

Audio file

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Transcript

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Hi, I'm Mike Seaborne. I'm a research analyst at Swansea University and I'd like to offer a big thank you to MatCHNey for contributing funding

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to my project.

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My team and I will be looking at UK electronic birth cohorts and working to harmonise the data within them.

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We will then use these for a discontinuity analysis of early pregnancy grants and their effect upon birth outcomes.

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The problem we face is that routinely collected data often has different content depending on where it was collected. It can be stored differently, have different codes, analysis tools and software. To name, but a few of the differences.

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This is effectively like trying to travel the world and trying to plug in your electronics

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while only having the one

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one plug. And there are many different

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types of sockets.

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The solution is to harmonise to a common data model in the UK, to make collaboration more feasible. In effect, data structured and formatted in the same way can use the same tools and code to analyse them and get comparable results.

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Each of the UK nations have birth cohorts which contain many similar variables. Standardising them will make more readily comparable data, so we can consider which parts of which nations policies work.

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We'll create a common data model for four full birth cohorts. For Wales, Scotland, Bradford and South London.

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We'll use these

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to create a common code with which to analyse birth outcome markers for each cohort and relate them to differences in early pregnancy grant policies.

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Scotland's early pregnancy grants policy has changed, so it's now different to that in England and Wales. We know from previous research that grant provisions can result in increased birth rates, reduced low birth weights, and decreased prematurity, so we should be able to compare such outcomes with respect to differences in eligibility for support and

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In particular, differences between near-eligible and eligible.

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As you can see, during Pre 2018 all three nations had the same policy, so we can compare how the same policy affects all three nations.

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Post 2018 Scotland's policy changed so we should be able to compare effects of this change within Scotland and how that compares to the ongoing policy in England and Wales.

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These are the other members of my research team, along with other research analysts within each birth cohort's teams.

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And finally, thank you very much for listening.