

NETWORK

News from the Administrative Data Research Network – No.4, April 2017

Research starts on Welsh language project

Welsh Government wants to see a million Welsh speakers by 2050

New research is underway on a Welsh Government and Office for National Statistics project to better understand data on the numbers of Welsh speakers.

The project, led by Martin Parry, a Senior Welsh Language Statistical Officer at the Welsh Government, will use data from the England and Wales Census and the National Survey for Wales (NSW) – the first time the two sources of information have been linked in this way.

The Welsh Government is committed to supporting the Welsh language, and wants to see a million Welsh speakers by 2050. The figure currently stands at over 560,000, according to the 2011 Census, but Martin Parry says, "Census estimates of Welsh language ability are traditionally lower than estimates from other national surveys, such as the NSW. The idea of this research is to get a better understanding of how people answer questions about their ability in the Welsh language and why they might answer surveys differently to the national Census."

The aim is to help the Welsh Government better understand the numbers of Welsh speakers.

Martin adds: "Increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers is an important priority for Welsh Government and to achieve that, we need to fully understand the situation as it stands now, and set objectives based on the evidence. This project will be a huge boost to that evidence, and help to produce informed policy, which could make sure the Welsh language and Welsh culture remain vibrant for future generations."

The research also has implications for the Census Transformation Programme, which is exploring the potential for moving to an Administrative Data Census after 2021, based on linking administrative data and surveys. Understanding the different sources on the Welsh language will contribute to that – and moving to such an approach has potentially huge benefits for society, value for money and the UK's statistical infrastructure.

Martin will present the findings of the research to policy officials in the Welsh Government and other stakeholders such as Welsh language researchers, and others involved in statistics, especially household surveys.

The research was made possible by a collaboration between the UK Office for National Statistics, the Welsh Government and the Administrative Data Research Centre Wales. They devised an innovative method for linking different parts of the data at ONS, at the NHS informatics service and at the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage databank (SAIL) in Swansea. This allowed them to keep safe the identities of people whose data was involved – so that researchers could not see these details – and to honour commitments made to respondents.

Research Conference: Edinburgh, June

This year's Administrative Data Research Network conference is in Edinburgh on 1-2 June.

Guest speakers include:

- ▶ Julia Lane, Professor of Public Policy at New York University
- ▶ Johan Mackenbach, Professor of Public Health, Erasmus MC, University Medical Centre, Rotterdam
- ▶ David Yokum, Director of The Lab @ DC, in the DC Mayor's Office



There is also a roundtable discussion with the Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation, part of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and assesses the impact of EU policies.

The conference covers:

- ▶ the value of administrative data research
- ▶ methodological challenges and innovations
- ▶ law, ethics and public acceptance
- ▶ technical aspects of data processing

There will also be two specialist sessions sponsored by Census & Administrative data Longitudinal Studies Hub on mortality and health inequalities and migration.

- ▶ £90 for two days of sessions
- ▶ £60 for social evening and dinner
- ▶ Register by 16 May

More information on the conference website: adrn2017.net

Other research news

Scouts and Guides

Chris Dibben, Director of the Administrative Data Research Centre Scotland, saw his work featured in the *Guardian* and on BBC news in November.

He had found that Scouts and Guides are at lower risk of mental illness in later life. By looking at the National Child Development Study containing data from a lifelong study of almost 10,000 people from across the UK who were born in November 1958, Professor Dibben and fellow researchers found that about a quarter of the study participants had been in the Scouts or Guides, and this group was around 15% less likely to go on to suffer from anxiety or mood disorders at age 50.

Professor Dibben said it was “quite startling that this benefit is found in people so many years after they have attended Guides or Scouts. We expect the same principles would apply to the Scouts and Guides of today, so given the high costs of mental ill health to individuals and society, a focus on youth programmes such as the Guides and Scouts might be very sensible.”

Research brochure

The Administrative Data Research Centre England has produced a brochure showcasing the expertise at their sites, the different types of research they carry out and its impact.

Fellowship

Dr Aideen Maguire, a researcher with our Administrative Data Research Centre Northern Ireland, based at the Centre for Public Health at Queen’s University Belfast, has secured a fellowship from the Medical Research Council for research through the Centre. The project, *Childhood interactions with social services and risk of poor health and social outcomes in adulthood: a population wide data linkage study* will begin in winter 2017.

The Northern Ireland Centre has also been supporting the studies of Dr David Wright, who has graduated with a Masters in Statistics with distinction from the University of Sheffield.

Raising awareness

Conversation piece

Louise McGrath-Lone, a PhD student with our England Centre, published an article in *The Conversation* about her research into the stability of children’s placements, which can help to inform social workers and others which groups are more likely to re-enter care, and how to avoid ‘revolving door’ care experiences.

Podcasts

Louise also appears in the Centre’s new podcast, *Helping children in care*.

The Centre’s deputy director, Professor David Martin, appears in the National Centre for Research Methods’ new podcast ‘Questions of disclosure: a synthetic answer’ about how synthetic data could help with privacy concerns.

Science festivals

In March, our England Centre team met the public at the University of Southampton Science and Engineering Festival to talk about how using linked, de-identified administrative datasets can benefit society. During the day, 300 people took part in a new activity, ‘Better Candies Benefit Society’. Children also won ‘Data Scientist’ stickers by playing the new ‘Admin Data Geo challenge’, using a map and calculator to answer real geography questions.

Our Scotland Centre experts presented “Scientists Have your Data” at the Edinburgh Science Festival in April with the FARR Institute Scotland and the Usher Institute, about how ground-breaking findings are often now discovered not in laboratories or hospitals, but on computers.

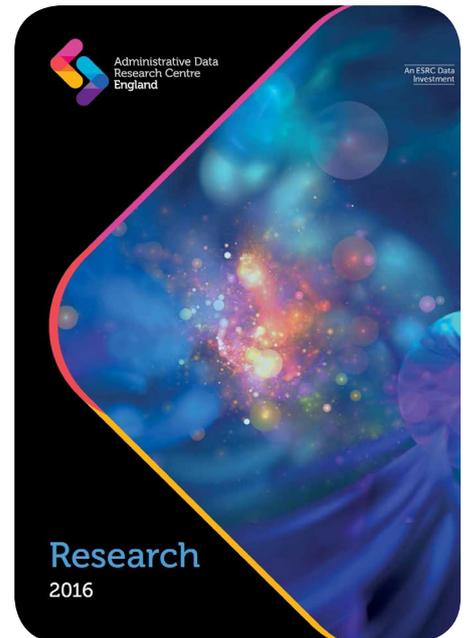
Scotland Centre researchers Carol Porteous and Leslie Stevens were invited to the Public Academic Research Colloquium in Washington DC in November 2016, hearing about policy-related data linkage research from across the globe.

Ethics blog

Emma White from our England Centre, has written a blog post for the Geodemographics Knowledge Base, *It may be legal, but is it right? Ethics and secondary data use*.



Visitors to our England Centre’s stand at the University of Southampton Science and Engineering Festival



The Administrative Data Centre England’s new research brochure

Scouts and guides provide 'mental health boost for life'

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Coverage for Chris Dibben’s research into scouts and guides and mental health

New videos

Our Scotland Centre has produced some short videos for our YouTube channel about why we need to link data, public benefit, and how they became involved in the Network.



Delegates at the Data Linkage Scotland Showcase in November



Delegates listening to a presentation at the Data Linkage Scotland Showcase



Professor Chris Dibben addressing the Data Linkage Scotland Showcase



Elise Williamson and Amy Tilbrook from our Scotland Centre at the AQMeN conference

Presentations and events

Alcohol and health seminar

A seminar at our Wales Centre has heard how administrative data from Wales and Scotland has been used for research on alcohol-related harm.

Policy makers, social scientists, statisticians and others interested in social and health research came to find out more about the CHALICE study, which found links between the number of alcohol outlets per head and alcohol-related harm.

Speakers included Dr Scott Orford from the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods, who said the work showed clear links between the availability of alcohol and both alcohol consumption and alcohol related harm in Wales and Scotland.

This new research supports previous work, but also shows some unexpected associations with respect to alcohol outlet density, consumption and income inequality. There were also findings in common between the two nations, and differences, which could have an impact on policy.

Aberdeen children

Dr Marjorie Johnston won a prize for her presentations at the Association of the Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) at the 9th European Public Health Conference (Vienna) 2016.

Her work on the Aberdeen Children of the 1950s showed that educational attainment mitigates the negative health effects of social deprivation.

Mental health

Dr Dermot O'Reilly, Director of our Northern Ireland Centre, spoke at the Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research in February on what administrative data and record linkage can tell us about mental health. Researchers are turning to administrative data to understand this increasingly important public health issue, its distribution, what comes before it, and its outcomes.

Workshops

Our Centre in Northern Ireland has also been running themed workshops on data research with the voluntary and community sector to raise awareness of our work and of the possibilities of partnership research. It's a pilot series, run in partnership with the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

The Northern Ireland Centre has also held a workshop on education data, looking at the possibilities for research using the School Census and School Leavers survey.

Third sector round table

In February, our Scotland Centre held a joint event with the Civil Society Data Partnership to identify and develop joint research projects and strengthen links between third sector organisations, public sector, NHS and academics.

Inequalities conference

In October, Scotland's Susan McVie chaired the Applied Quantitative Methods Network's (AQMeN) conference *Rediscovering Inequalities: Exploring the interconnections between crime, education and urban segregation*. The conference discussed the causes and consequences of inequality, and Professor Christina Iannelli and Dr Chris Playford from our Scotland Centre took part in a session on educational inequality and social background.

Data linkage showcase

In November, our Scotland Centre, the Farr Institute and the Urban Big Data Centre hosted the Data Linkage Scotland Showcase in Glasgow. Among the case studies presented were Chris Playford's work on new ways of exploring links between educational and developmental outcomes and Dr Lynne Forest on exploring social and spatial mobility with data linkage of the 1947 Scottish Mental Survey.

The keynote speaker was Jill Pell, Director of the Institute of Health and Wellbeing at Glasgow, who researches chronic diseases, especially cardiovascular disease and diabetes, maternal and child health, obesity and tobacco control.

Vistors and meetings

Computer scientists and historians

In November, researchers from our Scotland Centre took part in a meeting in St Andrews which brought together historians with domain-specific knowledge on historical genealogy linkage and computer scientists interested in automated genealogy linkage. They discussed topics such as automatic coding of multiple causes of death, the Digitising Scotland Identifier Scheme and automatic data quality and linkage quality methods.

Scottish government data

In September, our Scotland Centre hosted a meeting with ScotXed, which collects and manages data for a number of analytical units across the Scottish Government. It was a great opportunity for Scottish researchers to discuss their work and make a connection between the data and its potential uses.

Australian government visit

The Scotland Centre also had a visit from Dr Christine O'Keefe from the Australian Government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in November. She discussed the topic 'Protecting confidentiality while making data available for research and policy analysis: current trends' with them.

Training and seminars

Introduction to Data Linkage

16 May, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Tutor: Dr Katie Harron, LSHTM

Combining Data from Multiple Administrative and Survey Sources for Statistical Purposes

8-9 June, University of Southampton
Tutor: Professor Li-Chun Zhang, University of Southampton

Publications

Authors from our Scotland, Wales and England Centres jointly authored **The other side of the coin: Harm due to the non-use of health-related data** in *Science Direct* in January.

Other publications since our last newsletter in October include:

Factors associated with re-entry to out-of-home care among children in England, Louise Mc Grath-Lone, Lorraine Dearden, Katie Harrond, Bilal Nasim and Ruth Gilbert in *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Volume 63, January 2017

Data set representativeness during data collection in three UK social surveys: generalizability and the effects of auxiliary covariate choice, Jamie Moore, Gabriele Durrant and Peter Smith in *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A (Statistics in Society)*, December 2016

Semi-varying coefficient multinomial logistic regression for disease progression risk prediction, Yuan Ke, Bo Fu and Wenyang Zhang in *Statistics in Medicine*, Volume 35, Issue 26, November 2016

The impact of limiting long term illness on internal migration in England and Wales: New evidence from census microdata, Sam Wilding, David Martin and Graham Moon in *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 167, October 2016

Developing a Public Interest Mandate for the Governance and Use of Administrative Data in the United Kingdom, Graeme Laurie and Leslie Stevens in *Journal of Law and Society*, Volume 43, Issue 3, September 2016

Administrative social science data: The challenge of reproducible research, Chris Playford, Vernon Gayle, Roxanne Connelly and Alasdair Gray in *Big Data & Society*

Application of Advanced Record Linkage Techniques for Complex Population Reconstruction, Peter Christen

Public responses to the sharing and linkage of health data for research purposes: a systematic review and thematic synthesis of qualitative studies, Mhairi Aitken, Jenna de St Jorre, Claudia Pagliari, Ruth Jepson and Sarah Cunningham-Burley

The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship, Alasdair Gray and others

Geoparsing history: Locating commodities in ten million pages of nineteenth-century sources, Ewan Klein and others in *Historical Methods*, volume 49

Linking Data, Services and Human Know-How, Ewan Klein and others



About us

The Administrative Data Research Network provides a free, safe, secure and transparent service to accredited researchers who want to use administrative data for social and economic research.

We protect individual privacy and make sure the research benefits the public.

The Administrative Data Research Network is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Learn more at www.adrn.ac.uk

This newsletter was produced by the Communications team at the Administrative Data Service: comms@adrn.ac.uk

Social media

The Administrative Data Service and each of the four Centres are active on social media to engage the public and raise the profile and understanding of our work.

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