

Wales Data Access Manual

A guide to online Welsh data sources

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1. Introduction

Youth justice agencies in Wales (including youth offending teams (YOTs), YJB Cymru (the YJB's division in Wales), and the secure estate) frequently require accurate performance information relating to risk factors which are likely to cause young people to offend.

Although this is vital to the analysis of the local youth justice context, much of the information belongs to a variety of statutory agencies including health, education, housing, etc, and may prove difficult to find.

The *Wales Programme for Improvement* (Welsh Assembly Government, 2009: 18) states:

Local Authorities should look to use a wider 'basket' of evidence to assess the performance of their services and the impact they are having on the outcomes for citizens and communities. This will necessarily rely on authorities taking into account a wide range of evidence to use as improvement information.

This highlights the need for information about how to gather relevant data from online sources which can inform YOT self-assessment and planning.

The purpose of this document is to provide a guide to online Welsh data sources by:

- listing available, appropriate websites
- explaining how to find them
- describing what they can tell you
- outlining any access issues.

2. Data sources and access

1. Local Government Data Hub

Location

www.benchmarkingwales.net

Access

The information contained on this website is not available for public access and local authority departments need to apply by completing the online registration process.

Content

This is a key source of comprehensive, summative data which enables users to assess Welsh local authorities' performance against pre-defined national indicators. It also provides comparisons of performance between local authority areas.

The main core of indicators available on the site are derived from the National Strategic Indicators and the Public Accountability Measures. Full lists of the indicators can be found online:

- National Strategic Indicators:
<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/national-strategic-indicators-data-collection/?lang=en>
- Public Accountability Measures:
<http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/SharedFiles/Download.aspx?pageid=79&fileid=465&mid=459>

A variety of additional indicators, known collectively as 'service improvement data,' are also provided on the site. These are continually being developed and categorised into 'benchmarking groups' to improve comparison within individual services.

2. StatsWales

Location

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue>

Access

Open access.

Content

StatsWales is the Welsh Government's free-to-use online repository for detailed statistical data for Wales and Welsh Government research. The system covers nearly 1,000 datasets, including key information on Wales' population, economy, government spending and performance, as well as the environment, education, transport and health.

Data can be downloaded in a variety of formats and can be saved and shared. Users can view and manipulate datasets on-screen, and produce charts. The site also provides a search system where results can be filtered by topic and subtopic. There is also a timetable for statistical releases.

StatsWales links to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation relating to Communities First clusters on the Welsh Government website.

By accessing the homepage and selecting the 'help' option, an excellent insight can be gained into what the StatsWales site offers and how to use it.

3. Office for National Statistics

Location

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html>

Access

Open access.

Content

This is a UK-wide website which offers an initial page containing a menu of options. It is therefore a good place to start if comparisons between countries, or regions within them, are required.

By selecting 'Welsh statistics' under the 'Regional statistics' tab, the [Welsh Government database](#) is accessed. This has datasets similar to the other databases referred to in this document, but has a very clear front page with a detailed menu of statistics and a good explanation of 'why statistics matter' and 'how statistics are used'.

The database is broken down into a large number of topic areas, many of which are relevant for youth justice practitioners. Each topic area contains a list of related links which lead to more detailed pages giving data and publications. These include articles, videos and reports all built around the analysis of data.

It should be noted that content from the Office for National Statistics website is migrating to www.gov.uk, where a [statistics release calendar](#) has already been created.

4. Welsh Local Government Association

Location

www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/data

Access

Open access.

Content

This website provides access to InfoBaseCymru – a national information system which provides a wide range of data, and is based on the InfoBase system. It provides easy access to information for Wales, presenting data in maps and tables.

InfoBaseCymru covers a range of themes including people, economy, education, health, housing, environment, transport and community safety. It holds and displays data about Wales from local authority level to a local area (lower super output area) level. It also provides links and information on data sources about children and young people in Wales.

The data sources are grouped according to the themes of the Welsh Government's [seven core aims for children and young people](#), along with a general section on demographic data:

- Core Aim 1: Early years, childcare, parenting
- Core Aim 2: Education, training
- Core Aim 3: Health and safeguards
- Core Aim 4: Play and leisure
- Core Aim 5: Participation and equality
- Core Aim 6: Safe home and community
- Core Aim 7: Freedom from poverty
- Demographic data.

5. CoactivaAspiren (formerly Ffynnon)

Location

<http://ffynnon.aspiren.com/>

Access

Access is password protected – contact your local authority corporate performance or policy unit.

Content

Consisting of a cross-section of Welsh public sector organisations, the Ffynnon programme provides a performance management and improvement tool, supported by the Aspire View system.

There are two complementary components of the Ffynnon programme:

1. the Ffynnon system (Aspireview Software)
2. the Ffynnon environment (linked Aspireview services).

Coactiva provides this system to public sector organisations in Wales, including local government, national parks, fire and rescue services, etc.

All Ffynnon systems are hosted within a collaborative environment, where users can securely and efficiently share local data (however, this is still being developed). The primary use of Ffynnon within local authorities at the moment is as a local performance management system. This means a wide range of performance information from across the local authority is stored on the system. However, national comparison is limited.

The system is web-hosted so there is no restriction on place of access, but permissions to access are password-protected and managed within local organisations. If YOTs do not currently have access but wish to use the system, their first point of contact should be their corporate performance/policy units, who hold the admin rights to local systems.

Data entered into the system, and shared between organisations, is managed locally. It is difficult to assess data relating directly to YOTs, as that data will vary from system to system depending on local requirements.

There are some standardised data sets in Ffynnon, e.g. Planning Development Control, but there are no standard data sets within the systems relating to YOTs.

6. Data relating to Wales collected and held by the YJB

Youth reoffending data

- Summary-level data which provides key statistics on proven re-offending in Wales.
- The data source is the Police National Computer (PNC).
- The data is published by the Ministry of Justice at the following location:
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/reoffending/proven-re-offending>.
- For further information, and to request access to the PNC, contact:
catherine.cousins@justice.gsi.gov.uk.

First-time entrants to the youth justice system

- Summary-level data on new entrants to the youth justice system.
- The data source is the PNC.
- Published by the Ministry of Justice at the following location:
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics>.
- For further information, and to request access to the PNC, contact:
catherine.cousins@justice.gsi.gov.uk.

Welsh youth justice indicator data

- Summary-level data collected from YOTs via web forms.
- Data is held in the YJB's bespoke Youth Justice Management Information System (YJMIS).
- Data on three indicators is collected: education, accommodation and substance misuse.
- This data is available to YOTs in the Welsh YOT Data Summary, or at:
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/youth-justice/statistics>.

Welsh throughput data

- Case-level data collected from YOTs via secure data transfer.
- Data is held in YJMIS.
- Disposal data, offences data and young people data is derived from throughput data and is published at the following location:
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/youth-justice/statistics>.

Welsh custody data

- Case-level and summary-level data relating to the Transparency Measure of the use of custody are available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-statistics>.
- Case-level data collected from the YJB's custody booking system and summary-level figures of young people held in the secure estate in Wales are available at:
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/youth-justice/custody-data>.

3. Summary

The table below provides a summary of the location and access arrangements for the data sources described in this document.

Table 1: Summary of location and access arrangements for data sources

Website	Location and access
Local Government Data Hub	www.benchmarkingwales.net Online registration process
StatsWales	https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue Open access
Office for National Statistics	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html Open access
Welsh Local Government Association	www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/data Open access
CoactiveAspiren	http://ffynnon.aspiren.com/ Access is password protected – contact your local authority corporate performance or policy unit
YJB-held data	Contact the YJB Information Team at: informationteam@yjb.gsi.gov.uk