MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

Office for National Statistics: Sustainable Development Goals

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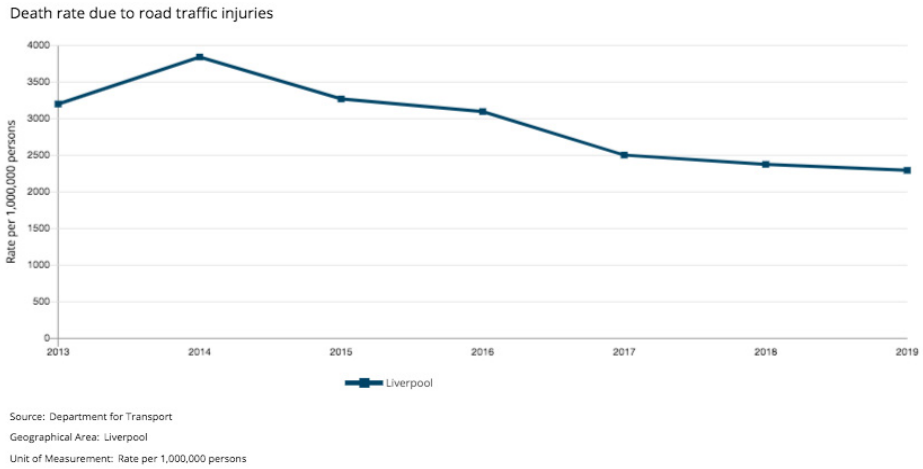
Overview of Data Fellowship

My main task during my Data Fellowship was to develop an OpenSDG platform for the City of Liverpool, which would display the city's progress on the indicators for the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established in 2015. This meant adapting the OpenSDG template created by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) SDGs team to populate the website with disaggregated data unique to Liverpool. The importance of this task was to demonstrate a localised view of the SDGs, connecting local issues with the global goals set out by the UN. Of similar importance was the idea of encouraging cities and smaller communities to become involved with the SDGs and recognise their importance through the engagement of local, disaggregated data. The ONS is keen to ensure no person is left behind in data collection, so linking local data to the global goals would ensure this.

Data Analysis

In order to configure the OpenSDG platform, I had to upload .csv files to github, containing graph data and metadata for each indicator, ensuring that the data was formatted correctly so it could be read and merged successfully. Metadata includes information about the data, for example where it was sourced or any calculations that were made. Prior to creating the files using Excel, I had to locate the data from a range of sources, including but not limited to, Public Health England, NHS Digital, and the Department for Education. Since the SDG indicators cover a wide range of issues, data was sourced from numerous datasets. Once the data were uploaded to the platform, I needed to configure its layout to ensure it was displayed effectively, making decisions such as what type of graph to use. From this, we could analyse Liverpool's progress on the indicators. An example of an indicator is shown below.



Example of data presentation on the platform (Indicator 3.6.1, Death rate due to road traffic injuries)

The homepage for the Liverpool OpenSDG platform

Findings

It is difficult to suggest findings since data was found for numerous SDG indicators. In total, I reported 82 of 247 indicators (33%), which all came with unique findings regarding what they measured. A goal of the ONS is to expand this localisation of the global goals and encourage more cities and localities to create their own platform. With this will come more analysis as localities will be able to compare data and progress for the indicators. An example of a finding can be seen below with indicator 3.6.1, from which we can see that the death rate due to road traffic injuries peaked in 2014 at 3,843 per 1,000,000 persons, before starting to steadily decline.

Key Skills Learnt

I learnt a vast array of skills during my Data Fellowship. My communication skills developed through regular team meetings and opportunities to present my work, namely through an event held by Liverpool's 2030Hub for their stakeholders. Despite being an independent learner already, my independent-thinking skills and initiative greatly improved since I was largely working on the platform myself. Through this also came the improvement of my time-managament skills. I was given multiple deadlines during my time at ONS, as well as multiple tasks, so it was key that I organised my time effectively and productively. Similarly, my ability to adapt to situations certainly improved given tasks not always going as planned or needing extra work. This is something I was keen to work on prior to my fellowship.

Overall, I would suggest my greatest personal improvement has been my confidence in my ability to perform quantitative work and work in a professional setting. I now feel as though I am equipped with the necessary analytical, technical and statistical skills to complete another piece of quantitative research.

Office for National Statistics

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