Overview

• Using administrative data
  • For what
  • How

• Barriers
  • Access
  • Deciding on appropriate uses
  • Quality issues
  • Risks

• Administrative Data Research Initiative
Using administrative data – for what?

- Strategic, analytical, operational uses
- Program administration, compliance uses
- Research and evaluation uses
Different users – and expectations

• Practitioners
• Administrators
• Researchers
• Policymakers
• Public
Administrator vs public expectations

• Optimize resource allocation
• Reduce waste
• Client satisfaction
• Full employment
• Economic growth
• Strategic planning
• Increase funding
• Community health/safety

• Convenient
• Secure
Expectations around privacy

• Privacy or security
• Concept of harm
• Sophistication of adversary
• Lawful vs unlawful activity
• Disclosures
• Line drawing problem
• Desirable inefficiencies?
Using administrative data – how?

• Five safes
• Safe projects
• Safe people
• Safe settings
• Safe data
• Safe outputs
Barriers - access

- Legal
- Policy
- Cultural
- Capacity
Capacity

• Human capital:
  • Current workforce
  • Leadership
  • Talent pipeline
  • Finding partners

• Technology:
  • Legacy systems
  • Procurement process
  • Requirements
Barriers – deciding on appropriate uses

• How to decide which projects?
  • Cost drivers
  • Largest numbers
  • Health and wellness
  • Outcomes

• Who gets to decide?
  • Social license
  • Public engagement and involvement
Barriers – quality issues

• Data cleaning and harmonization
• Integrate or federate data
• Reliability and availability
• Representativeness
• Can you create meaningful measures
Barriers – risks

• Data breaches
• Insider threats
• Data misuse
• Errors in published numbers
• Resource constraints
• Volatility in sources
• Suboptimal linkages
• Negotiations falling through
• Parties revoking agreement terms
Building institutions

• Governance
• Incentives
• Transparency
• Enclaves
• Training
• Trusted third parties
Administrative Data Research Initiative

• ADRI supports the secure and responsible use of administrative data for research and policy evaluation
• Alfred P. Sloan Foundation support
• Extension of ADRF Network, similar to ADRN UK
The (broken) market

• Supply – data generators
  • What could/should we measure
  • What do we do with all this data
  • We don't know which interventions work

• Demand – researchers
  • Survey limitations
  • Building evidence
  • Tools are available for secure, efficient computation

• Intermediaries
  • Connect, host, clean, curate, and link
ADRI focus areas

• Network across domains and disciplines
• Directories and inventories
• Templates and guides
• Technical assistance
• Support Data Intermediaries
ADRI helps

• Getting started (or getting unstuck)
• Finding collaborators
• Finding service providers
• Legal precedents
• Thought leadership
Contact

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