The LARIA North East Newsletter

Laria North East

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

This is the 57th LARIA North East newsletter, looking at sharing tools for data analysis, the first release of Census 2021 data, getting insight from data, the Timescapes 10 data festival, and much more.

This newsletter is put together by Louise Reeve, the North East regional organiser, and sent to all LARIA North East members and associate members. It is also sent to LARIA members in Yorkshire and Humber. If there's something you'd like to see in the newsletter, contact me here: louise.reeve@newcastle.gov.uk. (If you would like to unsubscribe from this newsletter in future, please email me at: louise.reeve@newcastle.gov.uk)

Updates from LARIA

Sharing tools for data analysis in Children's Services – 'Data to Insight'

By Alastair Lee at East Sussex County Council: "In early 2019 I had what was, in hindsight, a "blinding flash of the patently obvious": if my own colleagues in East Sussex children's services needed to build ad hoc data tools to help with statutory duties, then people in other Local Authorities would be managing the same problems independently.

A quick survey of children's services data teams in my region revealed that 10 shareable Excel tools had been produced across 19 LAs, but that only one of these was being widely used outside its home local authority, and that one was entirely reliant on maintenance by the individual who had produced it.

Roll forward to 2022; we now have a funded project called Data to Insight (www.datatoinsight.org), hosting 15 tools with a full-time manager plus fixed-term project staff. D2I has the core purpose of maintaining and making these tools freely available to local authorities, identifying and developing new tools, and supporting a Level 4 Apprenticeship to improve skills in the existing workforce.

This did not happen overnight, and we received a lot of support to make it happen. The takeaway, I hope, is that the same thing will be possible in other areas of Local Government." Contact: Alastair.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk

Spotlight

Census 2021 First Release

The first release of data from Census 2021 took place on 28 June 2022, looking at populations and households at local authority level. You can find the data here: first results from Census 2021 in England and Wales and here are some resources to help publicise it: downloadable resources page. OSCI have produced a helpful Census 2021 Local Insight site to help explore the Census datasets for counties, unitary councils and London boroughs, find it here: Census 2021 Local Insight.

Insight from Data

I asked this question on the LARIA Knowledge Hub Forum: "What different techniques and approaches are people taking to get insight from data?" and got these replies – take a look!

Neil Bendel, Public Health Specialist (Health Intelligence) at Manchester City Council, commented: "Key to this, I think, is being really clear about **what the question is that you are trying to answer?** What's the hypothesis? The analysis – and the tools and techniques for carrying out that analysis – follow on from that. It is tempting to use the visualisation potential of things like Tableau or Power BI to manipulate the data and see if any interesting patterns and questions emerge, but there's a particular skill in hypothesis generation that we may be missing if we focus purely on the technical and data manipulation aspects of our work. There's an 'art' to data analysis as well as a 'science', and we need both elements to effectively generate insight from data. True insight also comes from triangulating the data with the published evidence and with intelligence derived from our local communities."

Martin Burroughs, Geographic Information Manager at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, presents this perspective: "I've never much been one for the hypothesis approach, particularly with the growing debates over racism in statistical methodology: **in big data, there tends to be more emphasis on Data Exploration as a formal phase of the insight process**, and for me that's the key to really understanding what's there in the data and drawing insights. I also favour a collaborative discovery approach, think that's valuable, sitting down with the stakeholder and working through the data, understanding what they need (not what they want), and then understanding the nuances of the data. I'd also always wave the flag for the spatial! There's few projects where looking at hyperlocal data spatially doesn't give insights."

Robert Steele adds: "Starting out using the **LOTI framework** here (London Office of Technology and Innovation). It seems suitable to our circumstances so far!" Thanks to all for contributing.

Research News

Regional health profiles release by OHID

The regional health profiles released at the end of June 2022 provide an overview of health in each of the nine regions. As first editions of the profiles produced to accompany the Health Profile for England 2021, they bring together data available through the OHID Fingertips platform as well as information from other publicly available sources to give a broad picture of the health of people in each region, including the North East and Yorkshire and the Humber profiles.

Disabled people's experiences with activities, goods and services UK: February to March 2022

"Today the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a qualitative analysis of the experiences of disabled adults which follows on from quantitative work published last month. Disabled people described the barriers they faced to accessing and engaging with private sector activities, goods and services across the UK: "We've got a lot to say, we are a minority, but we've still got a lot to say…If people could listen to what we've got to say, we wouldn't have so many problems in the world." (Participant quote). Find out more here (and see below under 'Useful Links'): Disabled people's experiences with activities, goods and services UK."

Transforming the way ONS produces population statistics

ONS Director Jen Woolford comments: "Census 2021 gives us a brilliant, detailed snapshot of England and Wales, but since Census day the world has continued to change. People move home, change jobs, some will have left the country, while others will have arrived. Reflecting these ongoing changes, in her blog Jen Woolford explains how the ONS is using a variety of data sources to provide more frequent, inclusive and timely statistics to allow us to understand population change in local areas this year and beyond." Find out more here: Transforming the way ONS produces population statistics. More useful articles:

- New methods to produce estimates of the size of the population
- International migration statistical design progress report
- Population statistics and sources guide

Events and Training

Timescapes 10 Festival, September 2022

From NCRM: "Registration is open for three short courses on qualitative methods that will take place during the Timescapes 10 Festival. The three courses are:

MONDAY 5 - FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER, 2022

The Timescapes 10 Festival

- Working with large amounts of qualitative data: an introduction to the Breadth-and-Depth Methods
- Introducing the Irish Qualitative Data Archive
- Introducing Qualitative Longitudinal Research: From Design to Analysis

The Timescapes 10 Festival takes place on 5-16 September 2022. For a registration fee of £10, delegates get access to 10 days of talks, workshops, panel discussions and other sessions. Registration for any of the short courses includes entry to the festival. Find out more here: Timescapes 10 Festival."

Useful Links and Resources

Disabled people's access to products and services: Great Britain, February to March 2022

From ONS: "The Office for National Statistics has today released an article which explores the experience of disabled adults' access to products and services in the past twelve months compared with those of non-disabled people. The analysis relates to a timeframe that includes periods where various public health restrictions were in place due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. These restrictions would have impacted access in person to products and services. The findings come from three waves of the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN), collected between 16 February and 27 March 2022. Find the article here: Disabled people's access to products and services: Great Britain, February to March 2022."

See the recently launched Integrated Care System (ICSs) areas in LG Inform Plus

From LG Inform: "July 2022 marked the launch of 42 integrated care systems (ICSs) covering the whole of England. They bring together councils and healthcare delivery services

	Geographical area, land only measurements - hectares	Total population	Total female population	Total male population
	2021	2020	2020	2020
	Hectares	People	People	People
Bedford Borough	47,640.82	174,687	88,763	85,924
Central Bedfordshire	71,566.57	294,096	149,217	144,879
Luton	4,335.25	213,528	104,614	108,914
Milton Keynes	30,862.67	270,203	136,648	133,555

tailored to the needs of their populations. All areas covered by the ICSs are available via LG Inform Plus. Use them in your reports to see population data like this one (free for non-subscribers) broken down by Ward, or, as a subscriber, to view data items individually like this one, and others, across over 10,000 area-level metrics."

The UK's most detailed search engine for longitudinal population studies

"Researchers can now search and explore new data in CLOSER Discovery – the UK's most detailed search engine for longitudinal population studies – with the addition of more than 12,000 new variables. The latest update adds more than 3,500 variables from the Wirral Child Health and Development Study (WCHADS) and more than 4,000 variables from the 1958 and 1970 British birth cohort studies to the search platform. The additional WCHADS metadata means that CLOSER Discovery now contains data and questionnaire metadata from the first nine data sweeps of the study. Read more here: The UK's most detailed search engine for longitudinal population studies."