



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

Public attitudes to data linkage and sharing

Kane, F., Given, J., Nelson, E., Dolk, H., & Robinson, G. (2017). Public attitudes to data linkage and sharing. *International Journal of Population Data Science*, 1(1), [299]. <https://doi.org/10.23889/ijpds.v1i1.320>

Published in:

International Journal of Population Data Science

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Queen's University Belfast - Research Portal:

[Link to publication record in Queen's University Belfast Research Portal](#)

Publisher rights

Copyright 2022 the authors.

This is an open access article published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>), which permits distribution and reproduction for non-commercial purposes, provided the author and source are cited

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Queen's University Belfast Research Portal is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

The Research Portal is Queen's institutional repository that provides access to Queen's research output. Every effort has been made to ensure that content in the Research Portal does not infringe any person's rights, or applicable UK laws. If you discover content in the Research Portal that you believe breaches copyright or violates any law, please contact openaccess@qub.ac.uk.

Open Access

This research has been made openly available by Queen's academics and its Open Research team. We would love to hear how access to this research benefits you. – Share your feedback with us: <http://go.qub.ac.uk/oa-feedback>

International Journal of Population Data Science

Journal Website: www.ijpds.org



Public attitudes to data linkage and sharing

Given, Joanne^{1*}, Nelson, Elizabeth¹, Kane, Frances¹, Dolk, Helen¹, and Robinson, Gillian¹

¹Ulster University

Objectives

To capture a baseline of public attitudes in Northern Ireland towards data linkage and sharing which can then be reassessed at intervals to measure changes in public trust and understanding.

Approach

The Life and Times Survey is an annual survey of the attitudes of the public of Northern Ireland to a wide range of social issues. Questions within the survey are grouped into modules, the range of which varies from year to year.

In the 2015 survey a module of questions and vignettes was added relating to data sharing. These questions were derived mainly from the 'Dialogue on Data' report from ESRC and Ipsos Mori in 2014 and related to the key theme of 'Public understanding and views of sharing of health data, data linking, and relevant safeguards'.

Each year a systematic random sample of addresses is used to identify selected respondents. Interviews are then carried out face to face in the respondent's home via Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing. A self-completion questionnaire is also included at the end of the interview.

It is intended that the module relating to public attitudes towards data linkage and sharing are repeated at intervals, possibly every 3 to 5 years, to assess changes in levels of public trust and understanding.

Results

1200 respondents completed the NILTS between October and December 2015. The dataset is currently being cleaned and will be ready for analysis in April 2016. It is intended that the results of the survey be presented at the IPDLN conference.

*Corresponding Author:

Email Address: je.given@ulster.ac.uk (J. Given)

Conclusions

A baseline measure of public attitudes towards data linkage and sharing has been made in Northern Ireland. Repeating this assessment at intervals will make it possible to measure changes in the levels of public trust and understating over time.

