

Housing Careers Briefing Note 3

Housing space

INTRODUCTION

Having adequate dwelling space is important for comfort and health. However, the price people must pay to obtain a given amount of dwelling space varies geographically and there are major disparities in how much space different social groups can afford. Formulating policies to address these disparities and encourage more efficient and sustainable use of the housing stock therefore requires robust evidence on households' consumption of housing space and how this changes when people move.

In Britain, our knowledge of housing space consumption is limited by a dependence on data gathered from either the census or

LINKING LCR AND EPC DATA

A valid EPC is required for recently constructed newbuild dwellings and since October 2008 has been

Estimates of dwelling space consumption can also be produced at other geographic scales subject to outputs meeting disclosure control requirements. Furthermore, space consumption could be adjusted to a per adult measure using data on household size derived from the LCRs. The Scottish Government recently released EPC records from 2012 and we are hoping to integrate these with the LCRs in our future work.

CONCLUSIONS

Linking administrative EPC records with the Linked Consumer Registers provides a novel way to understand the housing space consumption of people who moved between addresses between 2009 and 2020. These estimates can be customized to measure housing space in different ways (in terms of habitable rooms, m² and metrics adjusted for household size), across various spatial scales, and for specific years of interest.

Work to further improve and validate these linked datasets is ongoing (see Further Reading for this note and its companions). Although users need to be aware that these repurposed consumer and administrative datasets are not the same as scientifically designed statistical resources, if used carefully (with an examination of possible biases coupled with sensitive interpretations) the linked EPC-LCR dataset could provide a rich tool for understanding housing space consumption at more frequent intervals and at more localized scales than has hitherto been possible.

Subject to them satisfying further checks and validity assessments, the LAD-level data resources discussed in this note will be made available in due course with appropriate licenses at <https://data.cdrc.ac.uk>. Estimates at smaller geographies will be deposited as Safeguarded resource available to interested users upon successful application to CDRC.

FURTHER READING

Chen M, Chi B, Van Dijk J,

FUNDING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work is funded by the UK ESRC Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC) grant

We gratefully acknowledge additional funding provided by the UCL through the UKRI Covid-19 Grant Extension Allocation.

We would like to thank Alasdair Rae for providing insightful guidance on the QGIS data visualizations presented in this document.

CONTACT

Rory Coulter
UCL Department of Geography, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT
r.coulter@ucl.ac.uk

COVER PHOTO: Matt Clayton