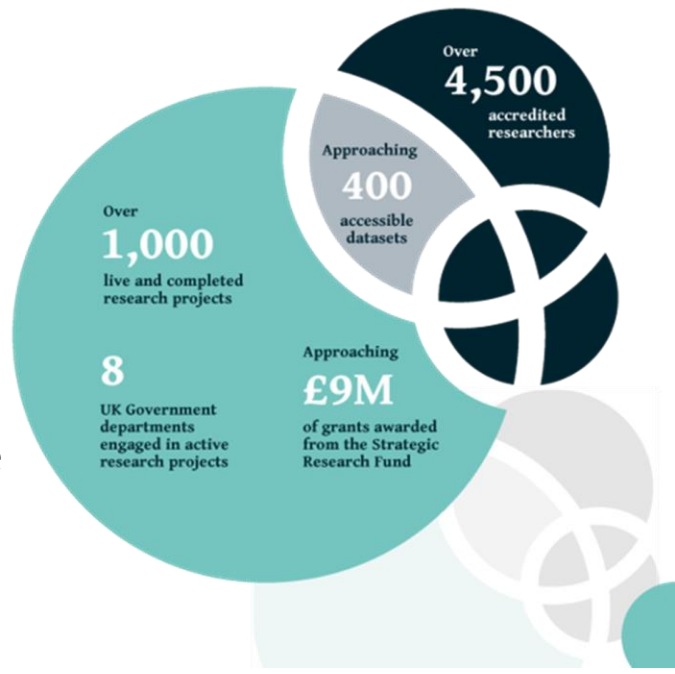


My eight weeks as an intern at Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK)

SARA UDOKA DURU

WHAT IS ADR UK?

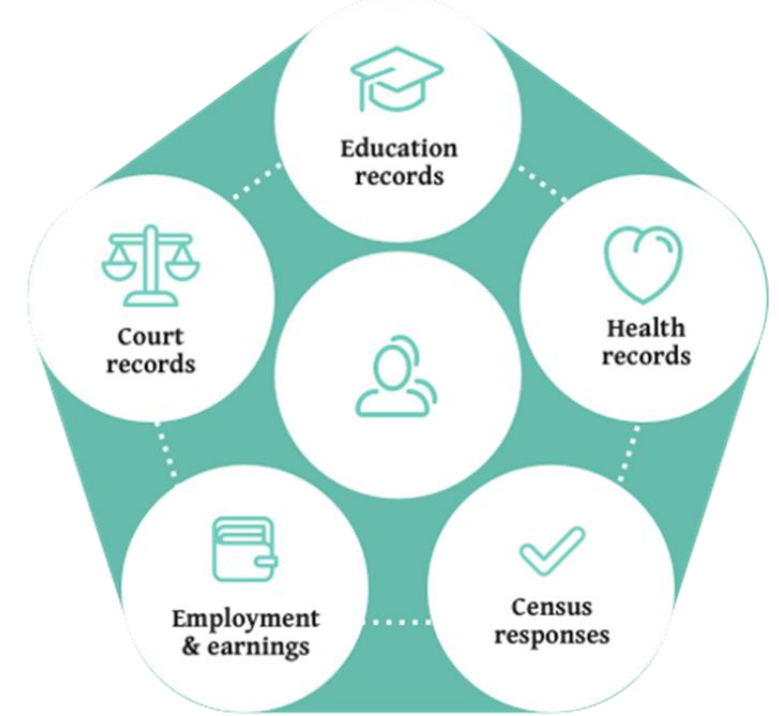
ADR UK (Administrative Data Research UK) is a partnership transforming the way researchers access the UK's wealth of public sector data, to enable better informed policy decisions that improve lives. ADR UK is an investment of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).



Read more about ADR UK!

WHAT IS ADMINISTRATIVE DATA?

Administrative data is information created when people interact with public services, such as schools, the NHS, the courts or the benefits system, and collated by government and other public sector organisations.



TASK 1: Create a young person's version of a research paper

This project involved simplifying a complicated research paper to make it easier for a younger audience to understand.

Why is this important?

This paper's emphasis on a younger audience is important because by making research more accessible to these populations, it allows young people to understand its wider significance. This enables them to engage in civic conversations and make informed decisions.

Gestational age at birth, chronic conditions, and school outcomes
Young person's version of a research paper
Author: Sara Duru, ADR England Intern
Date: August 2024

What is the study about?
This study looks at academic outcomes and special education needs across gestational age, for children born with and without chronic health conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy).

'Gestational age' means how far into their mother's pregnancy a baby is born. Most pregnancies last 39 or 40 weeks (just over nine months), but anything over 37 weeks is classed as full term by clinicians. Babies born before 37 weeks of gestation are called 'preterm'.

What did the study do?
This study used de-identified information about children's education and health (from the Education and Child Health Insights from Linked Data (ECHILD) project) to examine:

- the education outcomes of pupils in England at Key Stage 1 (KS1) (age 7) and Key Stage 2 (KS2) (age 11)
- special educational needs by age 11, considering how far into pregnancy they were born (gestational age), birth size, and early chronic conditions identified by age 2.

Who is in the study?
306,717 pupils attending state schools in England who were born between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2005

See the glossary on the final page for a description of the commonly used terms throughout the paper

What did the study find?

- Children born even a few weeks early, at 37-38 weeks of pregnancy, were less likely to meet expected levels of attainment in KS1 and KS2 compared to those born at 40 weeks. Special educational needs also increased with a shorter length of pregnancy.
- A greater proportion of children with special educational needs or not achieving expected levels of attainment in KS1 and KS2 was attributable to them having chronic conditions, rather than being born preterm (at less than 37 weeks).
- Children with a lower birthweight, living in a more deprived area, born later in the school year, born to a younger mother, and with older siblings were more likely to have special educational needs.

4 Children who were born in the autumn were more likely to achieve expected academic outcomes than those born in the summer, likely due to their older age at school start.

children born in September 2004 were more likely to achieve expected academic outcomes than children born in August 2005

What needs to change?

- Increasing support for children with special educational needs and/or chronic conditions
- Equipping educational professionals to support the needs of children born preterm
- Providing support that facilitates healthy behaviours for the most vulnerable mothers
- Providing additional support prior to school entry for summer-born preterm children

Key message
Research using the ECHILD database could help to guide policy on offering early assistance to children who are at risk of experiencing poor outcomes during their school years.

Link to the full project and the glossary

TASK 2: HDR UK-ADR UK dataset mapping

This exploratory project involved examining various health datasets held by Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) and ADR UK to consider potential new linkages that could help answer new research questions with important policy implications.

Why is this important?

This exploratory mapping exercise may be helpful to researchers looking at the social determinants of health by illustrating thematic health crossovers with social and economic research, as well as available administrative datasets.

EXAMPLE: ADR UK: Nursing and Midwifery Council Register linked to Census 2021(NMC)



HDR UK: National Neonatal Research Database (NNRD)



Other Tasks

While at ADR UK, I also had the opportunity to immerse myself in multiple other opportunities, including:



1 Presentations to the ADR UK Strategic Hub and ADR England Public Insights Panel



2 Online trainings – ten courses completed to enhance my interpersonal and professional skills



3 Writing a blog of my experiences, shared with ADR UK, ESRC and beyond