









EVIDENCE EXCHANGE 2017



Evidence use and trust

Sources of evidence

 Academic evidence is the most highly trusted source of evidence. **3.5 out of 10** frequently use it. **3 out of 10** trust it but don't use it. 

 **5.5 out of 10** frequently use evidence from UK and devolved Government and their agencies; the same amount trust it. 


 **5 out of 10** frequently use evidence from the third sector; **4 out of 10** trust it. 

 **3 out of 10** frequently use evidence from think tanks but **2 out of 10** trust it. 

Importance of evidence


6 out of 10 place a great deal of importance on evidence


6 out of 10 say this has increased at least a little in the past 5 years (in their own work, their colleagues and their sectors)


3 out of ten say their use of evidence has stayed the same in the past 5 years (in their own work, their colleagues and their sectors)

The data

Between October 2017 and January 2018, 241 social policy professionals and practitioners across the UK took part in an online survey on their views on social policy evidence.



Our findings are not intended to be representative of the wider population, but provide a valuable snapshot of views of those interested in social policy evidence across the UK. **43%** of respondents work in England, **40%** in Scotland, **9%** in Wales, and **8%** in Northern Ireland.



Just under half of respondents work in the voluntary sector, **36%** in the public sector, and **8%** in the private sector.

Qualities of available evidence

Relevant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Easy-to-access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Up to date	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Useful	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sufficient	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Good quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Inspiring	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓





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Co-produced evidence

Current level of co-production of evidence between universities and public, private or third sector

 **7 out of 10** participate in the co-production of evidence **frequently** or **occasionally** 

 **7 out of 10** believe that it is **fairly** or **very likely** that they will **participate** co-production of evidence in the future. 

 **7 out of 10** say it currently adds **value** to their work. 

 But just **3 out of 10** think there are currently enough **opportunities** for co-production of evidence 

What people think about co-produced evidence

 **8 out of 10** say it would make evidence more relevant

 **8 out of 10** say it would make evidence more influential for policy

 **8 out of ten** say it would make evidence more influential for practice

 **6 out of ten** say it would make evidence easier to access

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For the survey, we defined co-production of evidence as the process by which evidence is generated by the equal and reciprocal participation in research activities by academia and other partners.



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Sharing and using evidence

Sharing and using evidence

6 out of 10 frequently access evidence from professional and sectoral networks



3 out of 10 strongly agree that they learn a lot from informal discussions with colleagues



4 out of 10 strongly agree that they learn a lot from informal discussion with stakeholders



6 out of 10 always find meeting professional and sectoral networks directly useful to their work



5 out of 10 say that professional networks have a great deal of influence upon their work



5 out of 10 have a great deal of interest in accessing more evidence that comes from their sector



Views on sharing evidence within the UK and beyond

7 out of 10 have a working knowledge of evidence from their sector from the rest of the UK



7 out of 10 say evidence from their sector from the rest of the UK influences their work



7 out of 10 say evidence from the rest of the UK is interesting and relevant



6 out of 10 learn a lot from evidence about developments elsewhere in the UK



8 out of 10 would like to get more evidence from their sector in the rest of the UK



Assessing and using good quality evidence



10/10 agree or strongly agree good quality evidence influences how they think about key issues



9/10 agree or strongly agree good quality evidence influences decisions they make



9/10 agree or strongly agree they can distinguish good quality evidence from the rest



But **4/10** agree or strongly agree there isn't enough good quality evidence to inform the work they do



And **7/10** agree or strongly agree there isn't enough time to make good use of evidence in their work

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How people assess research quality

Reputation of team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Relevance to my work	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sample size and validity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Funder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Innovative approach	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓