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Unlike livestock, in Great Britain (GB), the location and movements of horses used for recreational (leisure) purposes are not routinely recorded. Location and movement data are necessary to improve horse disease preparedness in Great Britain (GB). The National Equine Database (NED) which records horse owner location from passport data may contain errors as it is not mandatory for an owner to notify a change of address.

Objectives

- Describe the location of horses and their owners
- Describe type and frequency of horse movements within and into mainland GB.

Online questionnaire: "Survey Monkey"

Survey respondents from:

- National Equine Database (23.5%)
- British Horse Society (14.8%)
- Horse and Hound (14.2%)
- World Horse Welfare (11.2%)
- Endurance GB (9.7%)
- British Dressage (2.5%)
- British Eventing (2.2%)
- British Show jumping (0.2%)
- Donkey Sanctuary (0.09%)
- Facebook, Twitter (21.5%)

Data collected:

30 closed multiple choice questions
23 mandatory questions

Horse location

- Land type
- Premise type
- Distance kept from home premises

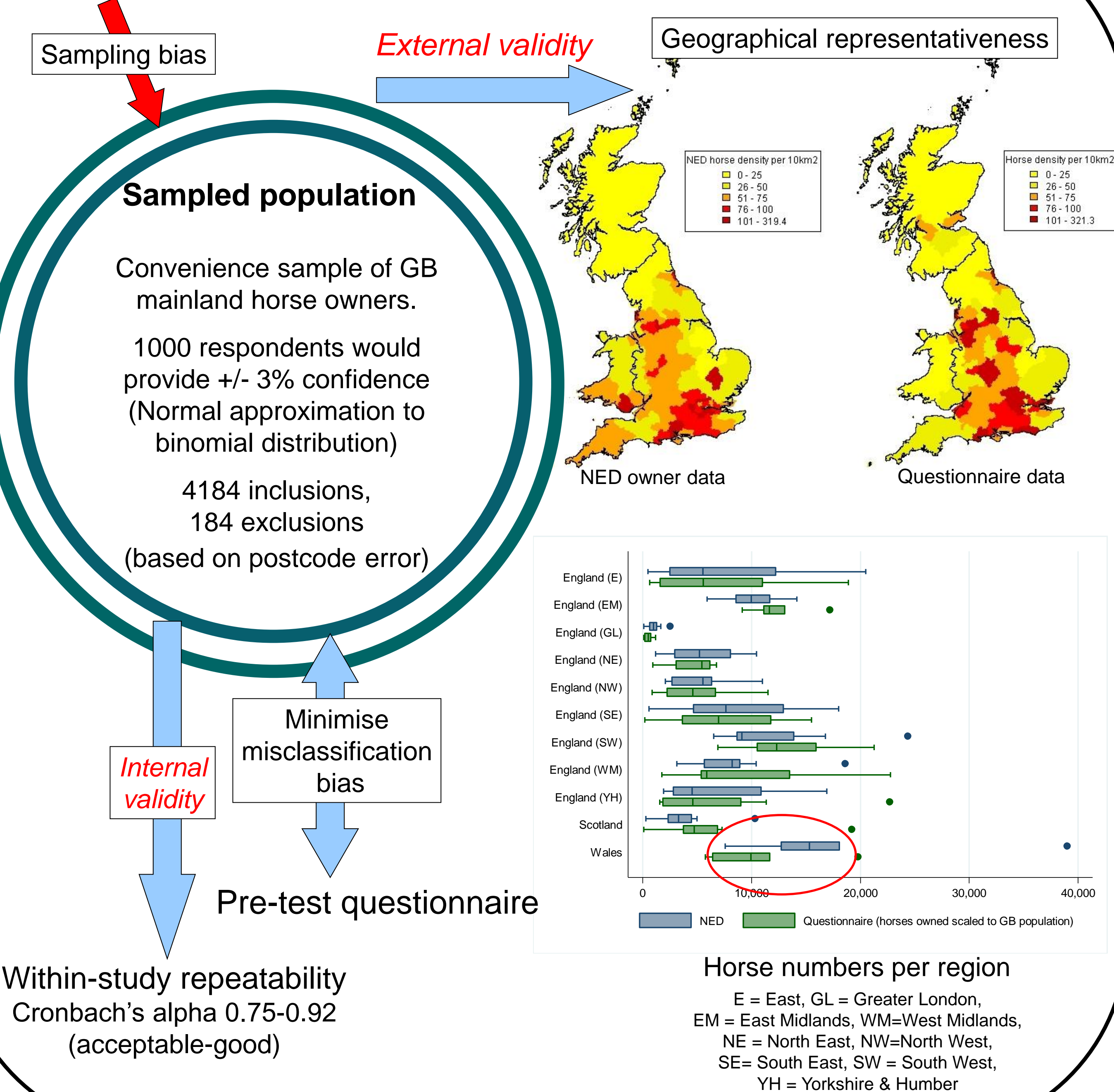
Horse management

- Vaccination
- Stabling (seasonal)

Horse movements

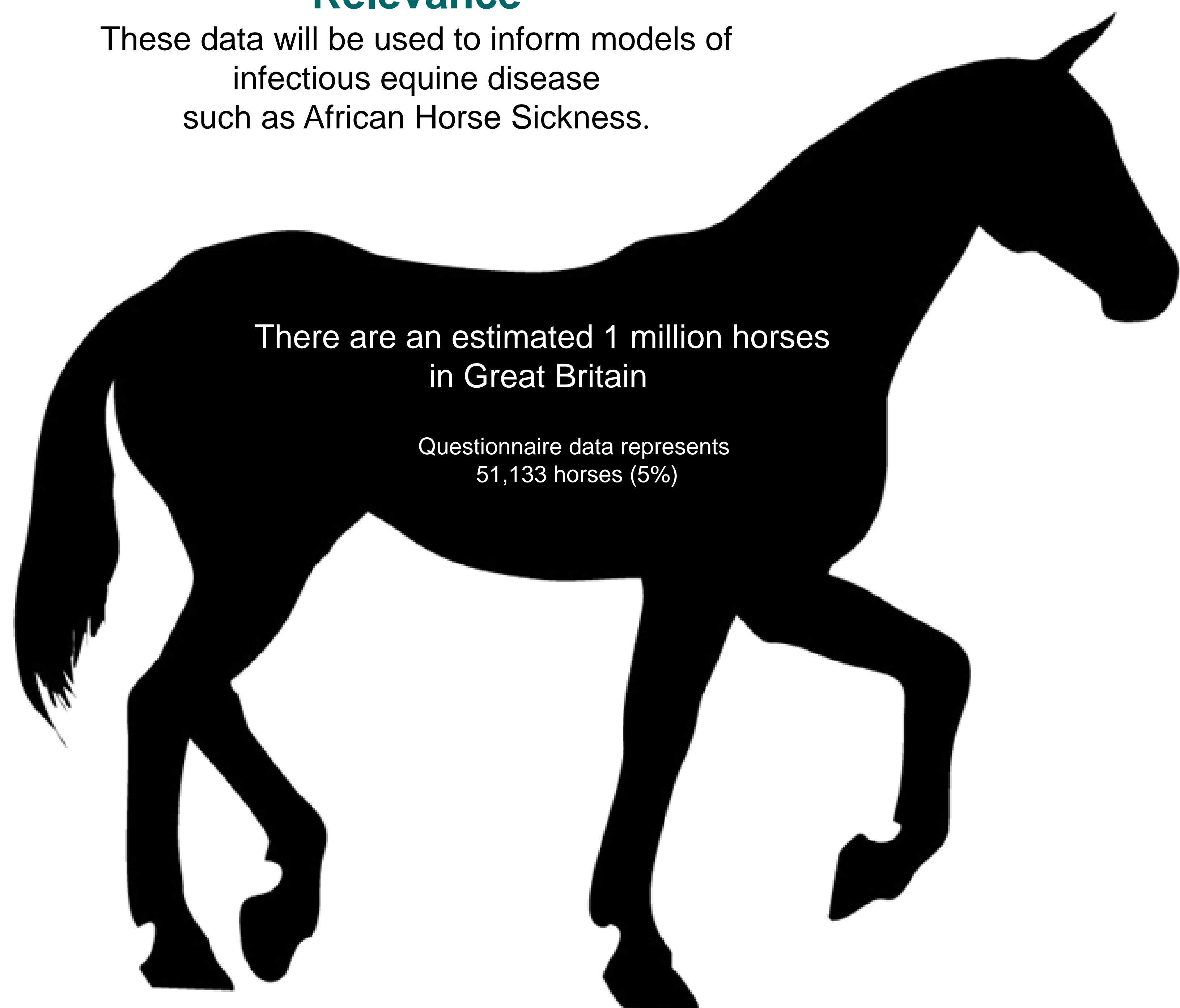
- National (activities)
- International travel
- Imports

Questionnaire validity



Relevance

These data will be used to inform models of infectious equine disease such as African Horse Sickness.



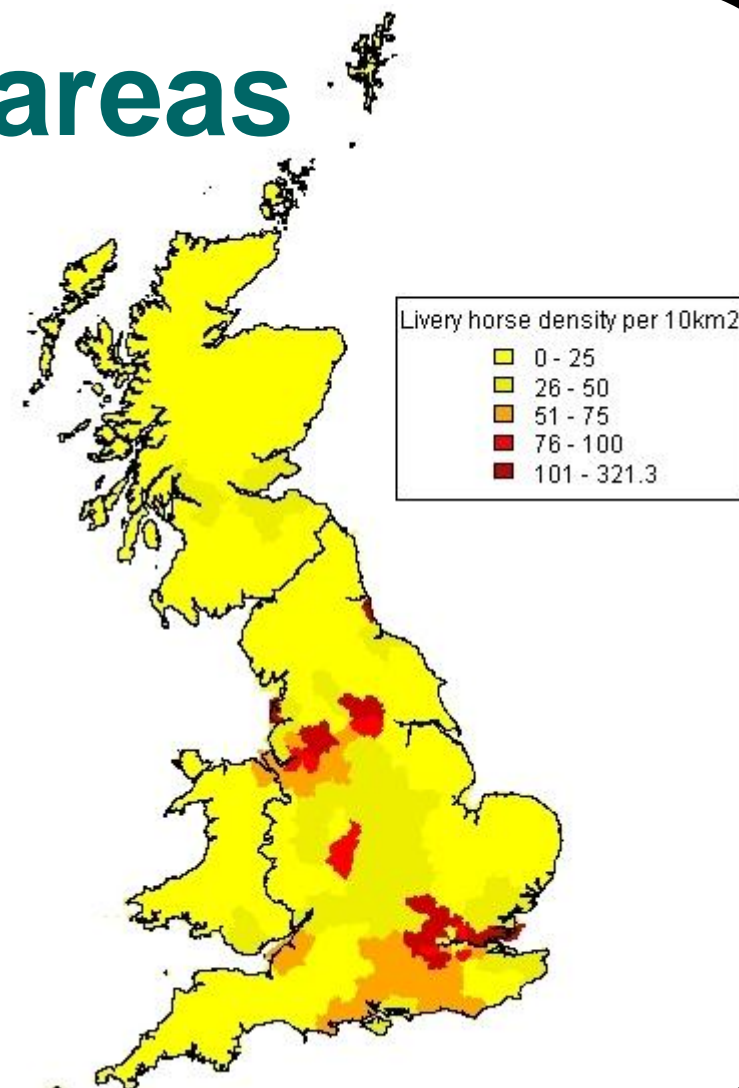
There are an estimated 1 million horses in Great Britain

Questionnaire data represents 51,133 horses (5%)

Horse owners in urban/industrial areas

Distance from home premises within 5 miles of premises (OR 1.84, 95%CI 1.41-2.41)

Premise type Livery yards (OR 1.57, 95%CI 1.18-2.09)



National horse movements

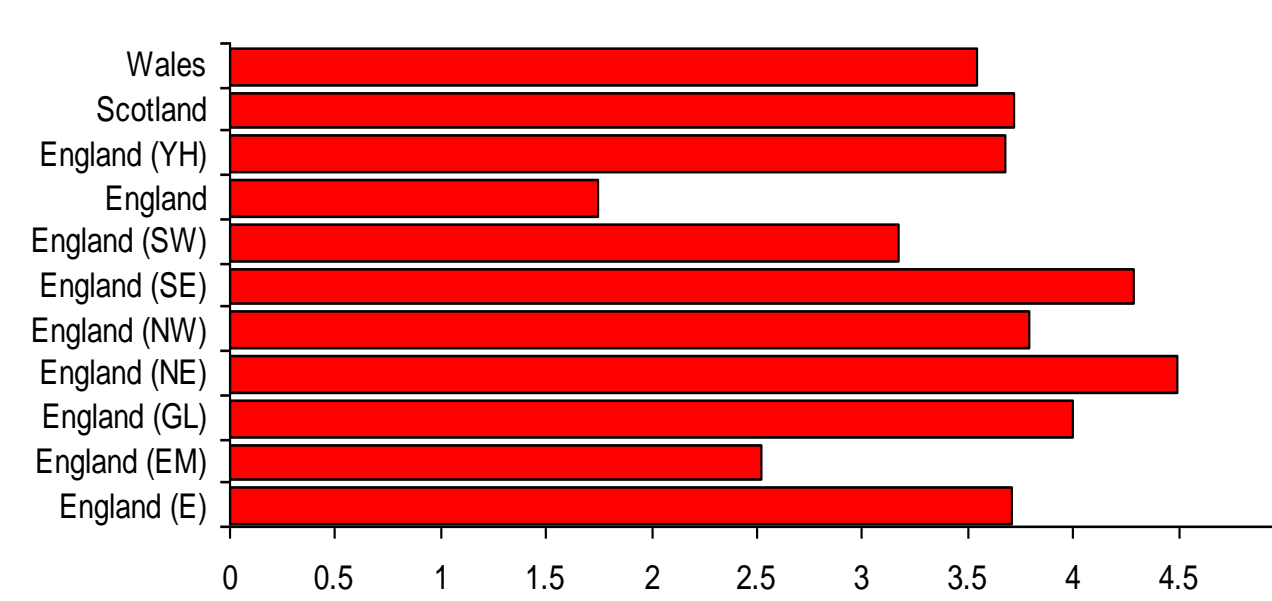


Word cloud: Horse activities weighted according to frequency and distance travelled to activity.

Hacking occurs mostly on or near home premises
Respondents more likely to travel 10 or more miles for competitions

International horse movements

3.5% respondents (n=122) import horses
1% respondents (n=28) import & travel internationally with horses



Respondents imported horses from Spain, Poland, Ireland, Germany And Belgium

