

Q-Step Internship: From Dynamic Modelling of Older People to Tartan Rugs to Social Isolation Interviewing

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Overview

I worked with Oldham council in the business intelligence department. Within Oldham council this service is an integral part of providing data and analysing the effectiveness of each project/policy implemented.

Initial Project

The initial project I was meant to undertake involved creating a dynamic model showing how older people move between states of care/life, compiling data from a plethora of resources such as ONS (Office for National Statistics), Local Health etc. However using the software, Semantics Dynamic Modelling, proved to be a problem. While accumulating the data was an easy process, building the model proved difficult.

Social Isolation Interviewing

This was a collaboration project with MUCH (Manchester Urban Collaboration on Health), I was able to take part in interviewing people from Oldham, including attending a 3 hour training session which involved critically analysing the survey and discussing potential risks associated with interviewing people on the street. The aim of the project was to identify just how many people in Oldham are isolated from society, needing help in reintegrating back into society.

The Tartan Rug

The tartan rug was an Excel based multi-purpose spreadsheet which was to be used in order to help inform policy based decisions throughout the borough. Encompassing health data, benefits data, employment data, crime data etc. for each of the 20 wards. Each indicator was rag rated using quartiles and confidence intervals. By the end of the project I was also able to produce district profiles for the client alongside the spreadsheet.

Overview

Income 2014
Employment 2011
Benefits 2015
GCSE's 2014
Adult Skills 2011
Housing
Crime
ASB
You and Your Community
OMBC Elections
Health Behaviours
Obesity
Care
Disability
Smoking
Hospital Admissions
Cancer
Life Expectancy
Mortality
Housing (repeated)
Early Years Development
Deprivation
Household Composition

District Profile 2015

Failsworth and Hollinwood



Skills Learnt

- * Semantics Dynamic Modelling (self taught).
- * Data Extraction (NOMIS, ONS, Neighbourhood Statistics, Stat-Xplore, Public Health England, DECC)
- * Business Objects
- * Basic SPSS
- * Trained to use internal social care database (Frameworki)
- * Advanced use of Excel
- * Documentation
- * Interviewing Skills

What I have learnt

Although Q-Step is a programme designed to promote step-change in quantitative social science training, the biggest lesson for me was learning to be patient and understanding that not everything in the world of 'Big Data' will work.