Ministry of Justice – Department for Education linked dataset Research Priorities

ADR UK Research Fellowships 2023

About the dataset

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) – Department for Education (DfE) linked dataset provides de-identified data on childhood characteristics and education outcomes of young people linked to data on their interactions with the criminal justice system. The data includes those offenders with at least one record from 2000 or later, who were on the Police National Computer at the end of 2021 and were matched to individuals on the National Pupil Database.

This data linkage includes 20 DfE datasets, including data on academic achievement, pupil absence and pupil exclusions. It also includes 11 MoJ datasets, including data on offenders' criminal histories, court appearances and time in prison. Each dataset has a unique ID variable that can be used to link across the datasets.

The MoJ-DfE linked dataset presents a unique opportunity to understand links between childhood characteristics, educational outcomes and (re)offending.

Research topics

For this round of the fellowship opportunity, MoJ and the DfE have collectively identified their research interests in relation to this data linkage as:

- Is there an association between particular interactions with the education system and offending, and if so, is one of these factors typically the driver?
- How are the relationships between educational and criminal justice outcomes impacted by demographic factors?
- What are the protective and risk factors for the likelihood of committing crimes and how do these differ across crime types?
- What are the short- and long-term effects of exclusion on educational attainment and offending?
- How do education or children's social care and adversity interact?
- What is the influence of early education or children's social care on later prison outcomes including length of prison sentences and re-offending. What is the impact of people's level of educational attainment on offending?
- What are the interactions between educational attainment and prolific vs time-limited offending?

This is not an exhaustive list. Other questions are also welcomed providing you can demonstrate policy-relevance and likelihood of impact and uptake.