Welcome to today's huddle on sharing analytical work during COVID-19

We will begin soon, in the meantime:

Some ground rules:

To reduce distractions and save on band width please can you…

1) Go on mute

2) Turn off your cameras

Q&A

After the presentation there will be some time for a Q&A session, so please do come off mute at that point if you would like to ask a question

Simple approaches to sharing your analytical work during COVID-19

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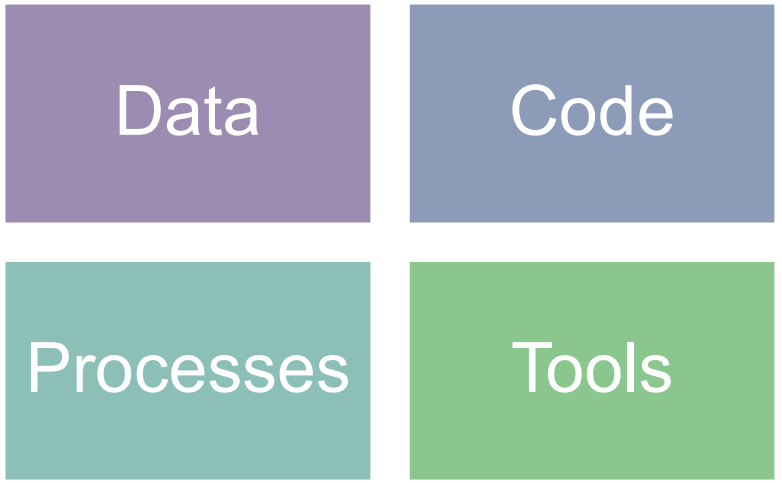
Why open analytics is so important

Openness allows others to verify, use and build on existing work

This enables:

- Collaboration across organisations
- Reduced duplication of effort
- Faster implementation
- More robust approaches



Benefits for the system, the service users and the analysts

Why focus on being open during a pandemic?

Newly emerging challenges being faced across the UK (and the globe)

People are implementing solutions very rapidly and within a constantly changing landscape

We need to address issues of:

- Clear documentation
- Quality assurance
- Accessing help from others.

Adopting open practices can help tackle these challenges.

By working openly you are not only giving support to others, but you are also inviting others to give you support.

But being open isn't easy...

Being fully open and transparent requires skills, practice, infrastructure and a culture where putting the effort into sharing things well is valued and encouraged.

Concerns around risk when working openly are common:

Resources to help with data privacy

SDC handbook

#opendatasaveslives

Recognise the value of your work to others

Simple approaches to sharing your analytical work

1. Show your working out

When sharing code isn't feasible, sharing the methodology allows others to understand **how** you achieved your result

- How did you access the relevant data?
- What were the analytical decisions you had to make?
- What were the major barriers and how did you navigate them?

Analysts need to understand the purpose, assumptions and limitations of what you are sharing to be able to use it intelligently.

2. Remember that file formats matter

If you want analysts to use your resource, provide it in a machine-readable format.

PDF files often cause headaches, plain text files are easiest

This is particularly true when sharing data, but also applies when sharing tools or code.

If you are sharing data, consider “tidy data” principles.

Simple, standard formats to make it easier for others to use the work you are sharing

3. Focus on consistency

Any resource you share is likely to change

Defining a system for file locations, names and structures upfront will help build a consistent resource.

If changes to this system are necessary, document them.

This approach will make it easier for:

- Others to find and understand updates
- Automated processes to integrate changes
- You / others to update a piece of work

4. Build an online home for your work

Think about where you are going to keep any resources you share and be consistent about posting all documentation and updates to that one location.

This solves two issues:

1) **Version Control**

2) **Dissemination**

Make sure the location of this online home is included in all documentation.

5. Get involved in the analytical community

Some of the communities in this space include:

- Future NHS collaboration platform
- NHS-R community
- AphA (Association of Professional Healthcare Analysts)
- Welsh Modelling collaborative
- #opendatasaveslives
- HDR-UK

Keen to hear of other helpful communities and these may not be named but just informal local groups.

But to achieve the goals of working transparently, important that engagement with these communities involves two-way discussion.

Thank you

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https://github.com/HFAnalyticsLab

The Health Foundation