The largest digital repository of economic, social and population data in the UK.

Quality data.

Pioneering methods.

Long-term value.

Vision

To continue to be a critical part of the UK's research infrastructure where the exceptional economic and social data we make available are central to the achievement of excellence in research, teaching and in the realisation of public benefit.

Mission

To support high quality social and economic research, teaching and learning through assuring long term access to quality economic and social data, supporting and promoting their use, value and impact.

Strategic objectives

Trusted infrastructure

To be recognised as a trusted national digital repository for data owners and users.

To innovate and lead in data infrastructure provision through the development of common standards and agreed strategies for data deposit, preparation, processing, documentation and preservation.

Data access

To provide a federated point of access for users with clear transparent application/ registration procedures to quality assured economic and social data, regardless of data access status.

To increase and enhance our collection of datasets available for research and impact.

Impact

To support research funders in their data related activities and influence relevant data policy development.

To lead in the discussions on research integrity and open research, ensuring that data can be used in an ethical and legal way.

To extend use of our data to the widest possible academic, policy and practitioner communities for generating greater impact.

Training

To provide training and support for depositing, finding, accessing, using and managing data.

Enabling robust evidence driven by the unique power of data

- The UK's only nationally funded research infrastructure for curating and providing access to social science and population data.

- The largest social science repository and data-skills training service in the UK.

- Over 50 years experience providing secure and persistent research access to long-range, high quality data.

- Influential across the world regarding:
  - data governance, ethics and confidentiality
  - secure access to data and data curation
  - international standards for managing and accessing data for research.

Improving lives by enabling long-term research access to quality data, training and technology

- Integrate Economic and Social Data service, UK Data Archive, Secure Data Service, Census support and Survey Question Bank into UK Data Service.

- World leaders in developing pioneering technologies and practices to support research data management (including SERL and FAIRS FAIR).

- Renowned data-skills training programme to transform social science teaching, learning and research.

- Helping to address the data skills gap across the UK and beyond.

- Global reputation as trusted data experts that provide a unique and vital national research resource.

- Over 47,000 registered users from 146 countries, we provide a critical service to researchers.

A researcher accesses data through the UK Data Service every 6 minutes, 24 x 7 x 365

World leaders in data curation and long-term data preservation

- Leaders in data governance, ethics and controlled access to sensitive data.

- Provide enhanced data-skills training and impact to inform research and influence policy.

- Lead development of standards and assessments for trusted repositories that enable FAIR data across the lifecycle, UK and globally.

- Lead and develop the effective use of quality metadata as an agile enabler of research interoperability and interdisciplinary.

- Drive accurate data citation to improve research discoverability, enhance replicability and further evidence the value, benefits and impact that important UKRI-ESRC surveys have on research.

Informing research. Influencing policy. Improving lives.

Data to provide insights to any societal, economic and population related questions

Long term value and impact

- Enable researchers and policymakers to accurately understand our economy and society through real data.

- Reduce the data-skills gap across the UK through extensive on-demand and live data training from UG to experienced researchers.

- Help policymakers respond to local and regional inequality, the impact of rising living costs and climate change alongside the pandemic.

Decades of people's opinions, behaviours and lived experiences

Data skills, training, user support and education

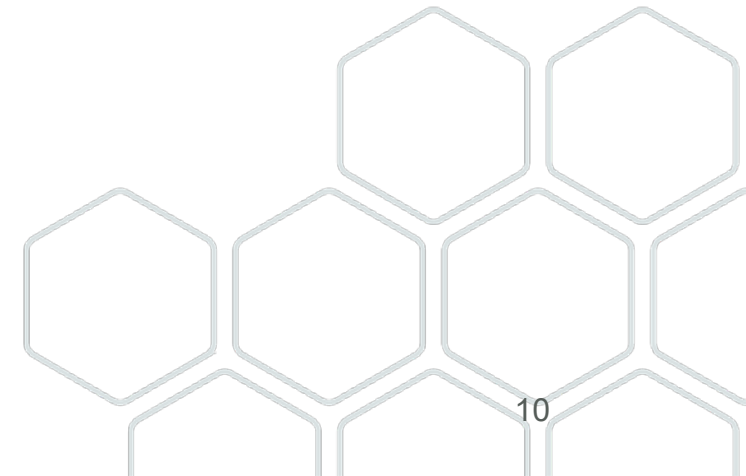| Access to open and safeguarded research data | Secure access to sensitive data | Knowledge sharing |

| Managing data, governance and ethics | Cutting edge data architecture and technologies | Research impact and policy reform |

The data we hold

Enable researchers and policymakers to accurately understand our economy and society through real data.

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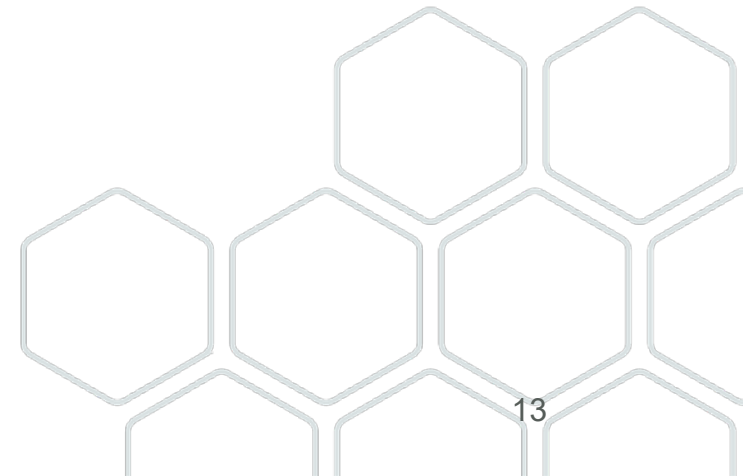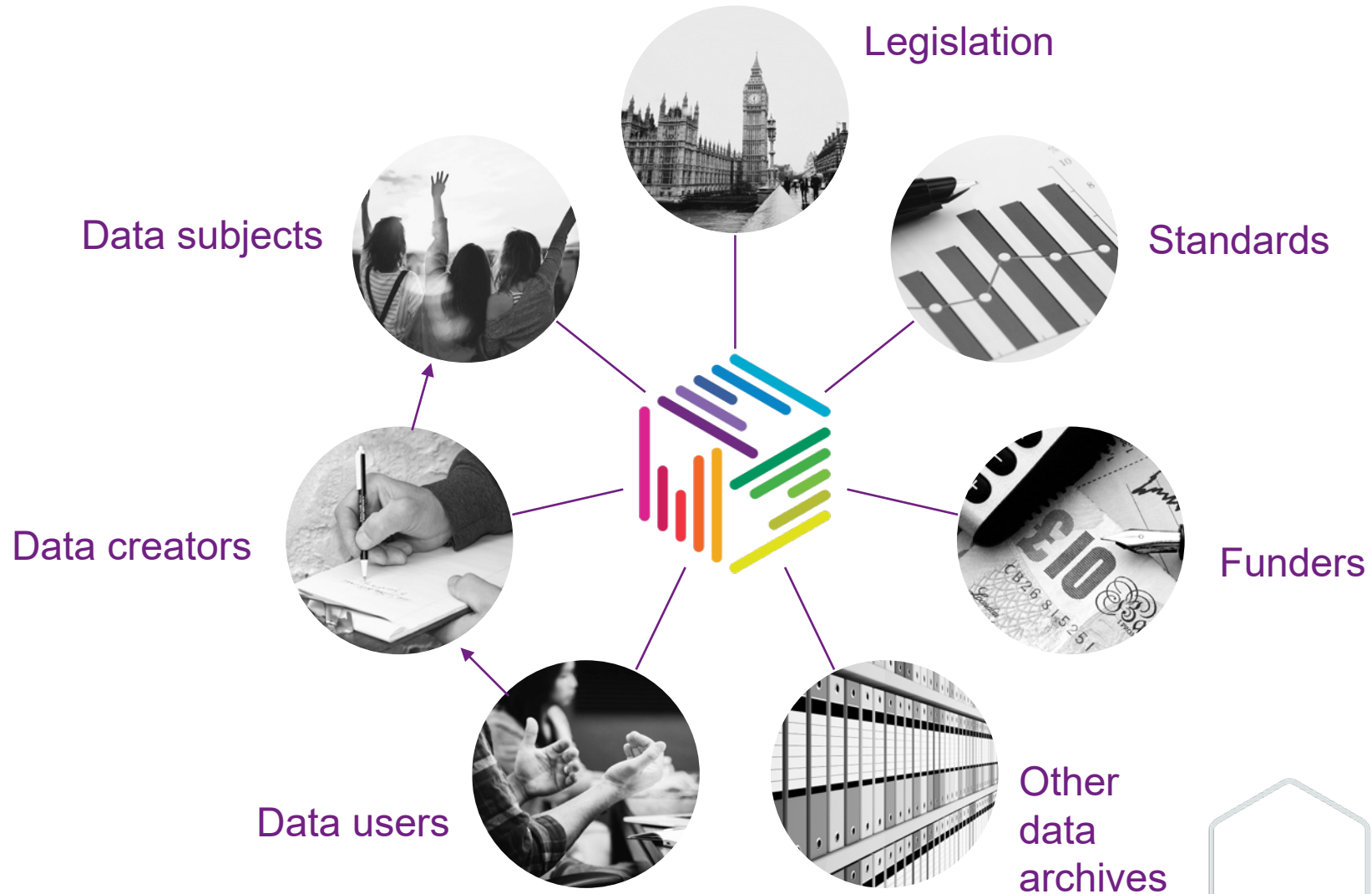
Our data resources cover decades of people's opinions and real, lived experiences.

- Major UK surveys.
- Longitudinal studies.
- UK Census data 1961 – 2021.
- Cross-national surveys.
- International macrodata.
- Qualitative and mixed methods.
- Secure business microdata.
- Secure administrative data.

What researchers do with the data

- Comparative research, restudy or follow-up study.
- Re-analysis/secondary analysis.
- Research design and methodological advancement.
- Replication of published statistics.
- Teaching and learning.

Network of trust

Legislation

Standards

Funders

Other data archives

Data users

Data creators

Data subjects

UK Data Service statistics
1 April 2020 - 31 March 2022

47,897 registered users

- 81% UK
- 19% Overseas.

160,937 main dataset downloads

- 130,812 from the UK
- 15,225 from the EU
- 32,377 ReShare datasets.

895 total researchers using data through SecureLab

- 144 new SecureLab researchers
- 40 new secure access studies released.

22% increase in the number of controlled data downloads through SecureLab.

Over 75% of our data collections are now accessible from home, permanently.

10 year anniversary of SecureLab, 2011 - 2021.

54,209 Nesstar data queries

New data acquisition

We worked closely with the Medical Research Council and Wellcome, culminating in the March 2020 report, *Clinical trial data sharing: what we've heard from researchers*.

80% in data collections deposited via our self-deposit repository and…

40% increase in curated collections in 2021, compared to 2020.

- **277** new studies added to our main collection
- **607** new studies to ReShare
- **2300** researchers used Understanding Society Covid-19 datasets
- **50** different countries had datasets collected
- **12,000** downloads completed
- **2700** projects registered as using these datasets.

Value and impact of training events

During the period of 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2022:

- **12,434** people attended events overall, compared to 5,601 previously
- **436** livestreams
- **228** training events hosted
- **54** events with training support provided
- **9** user conferences hosted
- **73** workshops hosted.

6000 views per month

for our training videos, interactive Data Skills Modules and event recordings on our YouTube channel.

SecureLab Services

1 April 2020 - 31 March 2022

- **895** users
- **144** new users
- **40** new studies released
- **4,074** datasets downloaded from the SecureLab
- **22%** increase in the number of controlled data downloads through the SecureLab.

Sharing knowledge

Distributed infrastructure/capacity	One portal for the UK – once, for all	Efficiency/SROI of research process	Trusted status – secure to open
Set standards in data infrastructure	Advise international services	Leading data policy consultancy	Expertise in data management
Support, skills focus, a Service	Promotion of data citation	Assurance of long-range research	Geographical scope of data

Research impact

Data Impact blog

Search

Select category

Select month

The Experts' Expert Podcast

1 December 2022

Over the last year the UKDS gas started a podcast called "The Experts' Expert". We've chosen a few of our favourite episodes, and you can listen to them on this page or find all the episodes on Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.

New Data Release for Census 2021

15 November 2022

The past couple of weeks have seen some significant releases of Census 2021 data. We took a look at some Census "firsts" in these releases, including new statistics on marriage, civil partnerships and veterans as well as some new visualisation tools.

REF 2021 and the UK Data Service

8 November 2022

We took a look at the REF 2021 Impact Case Studies and how the UK Data Service collection has been used in the research submitted.

19

Case studies

Case studies

Browse all case studies >

Business and economy

How can we tackle work insecurity in the UK? >

How does the minimum wage impact on employment and hours? >

The complexities of using survey data to understand the influence of unions >

UK trade in goods and productivity: New findings – Office for National Statistics >

See more

Environment and sustainability

How can the impact of domestic energy efficiency policies in the UK be maximised? >

Sick and stuck at home? Does living with health challenges influence people's energy use? >

Tracking progress on health and climate change: Creating health and climate change indicators for The Lancet Countdown >

Legal and ethical challenges surrounding big data: energy data >

See more

Health and wellbeing

Effect of a Low-Intensity PSA-Based Screening Intervention on Prostate Cancer Mortality – University of Bristol >

Assessing progress in protecting non-smokers from secondhand smoke >

Mothers in harsh environments have lower breastfeeding chances in the UK's Millennium Cohort Study and the Born in Bradford study >

Are affluent children at greater risk for leukaemia? >

See more

In the news: Data in the UK Data Service collection across the web

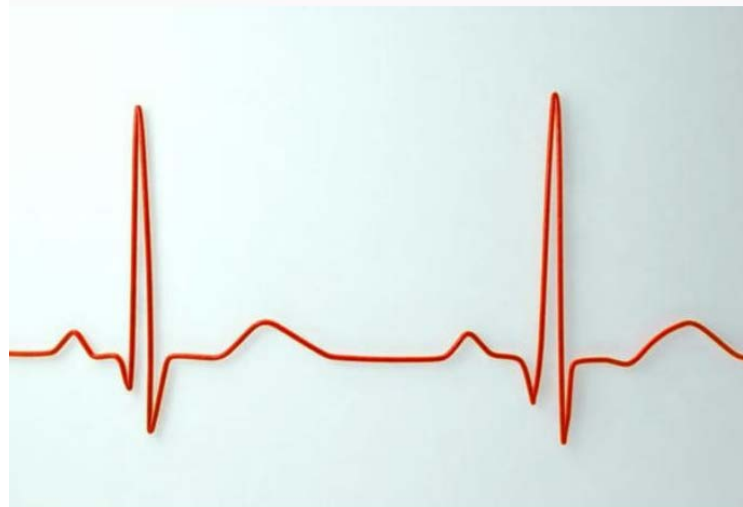**Romanian becomes third most spoken language in England, Wales**

From www.romania-insider.com - Today, 09:26

"The Romanian language is the third most spoken language in England and Wales, according to the latest UK census."

UK Data Service's insight:
This article references data which is available in the UK Data Service collection:
2021 Census

Diabetes, doing open research, and design - The British Psychological Society

From www.bps.org.uk - Today, 09:19

"Jon Sutton reports from the British Psychological Society's Psychobiology Section Annual Scientific Meeting and Networking Event."

UK Data Service's insight:
This article references data which is available in the UK Data Service collection:
English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

Lewisham rated the happiest place to live in south east London

From www.thisislocallondon.co.uk - Today, 09:17

"Lewisham has been rated the "happiest borough" in the whole of south east London, according to new data."

UK Data Service's insight:
This article references data which is available in the UK Data Service collection:
Annual Population Survey

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