Social data and the third sector: skills, tools and evidence

Workshop 1. Evidence and impact using census data

Patty Doran, UK Data Service, University of Manchester
Dave Rawnsley, UK Data Service, Jisc

Date: 2pm, Thursday July 2nd, 2020
What we are covering:

• Introduction
• Presentation – what are aggregate data?
• Quiz
• Demonstration – exploring with InFuse, GeoConvert, DKAN
• Activity – in own time, 10 mins
• Feedback from activity
• Questions and discussion
Introduction
What is the UK Data Service?

- A comprehensive resource funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- A single point of access to a wide range of secondary social science data
- Support, training and guidance
Workshop objectives

• Promote UKDS data and resources to third sector users.
• Increase understanding of how data can be used within a variety of organisations and settings.
• Support you to access relevant data.
• Enable you to produce evidence by enhancing data knowledge and skills.
Social Surveys and the Third Sector

• Services: Improving outcomes for marginalised groups, reducing inequalities, providing a range of support to those most in need.
• Funding: relies on demonstrating the need and the potential impact of an intervention.
• UKDS: Social survey and census data can help provide context and demonstrate where services are most needed.
• Many third sector organisations are small, often there is no dedicated research team. Often it may fall to the people delivering the services to also provide the evidence of need and impact.
Our main data types

- **Aggregate Data**
  - International macrodata – country level time series data
  - Census tabular data

- **Microdata**
  - UK surveys (e.g. Labour Force Survey)
  - Census microdata
  - International comparative surveys (e.g. European Social Survey)
  - Business data

- **Other data**
  - Mixed methods data
  - Qualitative data
Aggregate data
What are aggregate data?

David Rawnsley
UKDS Senior Data Technical Officer

Evidence and impact using census data
July 2nd 2020
Aggregate data are data about populations, groups, regions or countries
Averaging individual level data

OECD Chart: Reading performance (PISA), Girls / Boys, Mean score, Annual, 2015
Totalling headcounts

Age: 16-24 years old – religion (England and Wales): Muslim – Unit: people

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What Can Census Data Tell Us

• The most complete source of information about demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the UK population.

• Population
• Employment, occupation, socio-economic class, qualifications
• Ethnicity, religion, national identity, language
• Housing, tenure, residence type
• Household and family composition, occupancy
• Carers and caring
• Long term health problems or disability
• Travel to work, migration
How are census aggregate data produced
The Tricky Issue of Census Geography

• Building block is the Output Area
• These are used to create Super Output Areas (SOA)
  • Two types – Lower layer SOA (LSOA) and Middle layer SOA (MSOA)
  • In Scotland – Data Zones (DZ) and Intermediate Geographies (IG)
  • In Northern Ireland – just LSOA
• None of the above relate to anything ‘real’.

• Regions, Counties, Local Authorities, Wards and Electoral Divisions

• [http://geoconvert.digitalresources.jisc.ac.uk/](http://geoconvert.digitalresources.jisc.ac.uk/)
Aggregate data: shaping policy

https://uk.wikibudgets.org/w/united-kingdom-budget-2015
Activity
UKDS Online Workshops: Social data and the third sector: skills, tools and evidence

**Workshop 1. Evidence and impact using census data**

**Worksheet**

**Task:**
1) Find data to answer a question using InFuse.
2) Create and download a subset of data from InFuse

**About InFuse**

InFuse is a free service providing easy access to aggregate data from the UK 2011 and 2001 censuses. InFuse is designed to guide users in selecting census aggregate data relating to combinations of characteristics and areas of interest to them.

Website: http://infuse.ukdataservice.ac.uk/

**Activity: Downloading data**

You are interested in the impact of COVID-19 on older people living alone in Birmingham. In particular, you want to answer the following question:

What is the percentage of people aged 65 or over and living alone across all wards in Birmingham?

**Instructions**

1. Select 2011 Census Data
2. Select preferred route to your data
   - Choose Geography
Work through the handout

• Follow the handout instructions
• You can post questions in the chat box in Go To Webinar
• Work through the exercise in your own time
• Answer the questions at the end
• We will **come back together at 3pm** to discuss the activity and any other questions
Activity questions

1. Did you download the data?
2. How many variables (different pieces of information) did you download?
3. How many one-person households, where the householder is 65 or over, are there in Bartley Green?
4. What percentage of households in Bartley Green is this?
5. What is the percentage of people aged 65 or over and living alone across all wards in Birmingham?
Steps: 1 2 3 4

Download

Show Guidance

Selected Category Combinations

- 1808 - Household composition: Total: Household composition - Unit: Households
- 1810 - Household composition: One person household - Unit: Households
- 1812 - Household composition: Aged 65 and over - Unit: Households

Selected Areas

- All Wards and Electoral Divisions (40 areas) in Local Authorities (324 areas) - Birmingham

File reference HHDCOM_UNIT

Download Data

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Discussion
Resources
Online resources

- Guides
- Videos
- Webinars
- Data Skills Modules

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Methods and Software Guides

For example:

• **Software guides**
  • What is Stata?
  • What is SPSS 20 for Windows?
  • Using R to analyse key UK surveys

• **Survey data**
  • What is weighting?
  • What is complex sample design?
  • What are hierarchical files?
Videos

"Can you show me how to do that?"

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/UKDATASERVICE
Webinars

2021 Census: What is planned and how will you use it? A UK Data Service users update
06 Mar 2020
Online, 11.00 - 12.00 GMT

Webinar: Investigating religion in the UK - what data can I use?
18 Mar 2020
Online, 15.00 - 16.00 GMT

Webinar: Investigating language spoken in the UK - what data can I use?
25 Mar 2020
Online, 15.00 - 16.00 GMT

Webinar: Investigating political behaviour in the UK - what data can I use?
01 Apr 2020
Online, 15.00 - 16.00 BST

Webinar: Introduction to the UK Data Service
07 May 2020
Online, 15.00 - 16.00 BST
Data Skills Modules

- Survey data
- Aggregate data
- Longitudinal data
- Glossary

https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/use-data/data-skills-modules.aspx
Thank you

web: [https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/](https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/)  YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/user/UKDATASERVICE](https://www.youtube.com/user/UKDATASERVICE)
email: [help@ukdataservice.ac.uk](mailto:help@ukdataservice.ac.uk)
twitter: [@UKDataService](https://twitter.com/UKDataService)