TTP DATA QUALITY REPORT

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| **DATA SOURCE** | |
| DATA SUPPLIER: | Department of Communities (DfC) |
| DESCRIPTION: | 2010-2012 extract for individuals on the Disability Living Allowance Database (3 datasets) |
| COVERAGE: | Northern Ireland |
| NUMBER OF RECORDS: | 2010: 186,993  2011: 190,350  2012: 194,207 |
| **DATA BACKGROUND** | |
| The Disability Living Allowance Database (DLA) is managed by the Department of Communities and is a record of all people currently registered for DLA in Northern Ireland. DLA provides a non-contributory, non means-tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of severely disabled people who claim help with those costs before the age of 65.  It is part of a wider range of support and services available to disabled people, including support with housing and Council Tax costs, and in the form of services or direct payments from Local Authorities to meet social care needs.  Although it is intended to contribute towards extra costs, measuring each individual’s expenditure would be administratively complex and expensive. Entitlement and award levels are, therefore, based on proxies – care and mobility – as research at the time of DLA’s introduction showed that they were the greatest sources of extra costs. The decision about whether to award benefit is not made on the basis of an individual’s costs, but on the severity of their care and mobility needs.  The statistics are based on 100% extracts from the benefit administrative systems. Data is partially validated and is deemed of sufficiently high quality to report on.  As data is taken from live administrative systems, it relies on the customer reporting correct information about themselves and staff correctly inputting this data into the system. This does not always occur. Recent estimates indicate that approximately 1.3% of expenditure on benefits is misallocated due to Fraud and Error. The Department engages in initiatives to reduce the amount of Fraud and Error in the benefit systems on an ongoing basis.  Quality assurance of the data begins as soon as the extracts from administrative systems are received and continues right through to publication. The initial quality focus is on the volume of cases in each file. Subsequent assurance examines individual fields in detail to ensure that any unexpected changes are understood and represent genuine changes.  Further information on the quality and background of benefit data is available on the DfC website at:  <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/benefits-statistics> | |
| **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION** | |
| Information available to the TTP for linkage purposes -   * Name - Forename, Midname(s) and Surname (previous name information available from historical datasets) * Address – unspecified address fields plus postcode and UPRN (previous address information available from historical datasets) * Gender * Date of birth | |
| **DATA QUALITY & PRE-PROCESSING** | |
| Record linkage is highly dependent on the quality of the data being linked. Many key variables can be presented quite differently between datasets as the information has been collected and recorded using different methods. This can greatly complicate record linkage unless understood ahead of time. Pre-processing can be used to standardise these variables into a consistent format prior to linkage.  **NAME INFORMATION-** Name information (forename and surname) is available for 100% of records for 2010 and 2011, with information available for >99.9% of records for 2012. Midname is populated where applicable.  - Punctuation and characters which do not appear in the English alphabet (e.g. Á , %, $ ...) can appear in the name information. A function can be used to replace these with usable characters;  **ADDRESS INFORMATION-** House number, street name and town of the current address is unavailable for 0.2% of records. Postcode information has improved over time, from 99.3% (2010) to 99.6% (2012) of records having a valid Postcode. A small number of records (≤ 5) had a usual postcode outside of Northern Ireland. UPRN is also available for 95% of records.  - Address and Postcode information is standardised prior to linkage.  **GENDER-** Information relating to the gender of the individual is available for all records.  - Gender information should be standardised prior to linkage.  **DATE OF BIRTH-** Information is available for 100% of records  - Date of birth will be parsed into its constituent parts (day, month and year) prior to linkage | |
| **MATCHING METHODS** | |
| Using the demographic information provided the following matching can be undertaken-  - Person matching  - Address matching | |
| **PREVIOUS LINKAGE MATCH RATES** | |
| The Benefit Data provided by DfC has previously been matched to the Census 2011 population as part of a previous ADRC-NI project. This produced a match rate of 90.4% for 2010, 92.5% for 2011 and 92.3% for 2012. | |
| **EVALUATION** | |
| The benefit data provided by Department of Communities is of good quality and can be used for record linkage with some pre-processing. | |

Document Management

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| Access Limitations: | ADRC TTP, RSU, Data Suppliers, Researchers |
| Maintainer: | Conleth McVeigh |
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# Version History

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| Version | Notes | Last Amended |
| 1.1 | Created by ADRC TTP, 01/08/2017 |  |