

Thinking about improving data accessibility holistically: Examples from NIDS

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Introduction and background

- Was the Policy Researcher and Communications Manager for Wave 5 of NIDS.
- Going to share some thoughts on making data accessible and draw on some examples of ways the NIDS data was made more accessible.

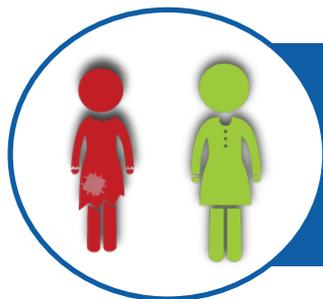


N.i.D.S.
NATIONAL INCOME DYNAMICS STUDY

National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS)

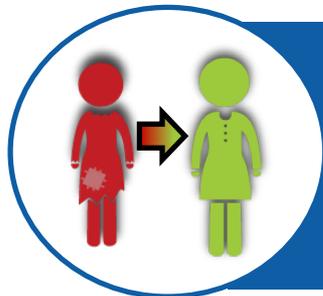
- An initiative of the South African (SA) Government.
 - Only nationally representative panel study in SA.
 - Began with 28000 respondents.
- First 5 'waves' implemented by SALDRU (2008 – 2017).

Panel vs. cross-sectional data



Repeated cross-sectional data

- Collected from different units at two or more points in time.



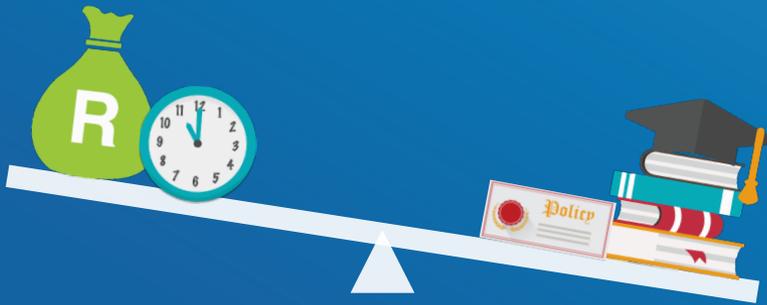
Panel data

- Collected from the same units at two or more points in time.
 - Allows one to trace individual life stories over time.
 - Better suited to studying the dynamics of change.



- Panels can therefore be a particularly valuable tool to support evidence-based policymaking & monitoring of policy implementation.

Why is data accessibility important?

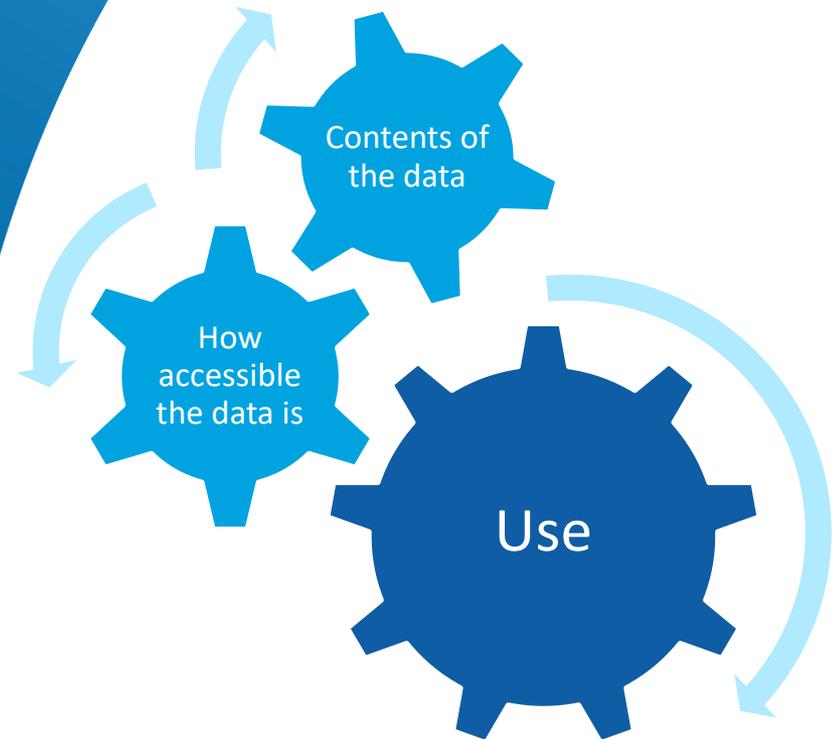


Costs

Data collation can be expensive and/or time consuming.

Benefits

Total value derived increases with use.



Breaking down barriers to use

Is your data available for use by others?

Publish the data – e.g. data repository/ secure facility.

Do people know that the data is available?

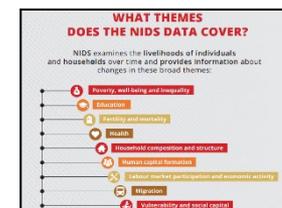
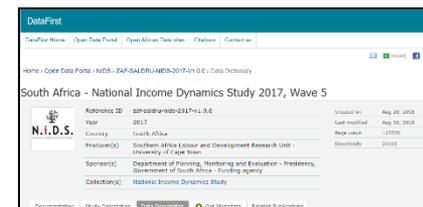
Social media, leverage newsletters, research use (media coverage e.g. The Conversation), videos, information sessions/workshops/presentations, web presence.

Do they know what it contains?

Metadata, questionnaires/data collection tools, example research, infographics/brochures.

Do people have the capacity to use the data/ are there ways you can make it simpler?

User manual, changes in different versions, data manipulation code, derived/imputed variables (NB: transparency), training, FAQs, user support.



Closing thoughts



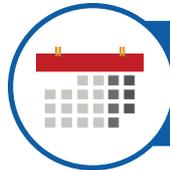
Think about how you can break down barriers to use of your data.



Might be able to do some relatively cheap value adds that will increase the accessibility of your data & help unlock the true value of the data for others.



Documentation / an add-on might take time, but could save multiples of that for each person not as familiar with the data.



Think about these things early and build towards them when collating your data.

THANK YOU

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