

Surveying the landscape of OMOP CDM adoption in the UK

Alex Knight*, Paola Quattroni*, David Seymour*, Monica Jones**, Geoff Hall**†, Uwaye Ideh*, Emily Jefferson*|, Rebecca Cosgriff‡, Chris Russell‡

- Health Data Research UK, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE
- * University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS2 9JT
- † Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, St. James's University Hospital, Beckett Street, Leeds, LS9 7TF
- || University of Dundee, Nethergate, Dundee, DD1 4HN
- ‡ Data for Research & Development, NHS England, Wellington House, 133-135 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8UG

Adopt









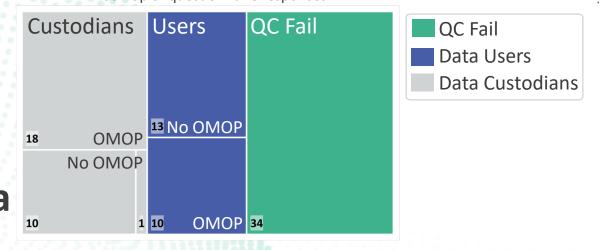


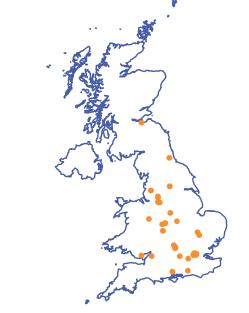


Introduction

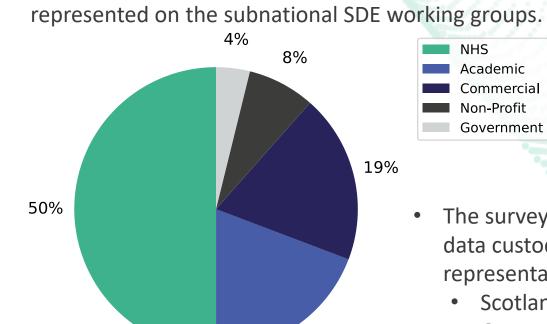
- Adopting a common data model (CDM) increases data interoperability, discoverability, facilitates research collaborations, enables large-scale analytics, and the development and use of shared tools and methods.
- To understand current level of OMOP CDM adoption across organisations in the UK, and to identify barriers that need to be mitigated, we designed an online survey using SurveyMonkey.
- The questionnaire employed branching logic to make it suitable for data users, and custodians, whether they were current OMOP users or not.
- The survey was circulated through the Alliance's members, social media, and NHS England's Research Secure Data Environment Network and responses were collected from 16th May to 28th August 2023.
- Responses were exported to CSV format and processed in JupyterLab Desktop in a Python notebook using the Pandas library.

Survey response

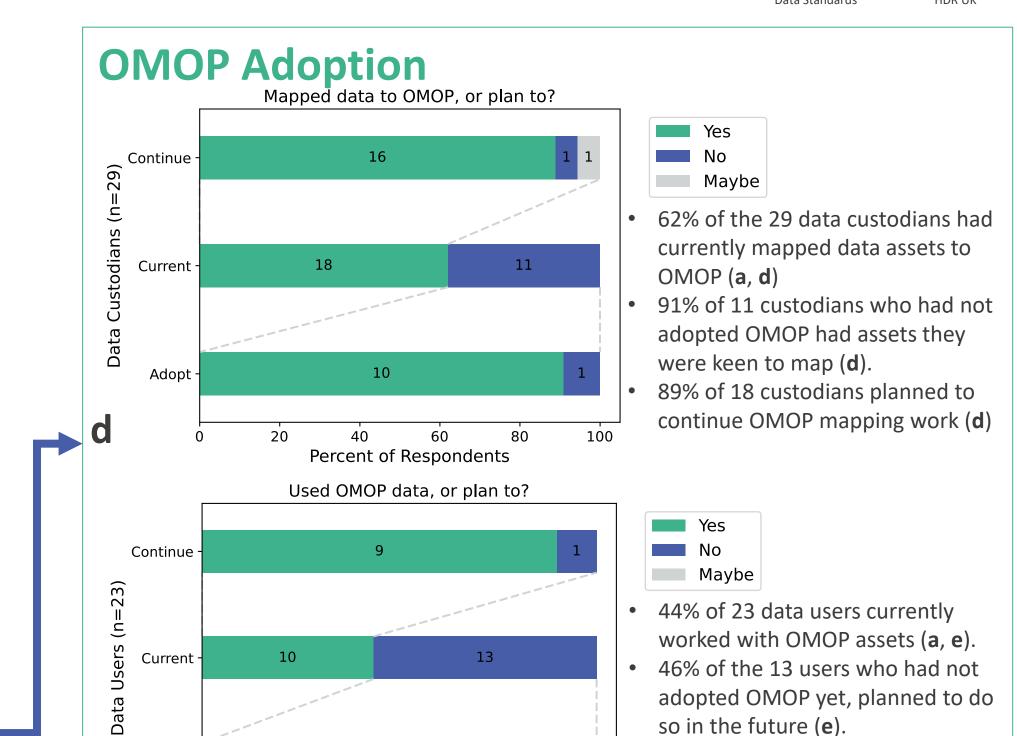


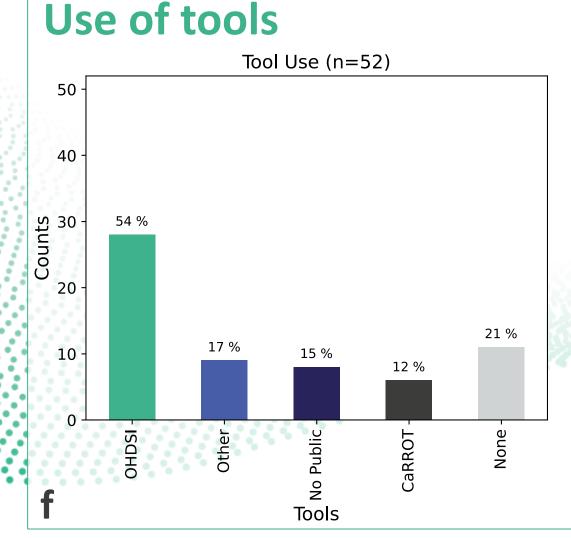


- 86 total responses were received, of which 52 passed completeness and validity QC checks (a), comprising 29 data custodians (56%) and 23 data "users" (44%).
- Respondents were mostly from England (48) with 1 each from Scotland and Wales, and 2 international (**b**).
- 16 of the 22 UK EHDEN Data partners responded to the survey (55% of the data custodians). No EHDEN-certified SMEs responded. 8 respondents were from organisations



- Respondents were predominantly from the NHS (50%), with 19% academic, 19% commercial, 8% non-profit, and 4% from government organisations (c).
- The survey has captured a broad range of UK data custodians and users, but it is not representative of the UK as a whole:
- Scotland, Wales and NI under-represented
- Outreach channels likely biased towards OMOP users/proponents and those with existing knowledge
- Respondents are self-selecting and may favour those with strong views.



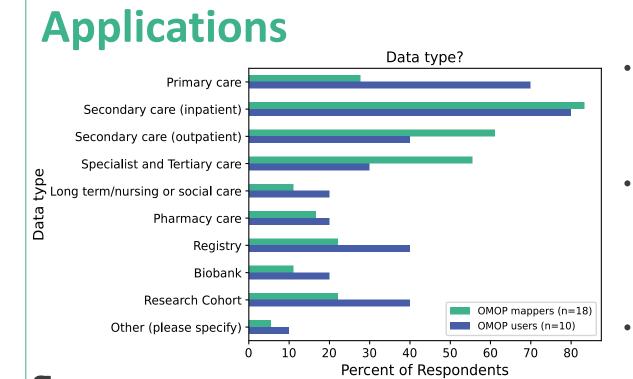




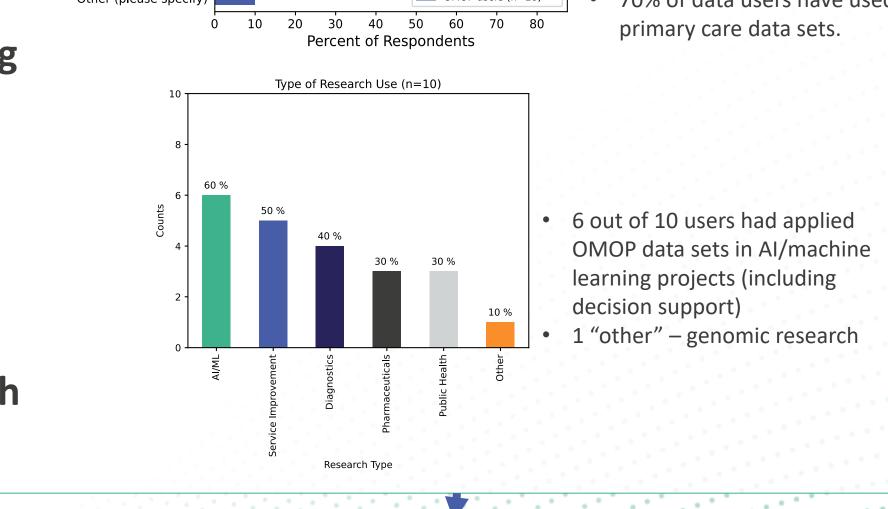
90% of the 10 current users

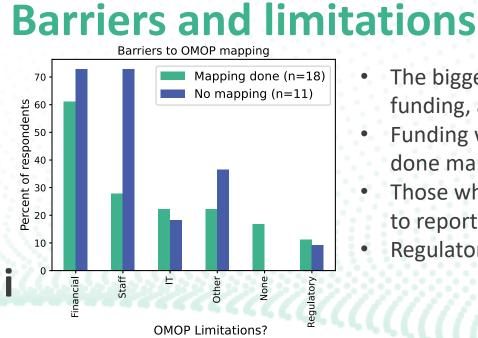
planned to continue using OMOP

- The CaRROT tools developed by the UK Co-Connect project were used by 12%.
- 17% used other public tools. 15% used no public tools and 21% had used no OMOP tools

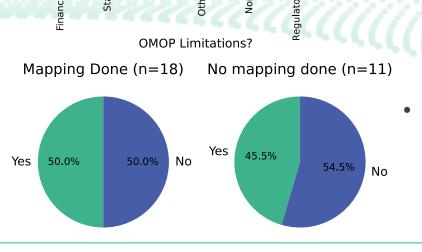


- Data types mapped by custodians, or utilised by data users, span the range of healthcare data types (g).
- Secondary and tertiary care data dominate (many of the data custodians are NHS trusts, only one holds primary care data).
- 70% of data users have used primary care data sets.





- The biggest challenges data custodians reported were funding, and the availability of skilled staff (i).
- Funding was a challenge for 61% of those who had done mapping, and 73% of those who had not.
- Those who had already done mapping were less likely to report staffing as a barrier (28% vs. 73%).
- Regulatory barriers were less of a challenge (~10%).



 Around half of custodians (whether they had done mapping or not) felt that there were limitations to using the OMOP CDM (j).

Conclusions

Approximately half of those surveyed have already worked with OMOP CDM, showing a significant level of adoption of the OMOP CDM in the UK among both data users/researchers and custodians. The most significant factors limiting further adoption seem to be:

- 1. Financial support. Mapping new data sets to the Common Data Model can be a significant undertaking and is not the highest priority for many data custodians.
- 2. Skilled staff. Many organisations aspiring to undertake mapping projects report a shortage of staff with the necessary skills to deliver their mapping projects.
- 3. Concerns about the suitability of OMOP for different data types. Particular concerns expressed included:
 - The loss of granularity of data

- Inconsistent mappings of common data sets giving multiple different versions of common data assets or formats.
- The limitations of current OMOP CDM including incompatible data types, missing, unsuitable or inappropriate vocabularies, for example cancer scales, or the US-centric ethnicity codings.

The Alliance will work to address these barriers to adoption in the UK, working with UK and international organisations (e.g., OHDSI, EHDEN, OHDSI UK) to support our missions of uniting the UK's health data to enable discoveries that improve people's lives.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire (see list of participating organisations below). This questionnaire was conducted by the UK Health Data Research Alliance team in collaboration with the Data for R&D Programme's NHS Research Secure Data Environment Network. The survey results will be published on the Alliance website.