

HDR UK Impact Framework

V2.0 Draft June 2023



Impact at HDR UK

Following on from several working sessions and incorporating feedback from HDR UK’s Board, Science and Infrastructure Delivery Group, Impact Advisory Group, and Senior Leadership Team, this document includes a working draft of HDR UK’s definition of impact alongside a supporting outcome and impact framework.

Both components are works in progress and will be iterated considering feedback from the HDR UK community; future versions will be made openly available and communicated.

Definition of Impact

Impact at HDR UK is:

Evidence of better health research through the use of better data infrastructure with demonstrable positive effects on: health data science methods and technology; public trust; health and well-being; decision-making; and research culture and capacity.

This definition is intended to cover HDR UK’s potential impacts across time and programmes. Due to the long-term nature of delivering impactful change to people's lives (generally 10 to 20 years), it is likely this definition will be used in the short-term to measure our progress towards the potential of impact.

Impact Framework

This framework is intended to guide the HDR UK community in identifying the potential outcomes and impacts of their work over the next five years. This framework should serve as a starting point for developing programme-level pathways to impact and progress indicators. Of note, the framework is not meant to constrain impacts and programmes may make impacts across its priority areas.

Impact area	Impact
Advancing methods and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of, improvement to, or extension of resources/services/infrastructure to enable research and innovation – such as faster and safer data access, widely adopted and fit for purpose standards, specifically curated data, software tools, etc. • Gains in productivity realised as a result of research/infrastructure-led changes in practice such as: easier access to data, improved analytic functionalities or coordinated activities • Facilitation of cross-sector partnerships and research networks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative academic industry partnerships creating new activity (or relationship capital)
Forming public trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of patient and public advisors in research, decision-making and policy • Building patient and public trust in HDR UK and health data research • Improvements in legal frameworks, the regulatory environment or governance of health data • Better public understanding of the benefits of health data research
Improving health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of research and discoveries into interventions in health or social care • Reduction in death and disease • Improvement in people’s quality of life • Responsiveness to emerging health needs • Reduction in health disparities and health data poverty
Informing decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thought leadership – for example, documented reports on behalf of the community • Influence of research evidence on policy debate and policy decisions - for example, citation in policy documents • Influence of research evidence on legislation, regulations or guidelines - including changes to clinical practice guidelines or information governance regulations • Research/infrastructure-led changes in practice that change costs of treatment, health or social care
Improving research culture and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a more positive culture including team science, open science, and support for all research outputs (including protocols, green papers, etc.) • Promotion of equality, diversity, and inclusion • Sharing networks for knowledge, skills, data, tools • Training and education across all career stages • Leveraged funding and onward mobility that drives sustainability (or human capital)