

The landscape of research opportunities with administrative data

Scottish Civil Society Data Partnership Workshop
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An ESRC Data
Investment



Research needs in Third Sector

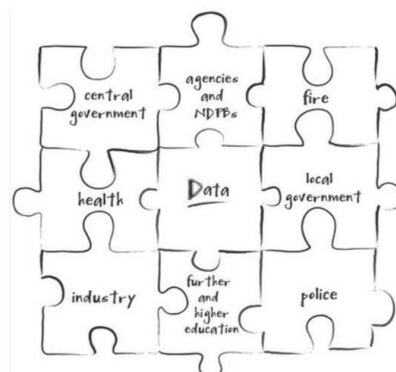
- Understanding of needs
 - Numbers, location
 - Nature of problems
 - Sub-groups
 - Pathways in and out
 - Service delivery and evaluation
 - “What works”
 - Preventative spend
 - Understanding third sector organisations, staff, volunteers
- ➔
- Data requirements
 - Large volume
 - Broad – multiple social dimensions
 - Longitudinal tracking of individuals



An ESRC Data
Investment

Solution: Linked administrative data

- Administrative data: personal information left through interactions with range of services and organisations - public, private, voluntary
- Linked by matching personal identifiers (names, DoB, address)



Scottish Government (2014)
A data vision for Scotland



Example 1: benefit sanctions

- 'Hidden' harm of benefit sanctions on health, crime, housing and **families/children**?
 - When a parent is sanctioned, is a child more likely to miss school and/or be excluded?
- Link:
 - DWP data on JSA claimants and household
 - DWP data on claimant sanction events
 - SG/LA data on children's school attendance and exclusions

<https://adn.ac.uk/research-projects/approved-projects/project052/>



Example 2: value of a degree

- Is the cost of a degree justified by higher earnings potential?
 - Which subjects at which Universities?
 - Men vs women, rich vs poor background, ethnicity, ...?
- Link
 - UCAS data on school qualifications at entry
 - HESA data on degree awarded
 - HMRC data on graduate earnings

- Answer: it depends ...



<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/apr/13/richer-students-have-higher-graduate-income-study-finds>

Example 3: impact of 'Big Noise'

- Big Noise/el Sistema youth orchestras in Raploch (Stirling) or Govanhill (Glasgow)
 - Does participation lead to positive benefits in terms of health and well-being, and social development
- Link
 - El Sistema data on participation
 - LA data on school attendance, behaviour, attainment
 - Health Board data on smoking, alcohol/drug misuse, teen pregnancy, other health outcomes
 - LA data on contact with social services
 - Justice system – criminal justice records
 - DWP welfare benefits

http://www.gcph.co.uk/assets/0000/4326/Evaluating_Sistema_Scotland_FINAL.pdf



Challenges for researchers ...

- Law on privacy and data protection
 - Permission is key
 - Some exceptions for research in the public interest
- Knowledge about data possibilities
- Secure IT infrastructure and procedures
- Data quality
- Analytical resources/skills



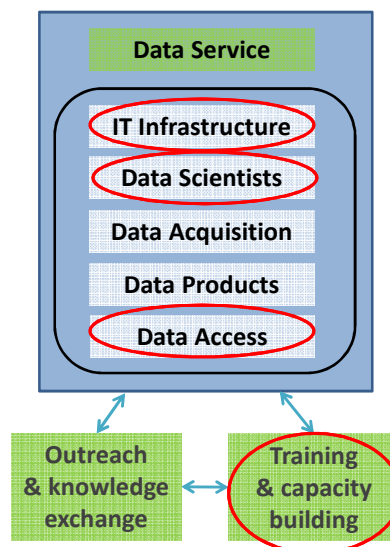
... but also opportunities

- High-level government support ...
 - “Our objective is to champion, and unleash across Scotland, trustworthy uses of data for public benefit”
 Scottish Government (2014) *A data vision for Scotland*
 - “Government needs to do more to unlock to power of data”
 Cabinet Office (2016) *Better use of data: consultation paper*
- Leading to ESRC investment in data services
 - Phase 1: Administrative Data Research Network (including ADRC Scotland)
 - Phase 2: Urban Big Data Centre (and two others)



UBDC

- “Promoting the use of innovative methods and complex urban data to address challenges facing cities”
- Services to connect **researchers** to **data** for **policy-relevant research**



UBDC data service

- Researcher
 - Plans the work
 - Writes application justifying access to service and to data
 - Conducts the analysis
- UBDC helps researchers:
 - Supports development of plans and applications for approval to use the service
 - Helps negotiate access with data owners
 - Arranges data transfer and linkage
 - Provides secure computing environment
 - Some support and advice in data analysis

Other opportunities

- SASnet – short-term problem-focused fellowship to work on data you hold already, alongside staff in UBDC
 - <http://ubdc.ac.uk/our-services/sasnet/>
- Brokering partnerships: advertise your data through our Calls for Expressions of Interest and find researchers wanting to work on it
 - <http://ubdc.ac.uk/our-services/research-services/call-for-expressions-of-interest/>



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