

## The ESRC Administrative Data Liaison Service

Administrative data (data that can be used for research but is collected for other purposes) has the potential to provide a relatively cheap, potentially less intrusive and yet comprehensive resource for research in the UK. Many European countries have placed a much greater emphasis on the development of this type of micro data than the UK. As a consequence, they have managed to replace national censuses and major surveys, reducing costs to the taxpayer and the burden on citizens from requests for information. Although the use of this type of data has increased in the UK, it still lags behind European neighbours. The **Administrative Data Liaison Service (ADLS)** is funded by the ESRC to be part of a set of services (including the **Secure Data Service**) and initiatives aimed at changing this situation.

## What does the ADLS do?

The ADLS is funded by the ESRC to provide information on and help in the use of administrative data as a resource.

The ADLS assists researchers by providing information on the availability and suitability of administrative data for research and guidance on the ethical and legal framework which they will need to work within.

The service also works in tandem with government departments and other agencies in the provision of suitable settings from which researchers can access their administrative data.

## What services do we offer?

The ADLS provides a number of services to assist researchers. This includes:

- A dedicated website which provides information on the major administrative datasets held by government departments and organisations in the UK (including current dataset access procedures). The website also provides guidance on the legal and security issues that need to be considered when using administrative data.
- A search facility to identify research that has used administrative data and also the help locate more readily available non-disclosure 'published' administrative data.
- Downloadable packs of information to assist researchers to apply for administrative data.
- An advisory service to assist with enquiries about administrative data.

**Information on our upcoming events and developments is provided on the [next page](#).**

## ADLS upcoming events and developments

### Safe Researcher Training Programme

The ADLS in conjunction with the Office for National Statistics and ESRC's Secure Data Service are currently developing a 'Safe Researcher' training programme. The aim is to provide researchers with the knowledge to use data resources responsibly and appropriately. The courses cover the legislation allowing research access to administrative micro data, disclosure control, safe settings and general best practice.

Two one day courses will be run on the **14th September 2010** at the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, Manchester and on the **12th November 2010** at the Medical Research Council, London. More dates will also be available in 2011.

### Research Papers

The ADLS are taking steps to advance and broaden current knowledge about the potential use of administrative data for research. This includes research on current safe setting practices, disclosure control arrangements and historical uses of administrative data in the UK. Papers will be available to download from the ADLS website or will be published in appropriate journals.

### P-ADLS

P-ADLS is a joint initiative, involving the ADLS and the University of Stirling. This portal will allow owners of administrative data and researchers to archive syntax, coding frames and other sets of information used in the manipulation of datasets, so they can be used by others in future research. This will aid in the development of research that is comparable and to avoid unnecessary replication of work.

### ADLS Conference

A dedicated ADLS conference on the social science uses of administrative data is planned for September 2011. This will be run in conjunction with the established conference on the use of routine data to aid health research. More information will be provided in due course.

You can receive information on our developments and updates by [registering with the ADLS](#).

## Contacting the ADLS

You can contact the ADLS by phone on 01334 463901, email [adls@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:adls@st-andrews.ac.uk) or online by clicking [here](#).