



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI487514756

Thank you for your request for information relating to Data linkage practices.

You have requested the following information:

Data linkage (also known as matching, entity resolution or record linkage) is the process of joining data sets through deciding whether two records, in the same or different data sets, belong to the same entity (Harron et al., 2016).

Data linkage provides insight, informs policy change and helps answer society's most important questions through increasing the utility of administrative data. However, linkage presents challenges, as discussed in the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) 2018 report on joining up data, and more work needs to be done to realise its full benefit.

My colleagues and I are leading commissioned research that involves the linking of education (school census), social care (child in need census) and health data sets within NHS digital. I am interested to find out how many other local authority areas are linking data on children and young people and the barriers and enablers to the process.

1. Do you currently link your education and social care data for children and young people?

Yes.

2. Which of your datasets are you linking?

We confirm we are linking the following datasets:

- School census
- Children in Need (CiN) census
- Children looked after return SSSDA903 data collection

We also link Children in Need, Child Protection, and Looked after Children to educational data sets on a weekly basis.

3. Which groups of children and young people do you link data on?

We link data on the following:

- Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Looked after children (care experienced)
- Children and young people on Free School Meals
- All children and young people

4. How are you using the linked data?

We are linking data for the following purposes:

- Strategic planning
- Data dashboard
- Service review
- Targeted interventions (individuals)

5. Do you currently link local authority data sets for children and young people with health data sets? Y/N/in development

We confirm this is currently in development. The NHS number is contained in social care datasets. Social care data will form an input to a U18 integrated care record containing health data within the next financial year.

6. Which health data sets are you linking with education and or social care?

The health datasets which we are linking with education and/or social care are the following:

- Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS)
- Deaths
- Births

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Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance