Introducing the Administrative Data Research Network

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The ADRN

- UK-wide partnership between academia, government departments, national statistics authorities and third sector

- bespoke service for using administrative data for socio-economic research
  - Clear public benefit
  - Non-commercial use
  - De-identified unit level linked data
  - Not available through existing services

- Funded by the Economic & Social Research Council
  - Phase I of the Big Data Network
Challenges

1. **Consent**
   - Public do not have a choice in providing administrative data → Is it legal and ethical?

2. **Public engagement**
   - Transparency, public benefit and independence
   - Managing expectations

3. **Getting the data**
   - Legislative framework
   - No common data sharing standards across government

4. **Re-usability**
   - Not always suitable for research
   - Lack of adequate metadata
Background

- **Administrative Data Taskforce** December 2011-2012
  - UK-wide Network using existing infrastructures
  - Single governance structure
  - Robust and consistent decision making
  - Benefit for government and academic research

- Funding awarded Oct. 2013
- Nov. 2013- 2014: Network process and policy development
- Ipsos Mori 2014: Public Dialogue on Data
- Nov. 2014: open for applications
- Sep. 2015: overall >60 projects developed (16 fully approved and 6 of them accessing the data)
Our structure

- **Administrative Data Service**
  - University of Essex

- **Four Administrative Data Research Centres**
  - England – University of Southampton
  - Northern Ireland – Queens University Belfast
  - Scotland – University of Edinburgh
  - Wales – Swansea University
Our governance

- **ADRN Board** convened by UK Statistics Authority
  - reports to Parliament (includes lay member)

- **Management Committee** convened by ESRC
  - reports to the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

- **Approvals Panel** of independent experts
  - Academia, data owners, privacy experts and 2 lay members

- **Expert Scientific Advisory groups**

- **Citizen Panel** (forthcoming)
Our principles

1. **Safe People**
   - Accredited researchers

2. **Safe Projects**
   - Non-commercial use, clear public benefit and scientific merit, feasible and ethical

3. **Safe Settings**
   - Accessing the data in a secure environment

4. **Safe Outputs**
   - Statistical Disclosure Check

5. **Safe Data**
   - Minimising the risk of disclosure
User Journey

- Developing the research proposal
  is this an ADRN project?
  are researchers eligible people?
- Approvals of the project
  independent Approvals Panel
- Data Negotiation and Linkage
  negotiating access on behalf of researchers
  Trusted Third Party
- Accreditation of researchers
  trained to safely use the data
- Access to data
  in one of our secure environments
  Statistical Disclosure Control
- 2 page plain English summary and all syntax
  to inform the public
  to allow re-usability and replicability
Our research

Some of our approved projects:
1. Combining Survey Data, Paradata and Administrative Data for Nonresponse Investigation
2. Peace Walls in Northern Ireland: developing baseline indicators
3. Factors associated with decreased representation in higher education
4. Sociodemographic characteristics, educational attainment and self-reported health status of farmers in Northern Ireland
5. Evaluating linkage between children's health, education and social care data - pre-term birth sub-study
6. An Investigation into the Impact of Disability on Employment in Wales

Areas of research interest: deprivation, social mobility, health and education attainment of children, policy evaluation, fuel poverty, impact of benefit system, migration flows.
Creating additional value

- Metadata
- Ethics
- Legislation
- Case Studies
- Transparency
- Citizen Panel
THANK YOU!

questions?

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