Research Ready Data Working in Partnership with DfE

NPD User Group 7th July 2021

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Our Mission

Click here to find out more.

Transform the way researchers access the UK's wealth of public sector data

Facilitate **safe and secure access** to this data for accredited researchers

Join up the abundance of administrative data already being created by government and public bodies across the UK

Create a **sustainable resource of public sector data** to provide valuable insights into how our society and economy function

Bridge the gap between academia and government to make sure policy is informed by the **best evidence available**

ADR UK
Data-driven change

UKRI
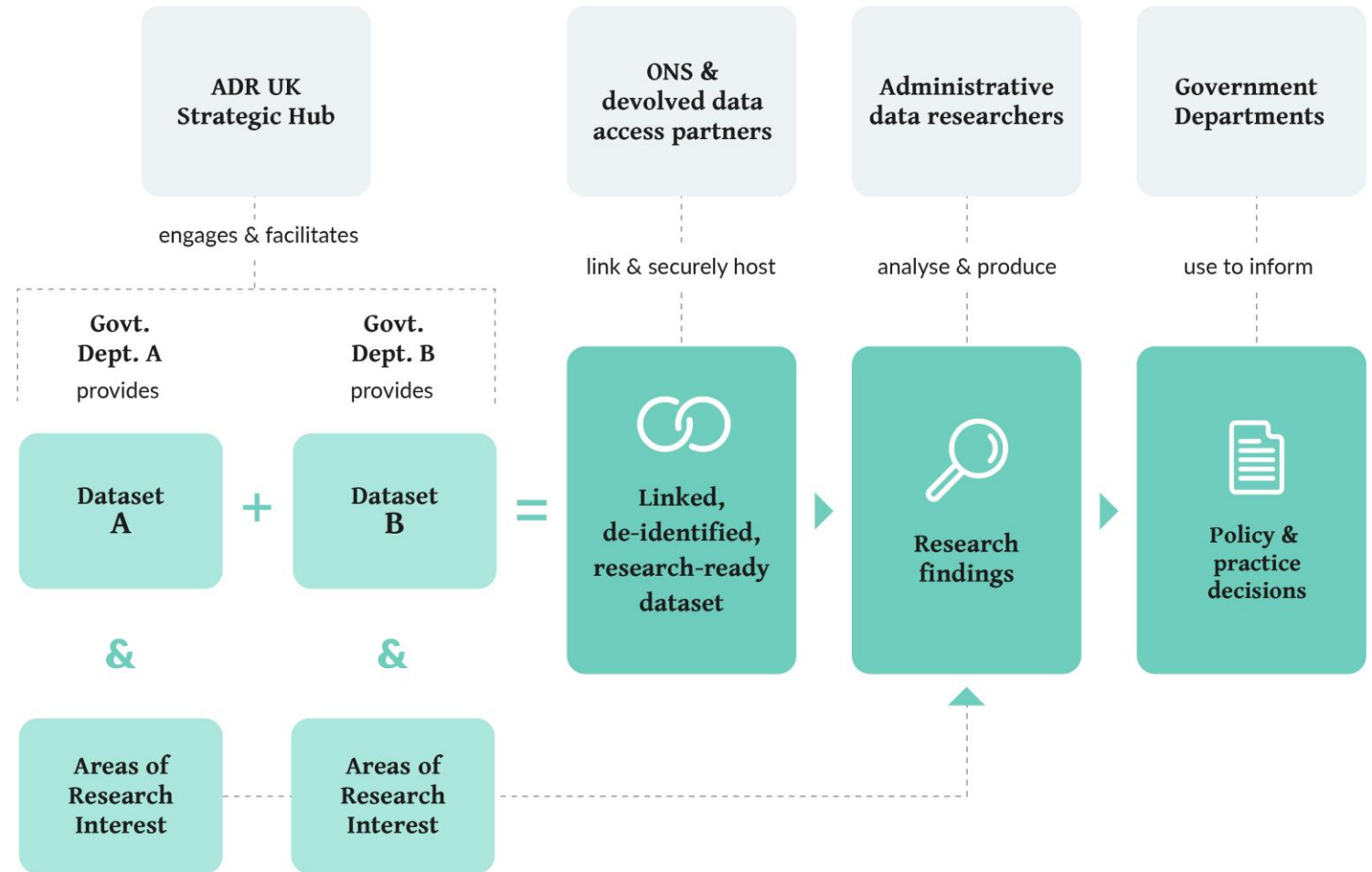Economic and Social Research Council

How the process works

The essence and greatest potential of our work lies in linking together data held by different areas of government and the wider public sector.

Find out more about how we work with government, researchers and the public.

Our areas of work

Housing & Communities

Health & Wellbeing

Children & Young People

World of Work

Growing Old

Inequality & Social Inclusion

Climate & Sustainability

Crime & Justice

Find out more about our data linkage programmes and research using linked data.

ADR UK
Data-driven change

UKRI
Economic and Social Research Council

ADR England Strategy 2021-26

"Our investment in data linking, research and researcher skills and capabilities ensures priority national, regional and local decisions are informed by economic and social research insight based on the best possible data

Research Ready Data

A research-ready data linkage programme which enhances, enriches and makes administrative data more accessible for research for public good

Research for public good

Substantial increase in UK research that crosses public policy boundaries and enhances bodies of knowledge for public good

Training & Capacity Building

More UK economic and social scientists with the skills to use rich, linked administrative data for public good

Trust

Widespread acceptance among publics and data owners of the value of linking administrative data for research

Data sharing in DfE

The front door to data sharing in DfE is the **data.sharing@education.gov.uk** mailbox.

My team are responsible for dealing with all DfE data sharing requests from external research organisations, and take responsibility for progressing applications through the end-to-end process, including assessing applications, taking these through to the DfE Data Governance Approval Panel (**DSAP**), ensuring the necessary data sharing agreements are put in place should these be approved, and arranging for the bespoke data extracts to be delivered through the agreed channel.

By default, all data shares will be done through the Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service (ONS SRS). However, where the SRS is not suitable and strong evidence can be provided to support this, there are some exemptions that will be considered on the use of ONS SRS for sharing data.

My team are also currently leading on a number of **cross-government data linkage projects**, which are fundamental in ensuring the Department leads the way on the Government's **National Data Strategy**[1], an ambitious, pro-growth strategy driving Government in building a world-leading data economy. This involves working closely with ADR-UK to achieve these aims.

The following presentation given a brief overview on a handful of these projects…

1. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-data-strategy/national-data-strategy

DfE-MoJ linked Data

Purpose:
Data sharing between the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Department for Education (DfE) is necessary for the purpose of increasing understanding of the links between childhood characteristics, education outcomes and (re)-offending.

Progress:
Data sharing agreements are already in place between DfE and MoJ, the data has already been linked up to the 2017/18 academic year (with further refreshes of this underway) and is being used internally by both DfE and MoJ for research and analytical purposes, to build the evidence base for policy development in support of the educational and children's services background of offenders and those at risk of offending.

Access:
The data is now **available** to accredited researchers through the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS).

Should you wish to apply, please contact **both** DfE (data.sharing@education.gov.uk) **and** MoJ (datalinkingteam@justice.gov.uk) to request the application pack, which includes the DfE-MoJ linked data metadata. Applications are assessed jointly by both DfE and MoJ going through their respective governance processes.

ADR-UK have been a tremendous help in making this data available, working closely with MoJ through the Data First project, and also launching a DfE-MoJ linked data funding call.

DfE-MoJ linked Data

What is the research potential of this data?

The data could be used to explore:

- Associations between particular interactions with the education system and offending, e.g. *How does educational performance influence the likelihood that someone will commit a crime and be sentenced? What is the impact of educational trajectory on offending?*

- Interactions between educational attainment and prolific vs. time-limited offending

- Interactions between education and/or children's social care and adversity

- Protective and risk factors for crimes and if/how these differ across crime types

Growing up in England (GUIE) linked data

Purpose:

The GUIE dataset links a curated version of the NPD, ILR and HESA data , collectively referred to as the All Education Dataset England (AEDE), to the ONS census. This linked dataset enables a more comprehensive understanding of how factors such as family background, school type and geography shape outcomes, which is necessary for the purpose of increasing understanding on what does and doesn't work in supporting children and young people to thrive.

Progress:

Data sharing agreements are already in place between DfE and ONS and the data has already been linked and is being used internally by ONS for research and analytical purposes. The current version links AEDE data up to 2014/15 with ONS census 2011; however, ONS are currently in the process of refreshing the GUIE data further.

Access:

Onward sharing of the data with external accredited researchers is currently being explored and we hope to have the necessary agreements and governance in place to do this through the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS) in the coming months. Although exact processes are to be finalised, it is likely that applicants will apply directly to the ONS through the Research Accreditation Service (RAS).

Should you wish to receive updates as this progresses, please contact DfE (data.sharing@education.gov.uk) quoting the Growing up in England (GUIE) data linkage project to be added to the necessary mailing list.

Growing up in England (GUIE) linked data

What is the research potential of this data?
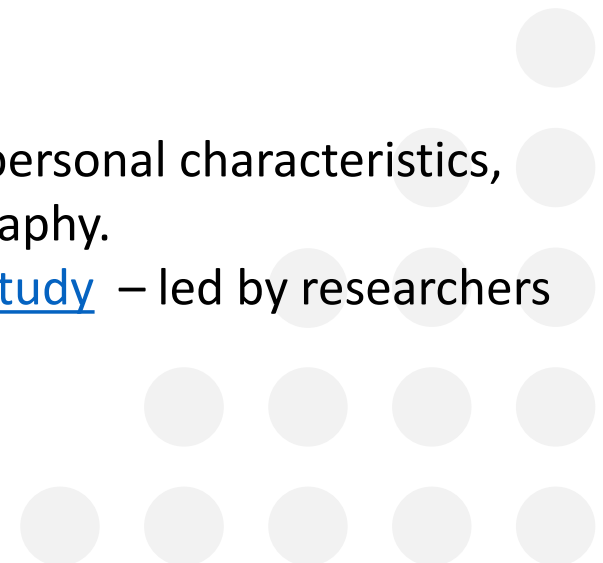
To address gaps in evidence around the lives of vulnerable children highlighted by: Children's Commissioner for England's 2017 review. No other data source has this level of insight on children who are vulnerable or of concern by virtue of their circumstances.

The data could be used to explore:

1. Relationships between personal/familial characteristics and educational attainment
2. The underlying drivers of geographical differences in educational attainment

Exemplar studies

- Feasibility study (July 2020) tested the use of the data for providing insights on personal characteristics, educational attainment, household characteristics, vulnerable groups and geography.
- Shaping and testing the GUIE dataset: Roma, Gypsy and Traveller children case study – led by researchers at LSE.

ECHILD: *Education and Child Health Insights from Linked Data*

Purpose:
The first phase of the ECHILD project, funded by ADR UK, initially links NHS Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) data to NPD and facilitates research to improve policymaking for children's health, education and wellbeing across a range of health and social science disciplines. The dataset can be used to better understand how education affects children's health and how health affects children's education.
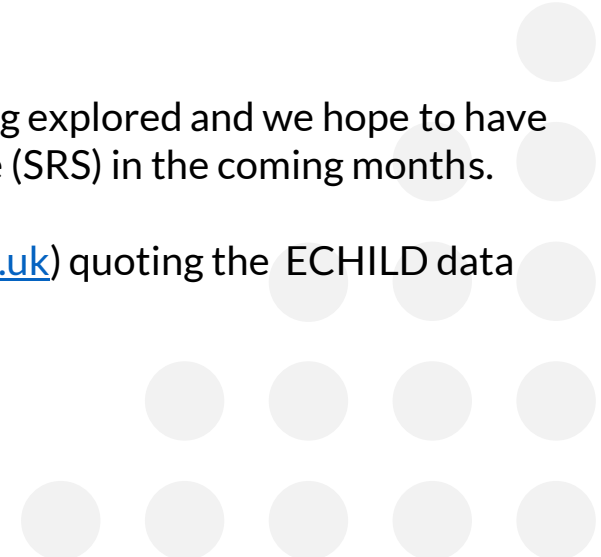
Progress:
Despite wider agreements still being put in place to create the research ready dataset, the NPD and HES data has already been linked by NHS-Digital and has been made available to University College London (UCL) for a specific ECHILD covid-19 related study. Work is ongoing with NHS-Digital about putting the necessary agreements in place to open up access to this dataset further and include additional health datasets (including mental health, community and maternity data). This current (phase 1) ECHILD database involves the linking of routinely collected education and social care data with HES data like A&E. This includes around 14 million children's records from over 20 years linking birth in an NHS hospital through school and up to hospital contact in early adulthood.

Access:
Arrangements for the onward sharing of the data with external accredited researchers is currently being explored and we hope to have the necessary agreements and governance in place to do this through the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS) in the coming months.

Should you wish to receive updates as this progresses, please contact DfE (data.sharing@education.gov.uk) quoting the ECHILD data linkage project to be added to the necessary mailing list.

ECHILD: *Education and Child Health Insights from Linked Data*

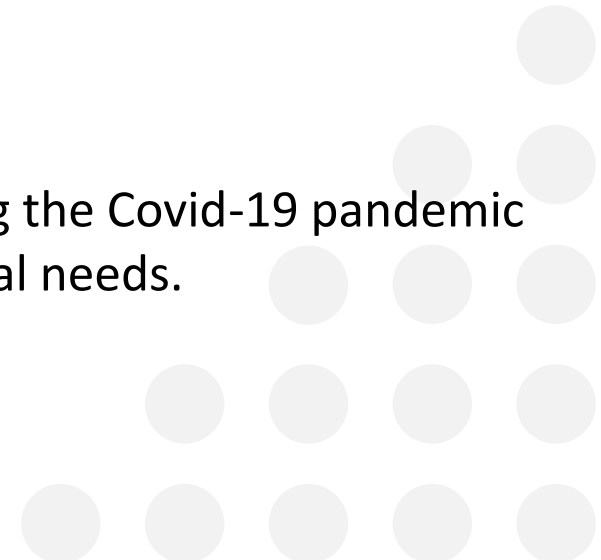## What is the research potential of this data?

ECHILD Database will facilitate research to improve policymaking for children's health, education and wellbeing in England.

The data could be used to explore:

- How to improve health and education for children with chronic physical or mental health conditions
- How to better understand the health-related drivers of educational outcomes
- How to improve the quality and equity of health and education provision

Exemplar Study

An exemplar study is using ECHILD to understand how disruptions to services during the Covid-19 pandemic have affected the health and education of children and young people with additional needs.

GRADE: GRading and Admissions Data for England

Purpose:
The GRADE dataset is a joint initiative by Ofqual, Ofsted, Department for Education (DfE) and UCAS aimed at giving external research organisations access to examinations and wider data in order to conduct research on the educational and assessment system. Although data from DfE and UCAS is already accessible, the project aims at broadening the set of data available, most notably to feature alternative grading approaches, calculated grades and CAGs (Centre Assessment Grades), used in summer 2020.

Progress:
Discussions are ongoing with Ofqual, DfE , UCAS, Ofsted and ONS about putting the necessary agreements in place to enable the sharing of this linked data asset between the parties. The Ofqual and DfE data has already been linked utilising existing agreements between DfE and Ofqual and is being used internally by Ofqual for research and analytical purposes. Two Ofqual research reports that have utilised this linked data are due for publication soon.

Access:
Onward sharing of the data with external accredited researchers is currently being finalised. Applicants will be able to apply for access directly to the ONS through the Research Accreditation Service (RAS) to access data through the ONS Secure Research Service (SRS). We are working on the necessary agreements and governance to make the data available soon/as soon as possible.

Should you wish to receive updates as this progresses, please contact Ofqual (data.sharing@ofqual.gov.uk) or DfE (data.sharing@education.gov.uk) quoting the GRADE data linkage project to be added to the necessary mailing list.
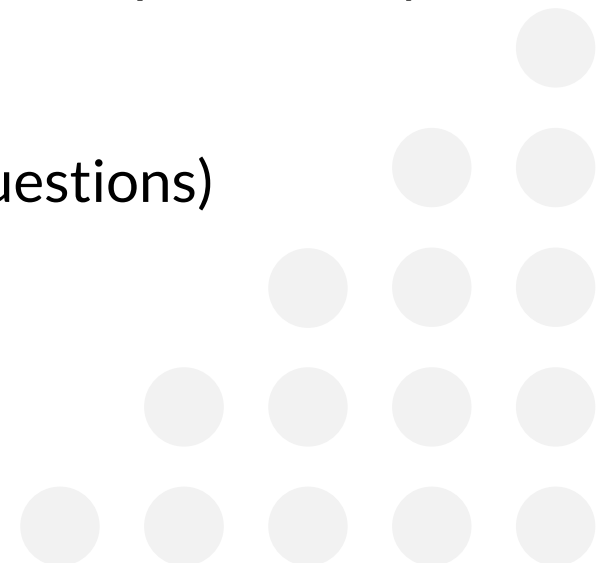
GRADE: GRading and Admissions Data for England

What is the potential of this newly linked data?

1. Scrutiny of the [standardisation model introduced in summer 2020](#)

2. Impact of awarding approaches on students and schools/colleges – for example, whether any particular group of students or schools/colleges have been particularly advantaged or disadvantaged by any awarding approach

3. Relationship with other measures of attainment (validity related questions)

ADR UK Research Funding Opportunities

[ADR UK Research Fellowships](#) (generic call specification out soon)

Scope: Individual researcher (with support/mentoring) to conduct research and analysis to demonstrate the potential policy impact of linked administrative data including data discovery and cleaning; policy and public engagement; policy relevant outputs

Scale: maximum award £130k up to 12 months

Deadlines:
- [MoJ-DfE linked data share](#) (closed)
- Ofqual/UCAS/DfE (to launch later this year)
- [Growing Up in England](#) (to launch later this year)
- [ECHILD](#) (confirmed; timing TBC)
- Follow us on Twitter **[@ADR_UK](#)** and [Sign up to the ADR UK newsletter](#) to be the first to hear
- [Research Ready Data:](#) Expression of interest for novel admin data linkages (deadline 17th September)

Signposting other ADR Funding Opportunities

ESRC Secondary Data Analysis

Scope: research that exploits existing data resources for social and economic research for comparative analysis. Also to develop research capacity and skills.
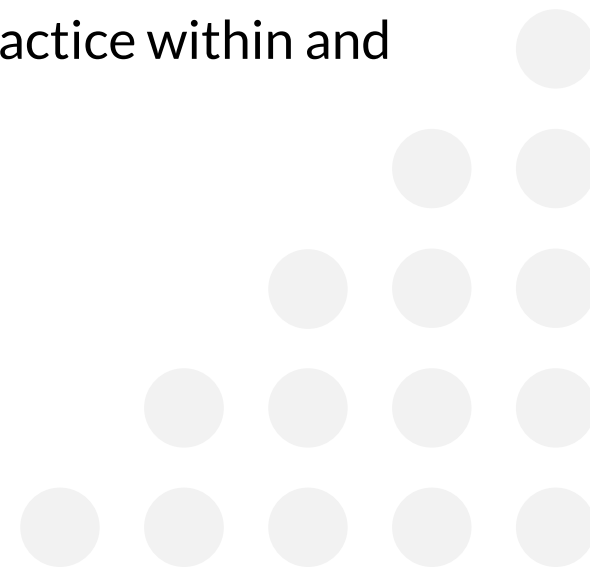
Scale: Maximum award £300k up to 24 months

Deadline: Open – no closing date

The Nuffield Foundation's Research, Development and Analysis fund

Scope: projects which inform the design and operation of social policy and practice within and between the domains of **Education, Welfare and Justice**.

Scale: £10-500k; 6-36 months

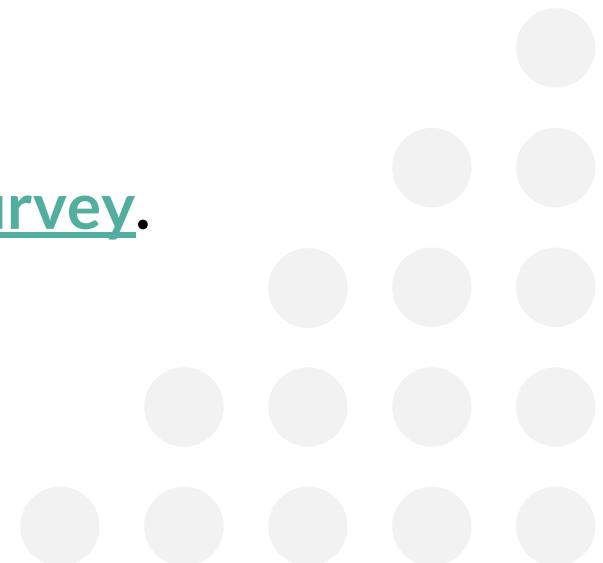**Deadline:** outline stage mid-Sept (updated applicant guidance due mid-July)

PLEASE RESPOND TO OUR SURVEY: so we can help you do more impactful research

How can ADR UK and other support researchers to undertake impactful administrative data research?

A Short survey is being run by ADR UK (Administrative Data Research UK) in collaboration with other research funders including Gatsby, the Nuffield Foundation and the Edge Foundation to gather the views of researchers on how we can better support impactful administrative data research.

Please take the time to complete our researcher survey.

Any Questions?