



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.



What we do

- ▶ Facilitate access to linked administrative data for socio-economic research with potential public benefit
 - ▶ Identify and develop pathways to access
 - ▶ Negotiate access on behalf of researchers
 - ▶ Provide a secure linkage service via Trusted Third Parties
 - ▶ Implement a secure national infrastructure to enable data analysis to be carried out with the minimum risk of disclosure
- ▶ Undertake original research
 - ▶ Socio economic and methodological research



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

- ▶ Support for 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

- ▶ 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



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.



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
- ▶ Time scales
- ▶ Definition of commercial research/ operational purposes



*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

