Insight Series

Use of health data by the life sciences industry

a UK perspective

Medicines Discovery Catapult and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, supported by Health Data Research UK conducted three parallel streams of structured research with industry groups to understand their experience in accessing health data and future needs:

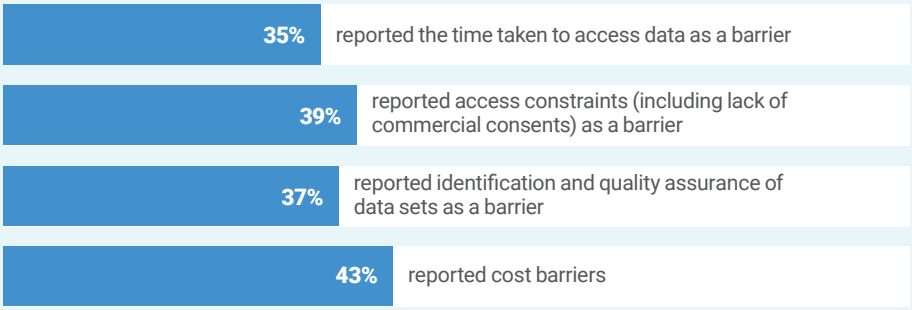
1. **Pharmaceutical expert workshops supported by the industry's Pistoia Alliance**
2. **A structured interview with health data industry leaders**
3. **A quantitative survey of a broad group of UK representatives from the data user community, including academic and charitable, as well as commercial users of health data**

Participants represent UK and global small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large companies, including; drug discovery and biopharmaceuticals, contract and clinical research organisations, medical technology companies, charities, information systems specialists, medical device developers, specialist consultancy companies, academia, funding bodies, NHS researchers and practitioners.

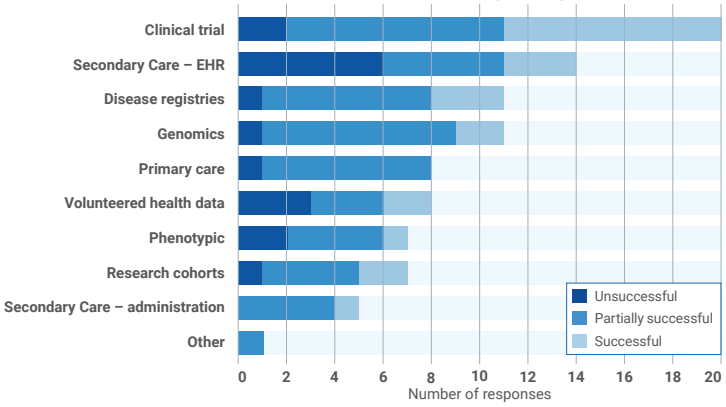
Key insights

- Life sciences research and development is an information-rich, evidence-based activity. Its success relies on access to, and the interpretation of, complex data
- Accessible, usable health data offers a range of opportunities for SMEs and large industry
- It is critical that health data can be accessed efficiently and ethically by researchers and industry if we are to realise the benefits in patient care through new medicines, diagnostics and the emerging use of artificial intelligence

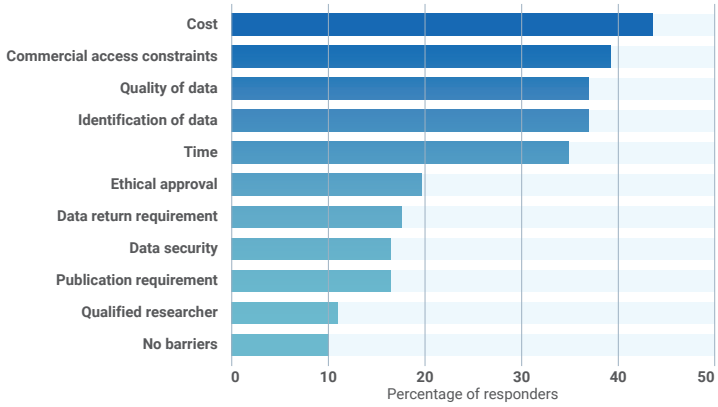
Most respondents experienced barriers and uncertainties in accessing data:



Health data access success by data type



Barriers encountered when accessing data



Six key industry requirements for health data emerged from the research

- **Data breadth, depth and scale**
- **Access and speed**
- **High-quality data**
- **Expertise**
- **Public trust**
- **Affordability**

There is an increasing need for linkage between primary and secondary care data, genomics and phenotypic outcomes, as well as clinical trial data and patient-reported outcome measures

- The combined support of policymakers, health services and professionals, data custodians, the pharmaceutical and life sciences industry, the public and patients, are required to address the requirements industry has highlighted
- Tangible steps are already being taken but concerted effort is needed across all the data user community to deliver a 'clear, credible offer' for the benefit of all

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