

The Administrative Data Research Centre for England: Making a Methodological Impact

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I will first introduce the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) and the Administrative Data Research Centre for England (ADRC-E). The ADRN is a UK-wide partnership between universities, government departments and agencies, national statistics authorities, the third sector and researchers, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. As part of the network, the ADRC-E provides research support staff and state-of-the-art secure facilities with access to high-performance computer systems to help accredited researchers carry out social and economic research using linked, functionally anonymised administrative data – information which is routinely collected by government organisations, such as tax, education and health data.

As part of its remit, the ADRC-E is also undertaking a programme of methodological research. I will second describe a few examples from this programme, including work on: guidance about the information that needs to be made available about the data linkage process by data providers, data linkers, analysts and researchers; a new approach to linkage based upon weights derived using a scaling algorithm; and the representativeness of surveys using a unique data set linking call record paradata from three UK social surveys to census auxiliary attribute information on sample households.