistics (survey based, emigration challenge)
- Un-met user needs - gaps between what users need and what we can currently produce (e.g. impact of migration in local areas)
- Build flexibility to incorporate new data and methods.

What is an integrated population and migration statistics system?



Trying alternative approaches



Components of change – international migration

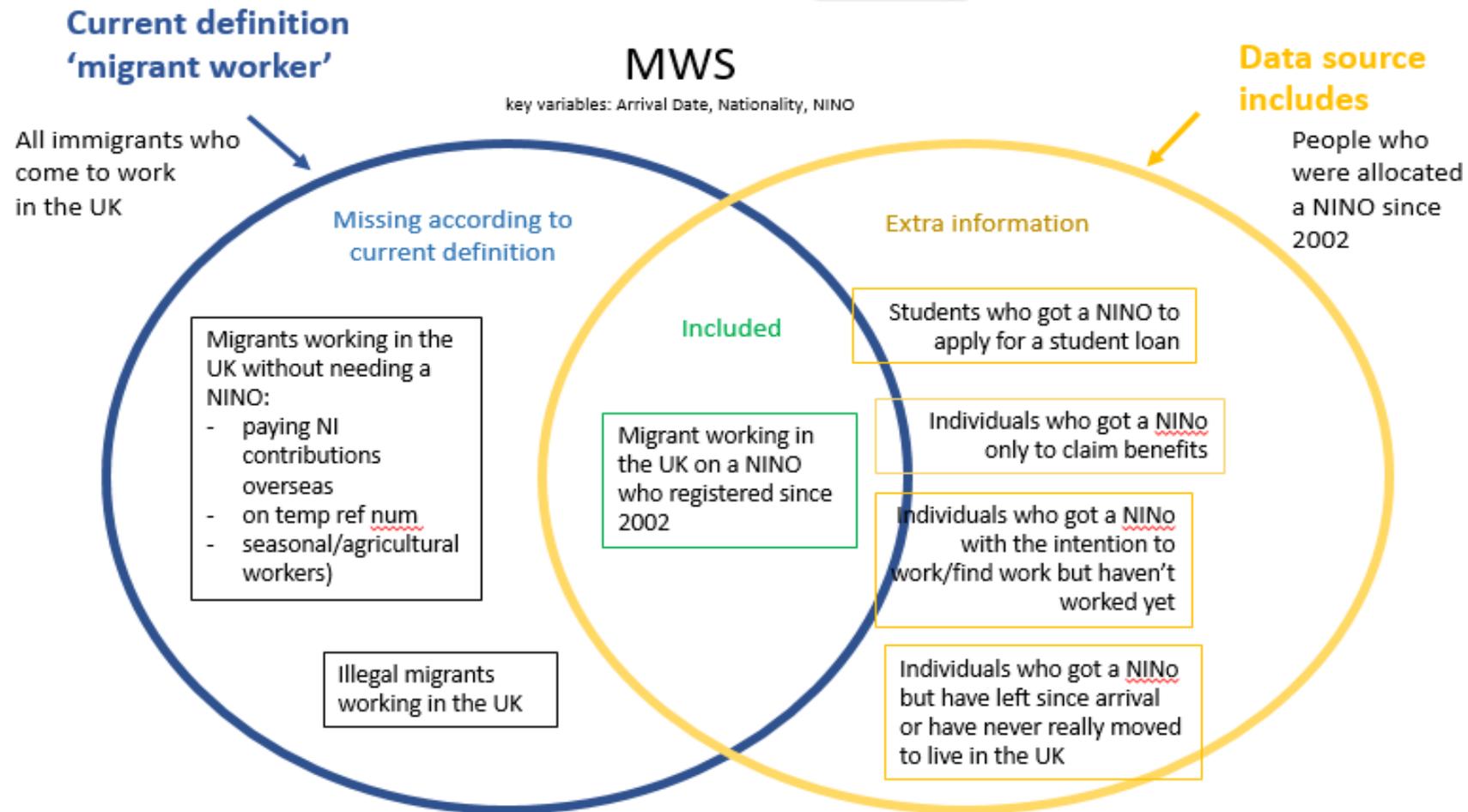
Most complex component as no single source covers movements of all types of migrants. Approach :-

- Understanding data sources what they can tell us about the different types of migrants and how they interact with systems 'footprints'
- Develop linkage approaches (new data sources), build and understand the longitudinal picture.
- Consider the best way to bring data sources together (including surveys eg IPS) to measure long term migrant flows (and other migrant types)

Access to administrative data sources – the UK experience

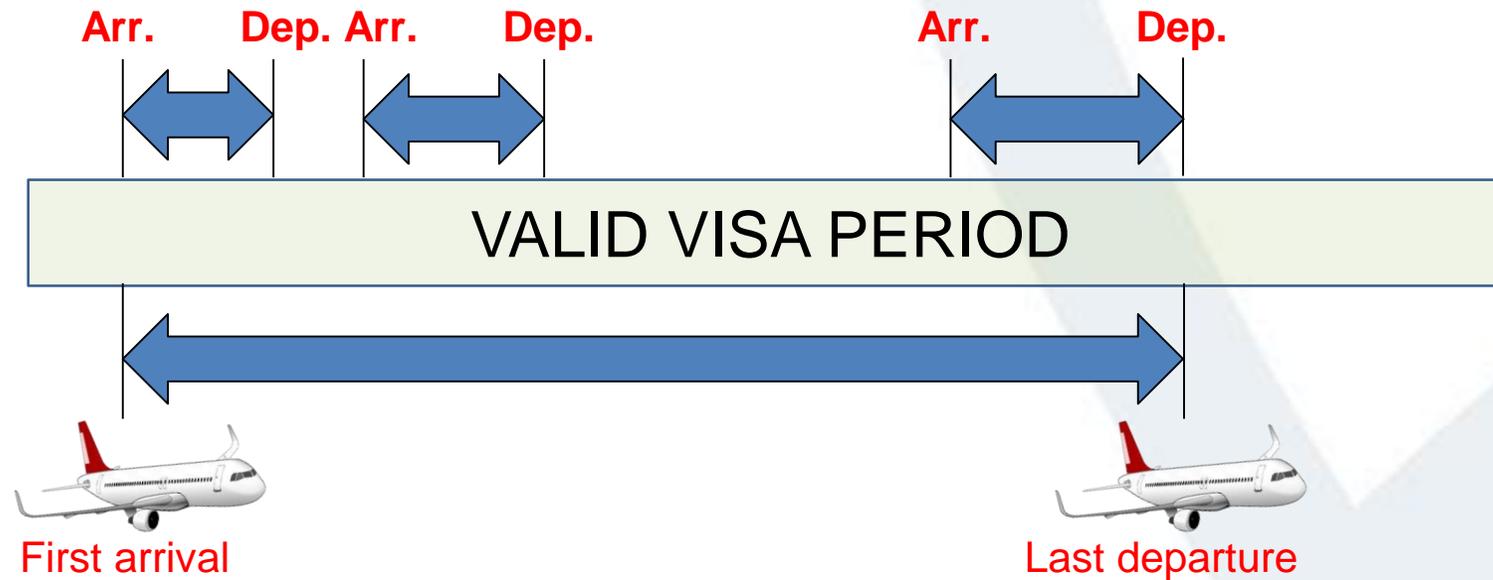
- 2017 Digital Economy Act (UK)
- Securely holding data and development of systems
- Working in partnership
- A shared framework for improving migration statistics
- Collaboration with data experts in Government Departments and feedback loop for new insights and learning

How do data sources align with current definitions?



Exit Checks - Non-EU visa nationals – visa v first/last departure v travel events

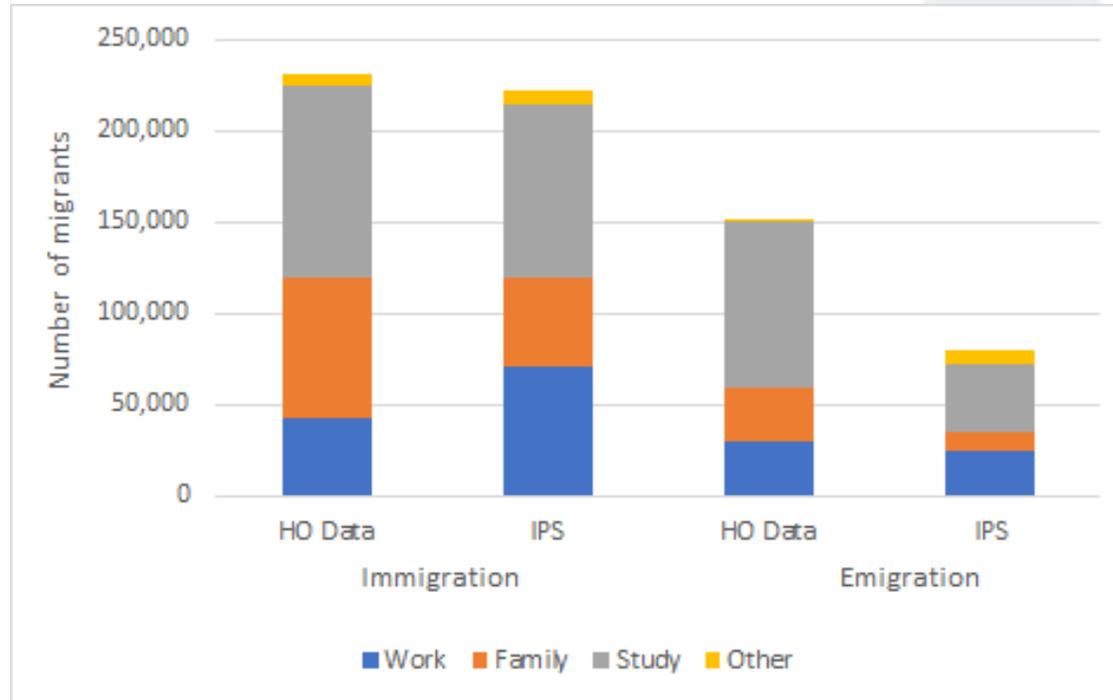
Tested by calculating revised length of stay using duration from first recorded arrival date and last departure date (when available)



But it doesn't tell us about an individual's travel pattern in between these two points in time....

Very early research on classifying long term migrants from travel events...

Comparing data sources

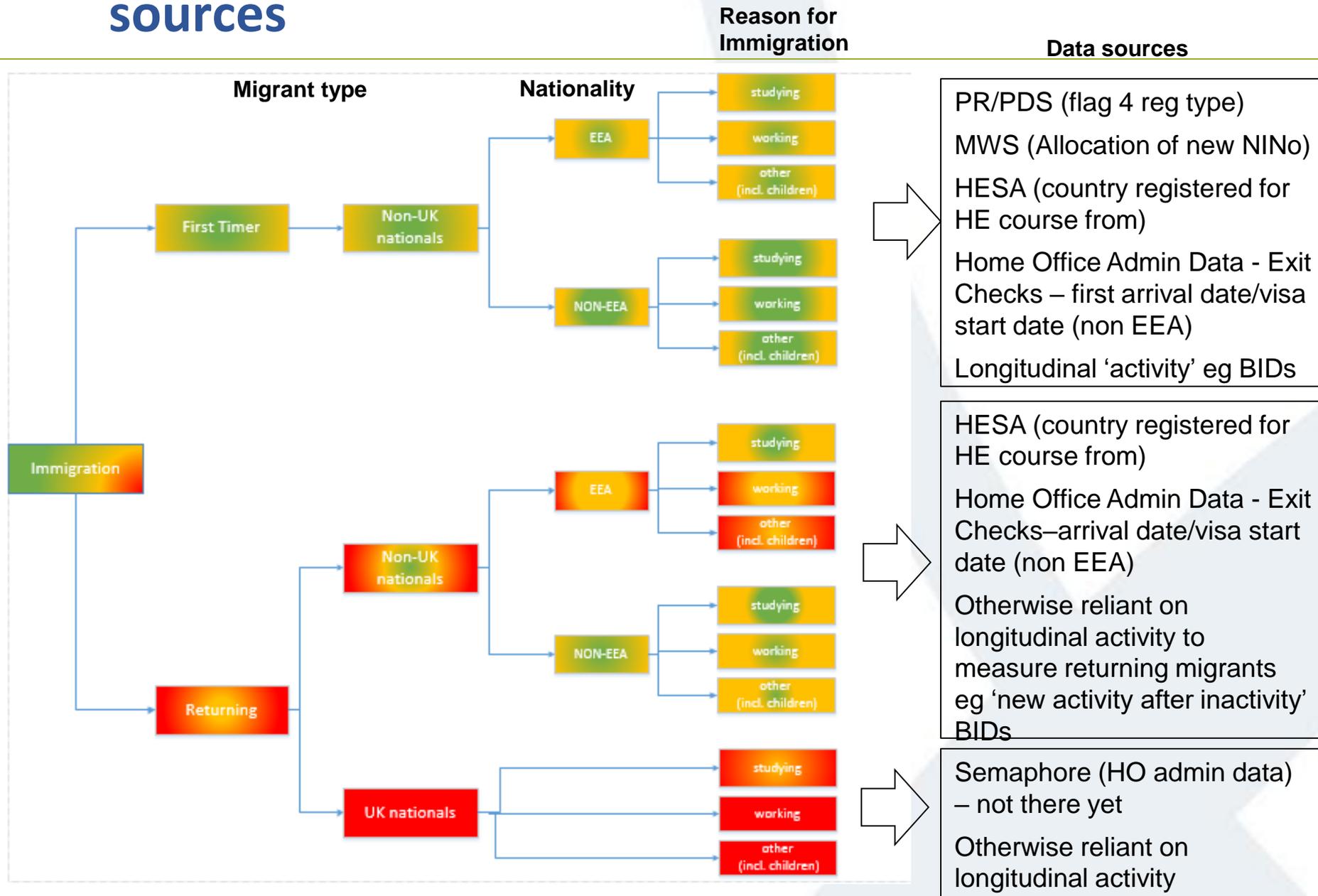


Important points to note:

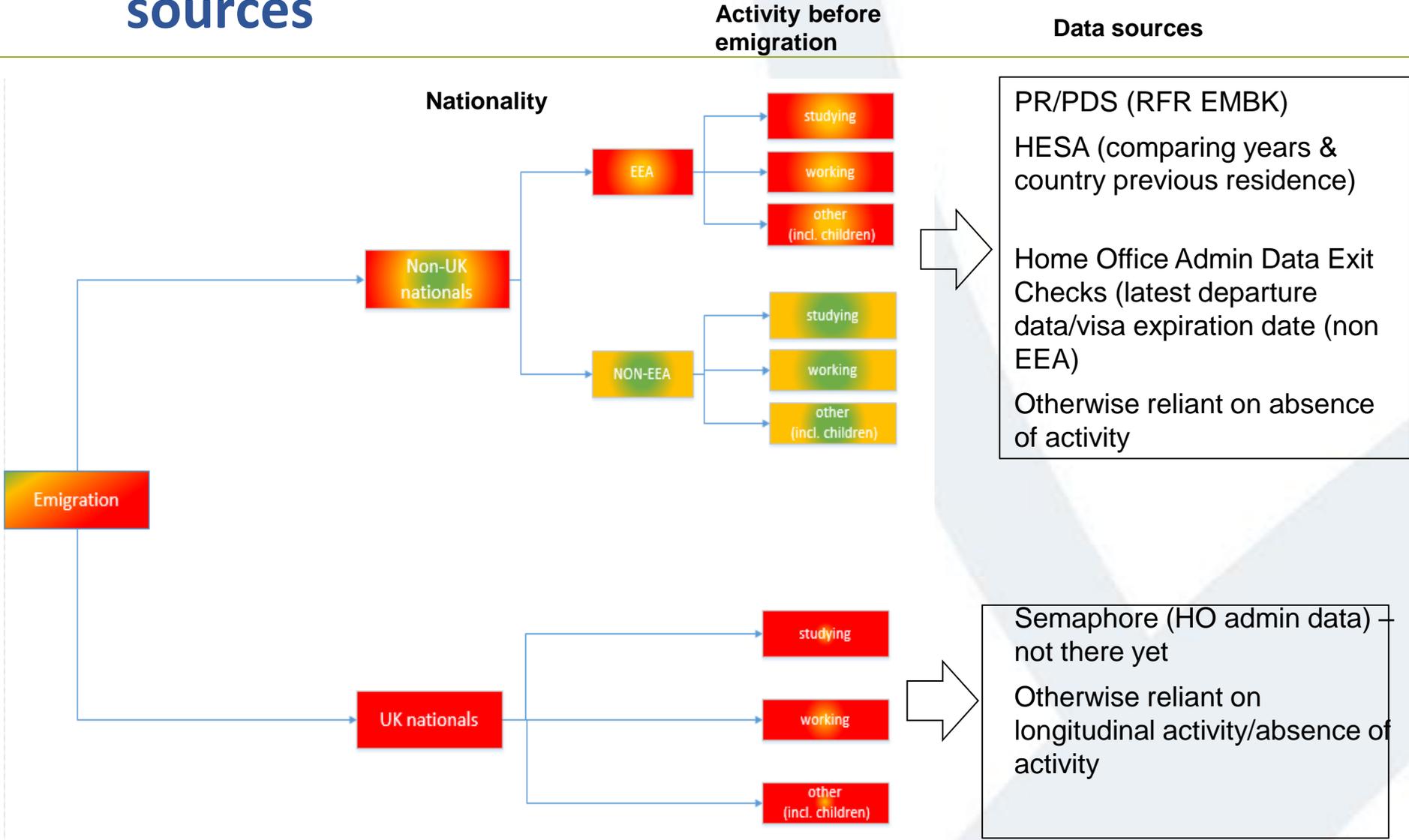
- Data sources are not capturing the same information and are not used for the same purpose.
- Differences due to type of data collected, how the data are collected, data quality of the two sources, assumptions made to process these data.

Source: ONS analysis of Home Office administrative data and International Passenger Survey (IPS) data

Measuring immigration - mapping to data sources



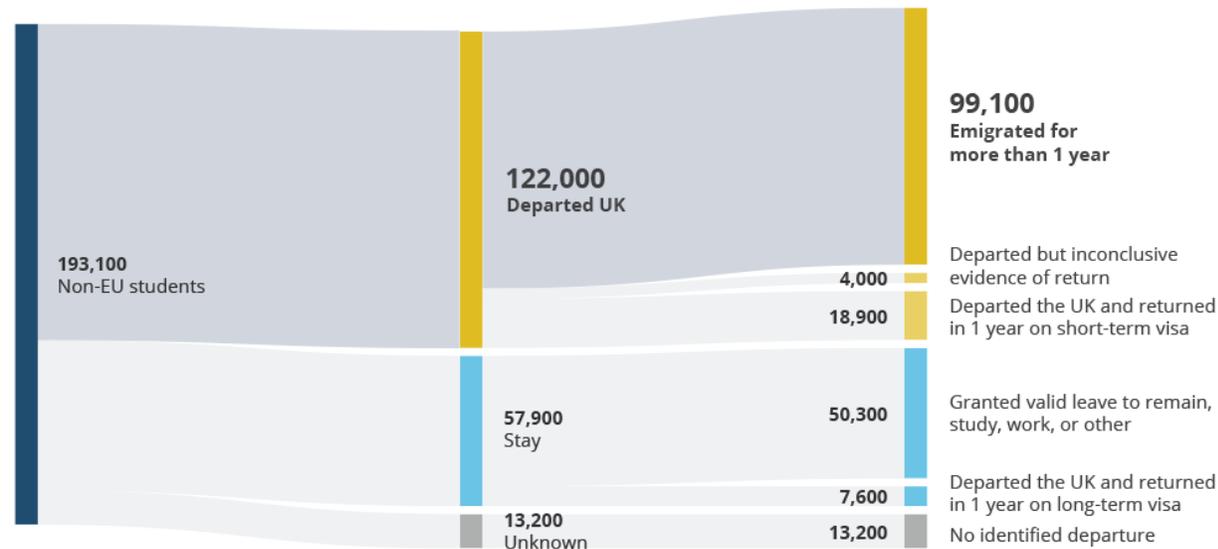
Measuring emigration - mapping to data sources



New insights from combining admin data sources

- Recent publications include:
 - [“What’s happening with international student migration?”](#) – ONS
 - [“International student migration update”](#)- ONS
 - [“Third report on statistics being collected under the exit checks programme”](#)- Home Office
- ONS’ analysis of Home Office Exit Checks data revealed that majority (90%) of non-EU international students either depart the UK before their visa expires, or extend their leave to remain
- Our analysis suggests the IPS is underestimating long-term non-EU student emigration figures

Outcomes for non-EU students with a leave expiry date between 8 April 2015 and 7 April 2016



Source: Office for National Statistics analysis of Exit Checks data

Challenges

- Data access – availability and quality of data – is it fit for purpose?
- Admin data alone is unlikely to deliver population statistics of sufficient quality, likely to need surveys to support the transformation.
- Is UN definition still relevant for measuring a changing population? Aligning 'data driven' definitions challenging.
 Intention v behaviour, registration v arrival, length of stay.
- Methods – new and innovative approach required, developing methods alongside other NSIs.
- UK coherence – population is a devolved responsibility, migration is a UK issue – working with DAs to deliver coherent outputs.

What next? Population and Migration Statistics Consultation – Autumn 2018

Consultation to understand user needs for transformed system, and gain feedback on research. Supported by:

- Part 1: Exploratory research illustrating definitions, methods and approach to transforming the Pop Stats System
- Part 2: Exploratory research into Non-EU Nationals travel patterns
- Part 3: Exploratory research into EU Nationals and how they impact on the economy

Following this we will be continuing to work iteratively on our research as we build our data sources and understanding of user needs, in collaboration across the GSS.