

## 5.0. Phase 1: Scoping review

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### 5.1. Purpose and context

This scoping review sought to provide a structured account of how administrative data is currently used and translated into impact. Given the scale and heterogeneity of administrative data research, identifying all projects that have generated demonstrable impact would be methodologically and practically challenging.

We therefore adopted a case study approach, focusing on Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK), a UK-wide organisation that systematically documents the impact of administrative data research through published case studies.

For the WG, we sought to focus on specific questions and showcase specific evidence from this evidence. Specifically, we wanted to show to our WG members:

- Who uses administrative data evidence?
- How is that evidence used?
- What project features are linked to impact?

This would enable us to consider as a WG:

- Who currently engages with evidence and who does not?
- Is evidence communicated in usable ways?
- What makes evidence actionable across sectors?
- Are communities, VCSE organisations, and practitioners meaningfully included?
- What routes may broaden impact?

### 5.2. The data

Impact case studies are published on the ADR UK website (ADR UK, n.d) and include a summary of the research, data and methods used, key findings, dissemination of findings, and impact.

ADR UK categorizes its impact according to the 5 P's framework: Policy, Practice, People, Potential, and Process (see Figure 5.1 for overview of each of these categories).

### 5.3. Methods

A comprehensive methodological approach was adopted for this scoping review, although only a brief overview is provided here. In summary, the review combined manual web-scraping with large language model-assisted data extraction and synthesis.

### 5.4. Results

#### 5.4.1. Who uses administrative data evidence?

11 categories of evidence users were identified, with the top three being policymakers, governments, and the health sectors. There was notably less representation for education and VCSE sector (see Figure 5.2).

#### 5.4.2. How is data used?

The top three ways data was used was to inform policy, improve practice, and help people (see Figure 5.3).



Figure 5.1: The 5P's framework (ADR UK, n.d.)

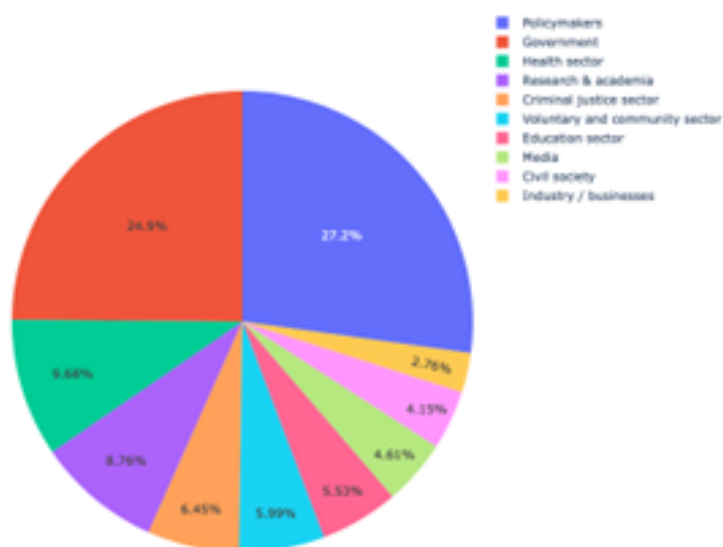


Figure 5.2. Users of evidence

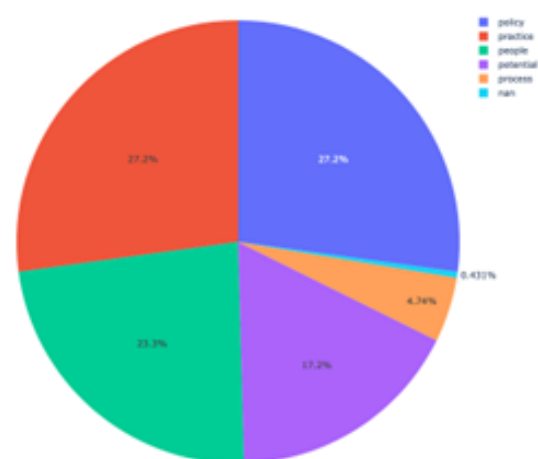


Figure 5.3. The 5P's across impact case studies

### 5.4.3. What project features are linked to impact?

The most commonly represented user types across impact types were Policymakers (27.19%), Government (24.88%) and the Health sector (9.68%).

The most represented data types across impact types were survey, cohort, or questionnaire data; health and clinical; and Census or longitudinal population data.

The most represented research outputs across impact types were reports, journal articles and presentations.

For target populations, the most commonly represented across impact types were workers and staff; business and employers; and health patients.

For societal issues, the most represented were health and wellbeing; social mobility and inclusion; and children.

### 5.5. Discussion

The key takeaways we opted to present to our WG members at our next meeting included:

- Projects showing impact commonly involved policy, government, & health sectors.
- Impactful projects frequently drew on linked longitudinal, survey, and health datasets.
- Evidence was most often communicated through reports, journal articles, and presentations.
- Many projects focused on widely recognised societal priorities such as health, inclusion, and children's outcomes.

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Questions from these findings that we prepared to pose to our members included:

- Why might some sectors appear less represented in evidence use?
- Are traditional outputs sufficient for engaging diverse audiences?
- What might help administrative data evidence travel further across sectors.

### 5.6. References

ADR UK. (n.d). ADR UK. Adruk.org.  
<https://www.adruk.org/news-publications/impact-case-studies/>

### 5.7. What's next

We will present these findings to our WG members at the next meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2026.