

Data sharing and integration for timely decision-making

Rapidly changing society presents complex challenges and opportunities that require comprehensive data from multiple sources. To better understand national populations, we need to draw on a range of evidence, including administrative and operational data. Geospatial location data is crucial to the integration of these disparate data sources, which are oftentimes produced at differing levels of granularity.

In the UK, the Office National Statistics is responding to these challenges with a programme of transformation, having relied on Census as a main source of information about the population for the last 200 years. From a decennial Census we are moving to a more frequent, flexible and efficient system of statistical production, providing evidence to support timely decision-making and necessarily involving the integration of administrative and operational data, with more traditional (and novel) data sources.

The presentation focuses on this UK context and the Office for National Statistics' ambitious plan to enable data sharing and integration across government. It will provide a background to the challenges of data sharing and integration in the UK and efforts to overcome these. An introduction will be given to the preferred mechanism for integration in this space – the Reference Data Management Framework – and the central role that location data plays in this. The presentation will also provide insight into how we make integrated data accessible for analysis by other government departments in an ethical and safe way.