Better Knowledge
Better Society

Introducing the Administrative Data Research Network
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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