

# Creating National Statistics

## SRA annual conference, 2015

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**NatCen**

Social Research that works for society

# National Statistics

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The National Statistics designation means that the statistics are *trustworthy, high quality and valuable*



# Assessment process

**Initiation Phase** –  
Kick – off meeting,  
agree  
scope and  
timetable  
and  
commissio  
n evidence

**Evidence gathering Phase** –  
producers  
gather  
evidence,  
Assessors  
engage  
users and  
do own  
research

**Analysis Phase** –  
Assessors  
review the  
evidence,  
internal QA  
and follow  
– up  
meeting  
with  
producers

**Reporting Phase** –  
Assessors  
draft report,  
clear with  
Regulation  
Committee  
and publish

**Confirmation Phase** –  
Report on  
Requirements  
reviewed, sign  
off by  
Regulation  
Committee,  
decision on  
NS status



# Quality management actions: Investigate: Manage: Communicate

## Manage – such as:

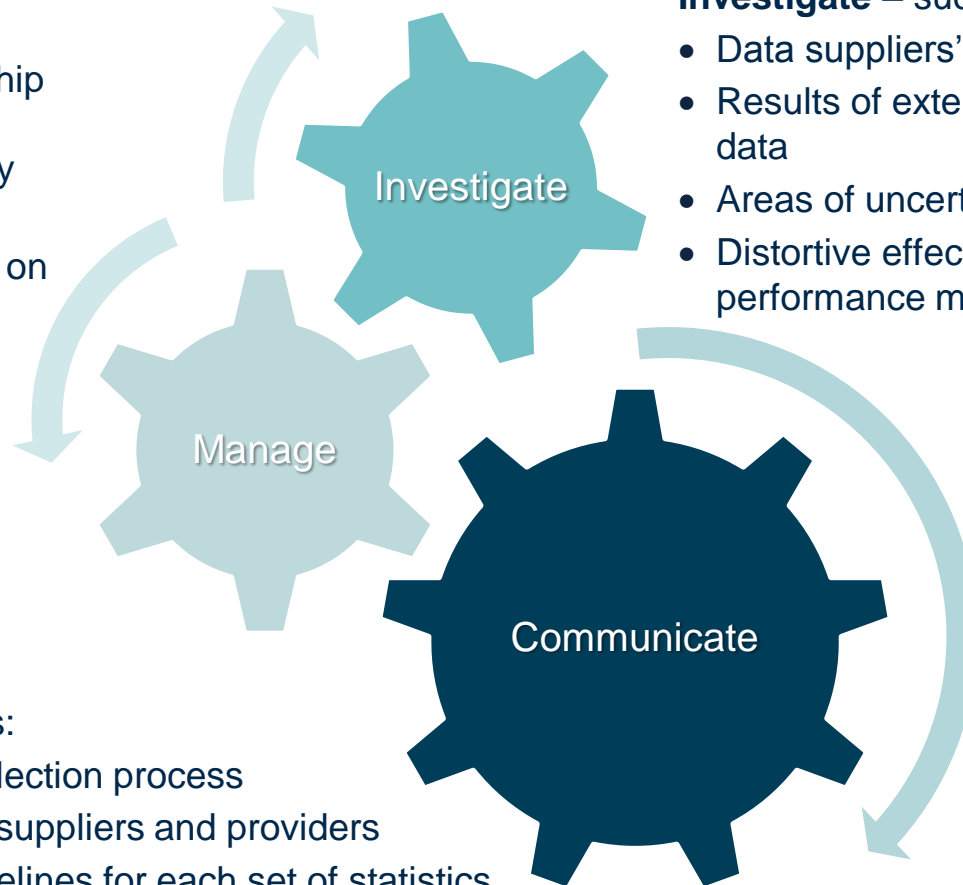
- Cooperative relationship with suppliers, IT and operational, and policy officials
- Guidance information on data requirements
- QA checks and corroboration against other sources

## Communicate – such as:

- Description of data collection process
- Regular dialogue with suppliers and providers
- Document quality guidelines for each set of statistics
- Description of errors and biases and their effects on the statistics
- Communicate with users

## Investigate – such as:

- Data suppliers' own QA arrangements
- Results of external audit of the admin data
- Areas of uncertainty and bias
- Distortive effects of targets and performance management regimes



## Health and Social Care Information Centre

- Provides information, data and IT systems for commissioners, analysts and clinicians
- Sponsored by Department of Health

# The HSCIC Surveys Team

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Commissions and manages surveys

Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey

Health Survey for England

Smoking Drinking and Drug Use amongst Young  
People in England

Adult Dental Health Survey

Child Dental Health Survey

Children and Young People's Mental Health Survey

What About YOUTH?

Survey of Carers in Households

# Delivering National Statistics

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- Balancing quality against cost in commissioning surveys
- Engaging with users



# Quality and Cost

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***“Seek to balance quality ...against costs....  
taking into account the expected uses of the  
statistics.”***

*Code of Practice for Official Statistics (Jan 2009)*

# User Engagement

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Delivering surveys that are fit for purpose



Who are our users?

What do they use our statistics for?

# User Engagement

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- Steering Groups
- HSCIC Newsletters
- Feedback through websites
- Twitter
- Publication reviews
- Consultations

# NatCen Social Research



## Adult psychiatric morbidity in England, 2007

### *Results of a household survey*

Edited by Sally McManus, Howard Meltzer, Traolach Brugha, Paul Bebbington, Rachel Jenkins

A survey carried out for The NHS Information Centre for health and social care  
by the National Centre for Social Research  
and the Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester

