

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Secondary Analysis Data Projects**

#### **Will you help us find someone to work with our data?**

We understand data owners often wish to get more out of their data, but do not have the capacity or skills themselves to utilise them. Unfortunately, at present, we won't be able to help you to find researchers. If data owners wish to apply directly, they will need to already have identified the research teams that will be working on their project and make an application together.

#### **Will you fund collaborations between research organisations?**

We recognise the value of collaboration between groups of researchers and frequently fund collaborations. However, one research organisation will need to be the lead when applying and all contracting and funding will flow through them. The YEF will not contract separately with different research organisations working on the same project.

#### **Will you fund primary data collection?**

The focus of this call is about getting the most out of pre-existing datasets. However, there may be cases where a small amount of additional primary data collection is integral to the research design. In such cases this shouldn't form a substantial part of the overall budget or project timeline. The feasibility, cost and timeline implications will need to be justified considering the insights it will bring.

#### **Will you fund new data linking?**

We recognise the insights that linking multiple datasets can bring. We're therefore interested in hearing from proposals which plan to perform new linkage between existing datasets. Any projects proposing new data linkages will, as part of their application, need to include a detailed plan for doing so and reflect how this could impact the timeline, risks and budget for the project.

#### **Will you fund randomised controlled trials (RCTs)?**

At the YEF, we recognise the value of conducting RCTs, widely regarded as the gold standard approach for assessing the causal impact of interventions, and we [invest heavily in them](#). However, not all policies, practices and interventions lend themselves to evaluations through RCTs. In this SDA round, we expect projects to adopt quasi-experimental designs rather than RCTs. Project teams intending to assess the impact of specific interventions in England or Wales via RCTs should consider our ['Open Call' funding round](#).

**Will you fund evidence synthesis?**

We anticipate most studies will include a short literature review, that situates their new analysis in the existing literature. However, the primary focus of this SDA round is conducting new analysis from existing data sources and any literature review should only form a small component of the project.

**Will you fund qualitative research?**

At the YEF, we recognise the importance and value all forms of research can bring, including qualitative research (for example, through our [Peer Action Collective](#)). As part of these SDA projects, teams may wish to conduct a small number of interviews, to help contextualise their findings. However, this should not be the primary focus of the project and should make up only a small component of the overall cost.

**What outcomes are you interested in?**

We will give particular weight to research proposals that are able to explore direct measures of violent offending, as reflected in the criminal justice system (i.e., violence against the person, robbery, homicide, sexual violence). We will also consider proposals that look at closely related outcomes (e.g., overall offending inclusive of non-violent crime, involvement in the supply of drugs, gangs, or weapons possession). Research proposals may also consider self-reported involvement in violence. For any broader measures of offending proposed, applicants will need to demonstrate how well supported the association is with proven offending.

**What age ranges are you interested in?**

At the YEF, we work most closely with 10–17-year-olds. For SDA projects, analysis may be conducted on older ages as well, as long as the main focus is on under 18's.

**Will you fund projects that use international datasets?**

The YEF is funded to support children in England and Wales, and we will only fund research using datasets that cover these countries. Projects may include data covering populations at the national or sub-national level (e.g., cities, local authorities, police force areas etc.).