Introducing the Administrative Data Research Network

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Administrative Data Service

Better Knowledge Better Society
Our Structure

- Four Administrative Data Research Centres (ADRCs), one in each UK country
  - England – led by University of Southampton
  - Northern Ireland – led by Queens Uni Belfast
  - Scotland – led by University of Edinburgh
  - Wales – led by Swansea University

- Coordinating Administrative Data Service (ADS) – led by University of Essex
About ADS – Who We Are

- Partnership
  - UK Data Service (Essex)
  - Administrative Data Liaison Service (Mancs, Oxford)
- Five main teams:
  - User Services (Essex)
  - Comms & Stakeholder Engagement (Essex)
  - Training and Capacity Building (Manchester)
  - Legal Guidance (Oxford)
  - Management and coordination (Essex)
About ADS – What We Do

- Coordinate activities across the Network
  - Facilitate internal working groups
  - Keeper of ADRN-wide Comms and PubEng strategies
- Act as the front door to the Network
  - Website, branding, data catalogue, guides
  - Help Desk
  - Advice on legal issues
- Oversee/track the User Journey
  - Assist in project proposal preparation
  - User accreditation and training
  - Negotiate with data owners for access to data
  - Administer Approvals Panel, Expert Advisory Groups
  - Track impact
- Develop network-wide standards and protocols
About ADRC-England

- Led by the University of Southampton and run in collaboration with
  - University College London
  - The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
  - The Institute for Fiscal Studies
  - The Institute for Education
  - The Office for National Statistics

- Director: Peter Smith (UoS)
- Deputy Directors: Dave Martin (UoS), Ruth Gilbert (UCL) and Ben Humberstone (ONS)
- Assistant Director (Operations): Emma White (UoS)
ADRC-E Infrastructure

- Secure research laboratories in Southampton and London for the analysis of de-identified linked administrative data
- Access to the Office for National Statistics Virtual Microdata Laboratory
- Remote access to secure servers at Southampton
- Staff to support researchers using ADRC-E facilities
- A team of academics providing advice and leading coordinated research programmes
- Programme of user outreach and training on the use of administrative data
The Administrative Data Research Centre - Northern Ireland

- Linkage service
- Safe setting
- Data acquisition

- Public engagement
- Training, capacity building
- Research

Researcher support
ADRC-Scotland

- Co-located with Farr Institute, Scottish Government and NHS.

- Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Herriot-Watt, St Andrews and Stirling.

- Expertise in admin. data and Public Engagement, linkage, Law and relevant computer science techniques.
About ADRC-W

- Collaboration between Swansea and Cardiff Universities, with committed co-applicants from across Wales.
- Breadth of expertise across social sciences and health
- Unique data resources and research interests from Welsh Government partners
ADRC-Wales located in a purpose-built Data Science building, funded by ESRC, MRC & Welsh Government

High security data lab and server farm, with linked node in Cardiff

- Co-location with Farr Institute Centre, NHS and Welsh Government Data Scientists
- Security designed-in from the beginning
- Privacy protection and information governance from the foundations up.
- Sharing best practice, collaborating on shared problems
How It Works

- Website “front door”
- Catalogue of metadata
- Guidance on legal responsibilities, gateways
- Good practice guides
- Application support
Researcher requests administrative data for a project

**NHS Data**
- John Smith
- DOB 30/04/72
- NHS No
- Gender
- Age
- Injuries
- Allergies
- Births

**Unique Code**: 567899

**HMRC Data**
- Jon Smith
- DOB 30/04/72
- HMRC No
- Gender
- Age
- Tax
- Income
- Pension

**Unique Code**: 1234567

**Researcher applies via ADS**

**ADS** submits proposal to Approval Panel

**Approval Panel considers merits and risks of project**

**If approved ADRN negotiate with Data Custodians**

**Researcher to be approved and trained**

**Click**
Linking of matched data

ADRC

NHS Data
- Injuries
- Allergies
- Births

Unique Code
- 567899
- 1234567

Researcher provides results for further checks

HMRC Data
- Tax
- Income
- Pension
- Employment

Unique Code
- 567899
- 1234567

Records from two sources match!

ADRC checks to ensure results do not include information that would identify an individual

Findings published and summary of the work is released for general consumption

The research can now be used to influence policy and benefit society
Our Governance and Oversight

- ADRN Board convened by UK Statistics Authority – reports to Parliament
- Management Committee convened by ESRC – reports to BIS
- Approvals Panel of independent experts
- Expert Scientific Advisory groups
Our Mission and Vision

To benefit society and quality of life through intelligent social research

To place the UK at the forefront of innovative social and economic research