



Ministry
of Justice



Supporting organisations to undertake rigorous evaluations – the role of government administrative datasets

Social Research Association Annual Conference 2014

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Agenda

- Context
- What is the Justice Data Lab?
- How it has been used
- Findings to date
- Reception of reports
- Future direction of administrative data evaluation labs

NPC's programme for developing administrative data evaluation labs

The need:

Funders increasingly require organisations to show their impact and deliver a specified outcome in return for payment or investment

Not-for-profit organisations themselves want to evidence the outcomes of their work

Aim:

Support not-for-profits to access restricted (primarily government) data to assess the impact they have on their beneficiaries– **increasing supply** of useful data

Encourage not-for-profits to engage with data, increasing awareness and knowledge– **stimulating demand**

Four year programme funded by the Oak Foundation- Housing and Homeless Programme. First milestone was the Justice Data Lab

Aim of the Justice Data Lab

Launched in April 2013

..to improve the **evidence** base on successful rehabilitation..

..by giving organisations working with offenders secure and legal access to **aggregate re-offending** data

..enabling them to better assess the **impact** of their work on re-offending

Overall schematic

Provider organisation

Individual level data
sent to MoJ

Aggregate data return



MoJ

Analysis and
Matching

Specific report – Prisoners Education Trust

Prisoners Education Trust submitted data relating to offenders who had a grant for a distance learning course, or Art and Hobby Materials between 2002 and 2010. About 50% of participants were known to have received one of four indicated grant types for (i) courses currently accredited¹ and (ii) unaccredited¹, (iii) Open University courses and (iiii) Arts and Hobby grants.

We carried out one overall analysis and four sub-analyses, the results are in the table below.

	Treatment	Significant	Estimate of impact	Reduction in frequency
Grant type	Size	Difference?	on re-offending	of re-offending?
Open University	805	Y	2% to 8%	Y
Accredited	152	N	inconclusive	inconclusive
Unaccredited	76	Y	1.4% to 21%	Y
Arts Materials	173	Y	0.3% to 14%	Y
Overall	3,085	Y	5% to 8%	Y

¹ Funded by PET through grants from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Cumulative findings to date

Of the 119 reports completed so far:

- 26 reports indicated statistically significant reductions in re-offending on the one year proven re-offending rate
- 86 reports indicated insufficient evidence to draw a conclusion about the effect on the one year proven re-offending rate
- Of these 86, 10 reports detail statistically significant reductions in the frequency of re-offending
- 7 reports indicated a statistically significant increase in re-offending on the one year proven re-offending rate

Reception of reports

Survey issued to organisations whose data we published in the previous month has fed back that:

- The expectations around the Data Lab had been met, although our customer service could be variable
- That the Justice Data Lab is a useful service for the VCS, helping to provide information on re-offending and impact
- More information on outcomes (severity, re-incarceration rates, employment and benefits) would be helpful
- Results had been used to understand / demonstrate impact internally and externally – the majority of organisations that responded to this survey had plans to alert external organisations as to their results and impact

Justice Data Lab challenges

Awareness- good coverage through partnership with Clinks & NOMS improving evidence study, but work still needed

Technical:

1. Data collection & storage: full name, D.O.B, intervention & sentence start/end date
2. **Sample size and matching-** minimum of 60 users, reductions in sample size
3. **Applicability & Attribution e.g. sex offenders excluded, difficulties to create accurate comparison group for housing, SUBSTANCE MISUSERS**

Attitudinal

1. Measurement- binary and frequency provided, severity being developed. Wider discourse of desistance from crime and how useful are reconviction measures.
2. Transparency
3. Timeliness- JDL provides retrospective results

Resource:

1. Lack of time/staff

Legal:

1. A few charities concerned to use JDL without service user consent.

Funders:

1. Concern on how they will act on the results

The drivers for increased use of administrative data are strong



- Demand for good evidence of impact – From funders & What Works Centre



- Availability of data (80% of data globally created in last 2 yrs—IBM)



- Technological capability to analyse data securely and safely



- Internal analytic capabilities of charities (mixed economy of charities + skills shortage)



- Cost of technology

Benefits of the ADEL approach-

Routine production of high-quality low cost evaluations of social policies and interventions

For not-for-profit organisations...	For government data holders...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear route for accessing government data• Understand the outcomes for clients• Understand impact– comparison group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing more accessible and tailored data• Support provided to increase demand for impact evaluations (e.g JDL expert panel)
For policy makers, researchers commissioners...	For service users...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports evidence based commissioning• As more organisations undertake robust impact measurement using a Data Lab, the body of evidence increases• This can be used for meta-analyses to understand better what works• Shift in evaluator role from (quantitative) data collection to data analysis, synthesis, interpretation, qualitative research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alongside other forms of research– ultimately better outcomes for service users as the most effective interventions are provided

NPC's programme for developing administrative data evaluation labs (ADEL)

Progress:

Justice: Year 2 of Justice Data Lab

Health (impact on hospital services): supporting HSCIC & Cabinet Office to write a business plan for an ADEL

Education (attainment): early stage discussions with a third party to develop and pilot an ADEL

Employment/Benefits: discussions with DWP

Substance misuse: data sharing and senior level buy in needed

Demand: Ongoing communication with the sector- blogs, news articles, papers, events, conferences, newsletter, meetings.

Contact Details

Any questions?

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Websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/justice-data-lab>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/justice-data-lab-pilot-statistics>

New Philanthropy Capital

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Project timeline

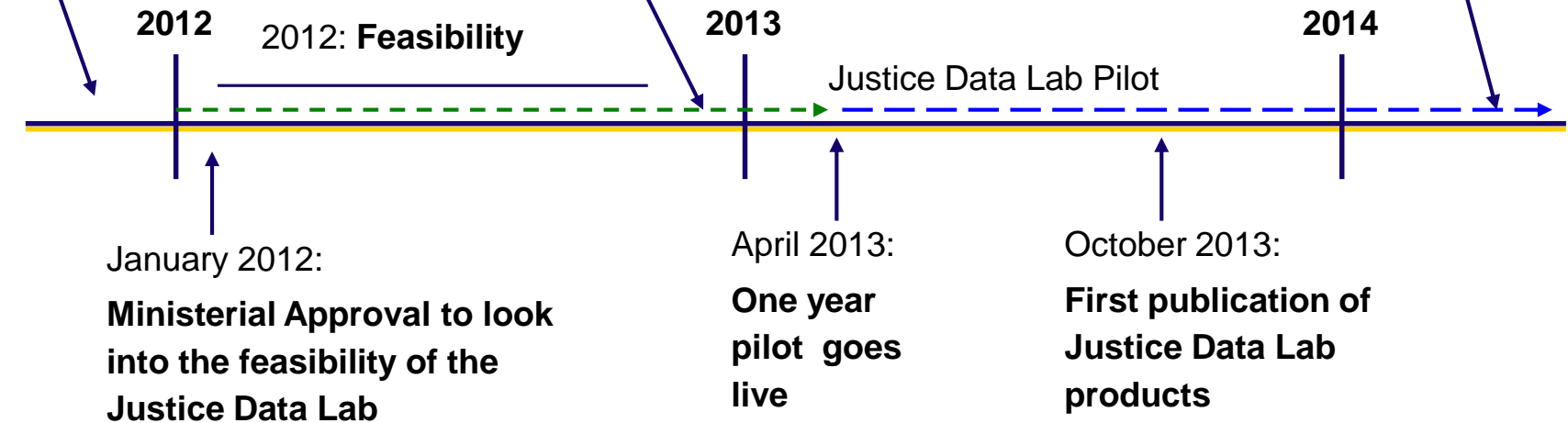
December 2011:

NPC approach MoJ about Data Lab idea

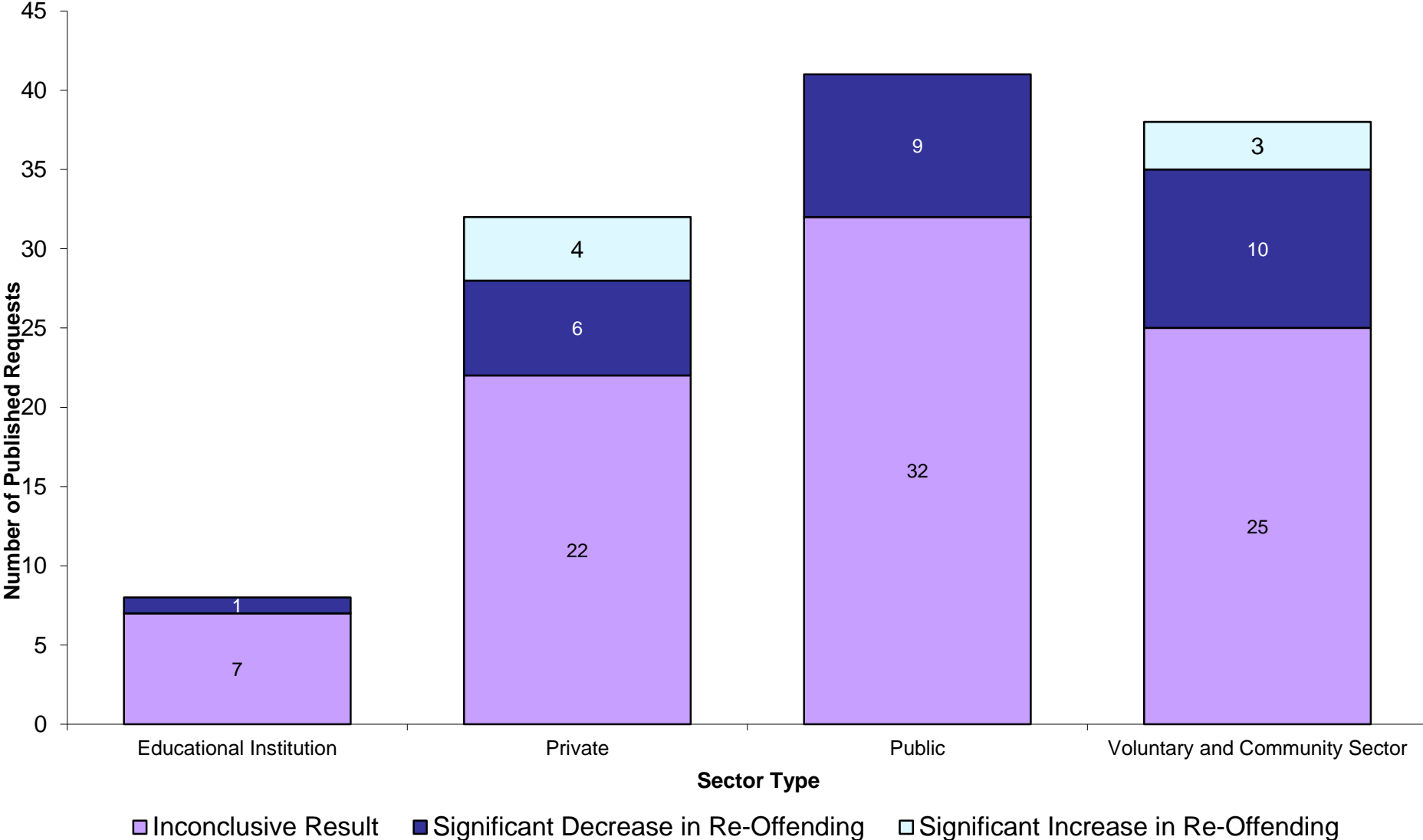
December 2012:
Announcement that Justice Data Lab would be piloted

Spring 2014:

Pilot extended for further year and announcement of improvements to the service



Justice Data Lab results by sector type, published to date



Justice Data Lab results by intervention type, published to date

