



Better Knowledge Better Society

Introducing the
Administrative
Data Research
Network

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Administrative Data
Research Network

An ESRC Data
Investment

Background

- ▶ Administrative Data Taskforce December 2011-2012
- ▶ Funding awarded October 2013
- ▶ November 2013-November 2014 Network process and policy development
- ▶ November 2014 open for applications.
- ▶ March 2015, 10 projects approved + 22 in progress.



Key issue: consent

- ▶ Public do not have a choice in providing administrative data
- ▶ Consent to reuse public data for research does not exist
- ▶ Public engagement key
 - ▷ crucial to understand and address public concerns
 - ▷ project must be able to demonstrate public benefit from reuse of administrative data
 - ▷ transparency and clear messages important



Public Engagement: what we have learnt

- ▶ No objections to concept of data use for research
- ▶ Governance important
- ▶ De-identification & linkage methods very important
- ▶ Independence is paramount
- ▶ Strong opposition to commercial usage
- ▶ Public benefit must be clear
- ▶ Understandable accurate messages needed
- ▶ On-going consultation



Our Structure

‘The Administrative Data Research Network is a UK-wide partnership between universities, government departments and agencies, national statistics authorities, the third sector, funders and researchers.’

- ▶ Administrative Data Service - University of Essex
- ▶ 4 Administrative Data Research Centres
 - ▶ England - University of Southampton
 - ▶ Northern Ireland - Queens University Belfast
 - ▶ Scotland - University of Edinburgh
 - ▶ Wales - Swansea University



Our Governance and Oversight

- ▶ ADRN Board convened by UK Statistics Authority - reports to Parliament (includes lay member)
- ▶ Management Committee convened by ESRC - reports to BIS
- ▶ Approvals Panel of independent experts (includes 2 lay members)
- ▶ Expert Scientific Advisory groups
- ▶ Citizen Panel (forthcoming)



Definition of an ADRN Project

- ▶ The project is for non-commercial research purposes
- ▶ The project has evident potential public benefit
- ▶ There is a demonstrable value from using unit level administrative data to answer the research question
- ▶ The project would not be more appropriately served by other existing services
- ▶ The project does not constitute normal operational functions undertaken by government departments or their agencies.



Eligible People

- ▶ The researcher must be a 'fit and proper person i.e.
 - They must be capable of carrying out the research either independently or under the direction of an appropriate supervisor or lead investigator; and
 - They must have completed the ADRN Accreditation Training

- ▶ The researcher must be from academia, the public sector or a research organisation on the Research Councils UK list of eligible independent research organisations (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/eligibilityforrcs/>).



Conditions of Access

- ▶ All projects must be approved by the ADRN Independent Approvals Panel (assessed for ethics, privacy impact, feasibility, scientific merit, and potential public benefit).
- ▶ The results of the project including all research outputs must be made available in the public domain. Where no formal publication mechanism is available the research results must be published as an ADRN working paper.
- ▶ The ADRN will be informed of all publications, presentations and other forms of dissemination that are produced in relation to ADRN research projects.
- ▶ The researcher will provide a maximum 2-page summary of research findings in accessible language for the data provider and the Network. These will be made publicly available on the ADRN website.
- ▶ The researcher must make copies of relevant code, syntax and documentation developed for the project available for reuse following the project end date. These materials must be appropriately structured and annotated to facilitate reuse.



How It Works

- ▶ Application
- ▶ Approvals Panel (Ethical review, privacy assessment, feasibility, public benefit & scientific merit)
- ▶ Accreditation and training
- ▶ Negotiation for permission to access & link
- ▶ Linkage via Trusted Third Party
- ▶ Analysis in a secure environment
- ▶ Results of analyses checked before released
- ▶ Plain English summaries of research published



Challenges

- ▶ Data discovery
- ▶ Final decision on access rests with the data custodian.
 - ▶ ADRN has no financial resource for data processing by data custodians, but human resource available.
 - ▶ Complex legal framework, but potential data sharing legislation
 - ▶ Risk Appetite
- ▶ Definition of commercial research/ operational purposes
- ▶ Time scales



*Keep consulting,
Keep learning,
Keep adapting.*

<http://www.adrn.ac.uk>



THANK YOU

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Public Engagement Animations

ADRN animation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3e4D2bHxa8>

Data Linking Animation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnxz3_XGMAE&feature=youtu.be

