

Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS)

1. The Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) has been formally available to allow researchers to conduct health relevant research since the end of 2006.
2. The NILS is a micro dataset which is managed within a safe setting.
3. It comprises two major data linkage studies: the NILS and the Northern Ireland Mortality Study (NIMS). These were developed by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and are maintained and managed by NISRA as a resource for research.
4. The NILS includes a range of variables which can be explored in a manner not possible through the use of any single dataset on its own. To date there are 83 approved NILS research projects; some of which have been completed, some are in progress and some are planned to start later in the year. Many of these will have policy implications for Government departments, as evidenced by the project titles:
 - [Breast Screening uptake in Northern Ireland;](#)
 - [Area factors and suicide in Northern Ireland;](#) and
 - [Demographic and socio- economic determinants of antibiotic consumption in Northern Ireland.](#)

Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC-NI)

5. In October 2013, ESRC announced that Queen's University of Belfast, University of Ulster, and NISRA were successful in their bid to host the NI ADRC, commencing on 1 October. The University of Southampton, University of Edinburgh, and Swansea University were also successful in their bids to host ADRCs in England, Scotland and Wales respectively. In addition, the University of Essex will host an Administrative Data Service (ADS), providing a single support structure for the ADRCs.
6. The main function of the ADRCs is to enable the wider use of administrative data for policy-related statistics and research. Under the ADRC framework access to micro datasets is enabled within a safe setting in order to facilitate research.
7. The research approvals process, security arrangements and IT infrastructure, data linkage methodology, and statistical output control for the ADRC-NI, will closely follow the procedures used in the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study.
8. It is hoped that the first NI ADRC project will commence in Spring 2015 (DEL: Factors Associated with decreased representation in Higher Education). Two others relating to Migrants and Peace Walls have also received the go ahead from the Approvals Panel.
9. Data required for ADRC projects will be linked, and subsequently destroyed, on a project by project basis. Similarly departments will sign-off the use of their data on a project by project basis.