Safe Data Access Professionals

Annual Report 2023

About Us

We facilitate the sharing of expertise, good practice and knowledge between organisations providing, or intending to provide, secure access to confidential data from the health, economics, and social science research sectors. We meet the needs of safe data access professionals working in these diverse settings.

SDAP - achievements at a glance

From 2020 to the end of 2023, the SDAP network has grown across all areas. In particular, 2023 has been a successful year for SDAP with **significant growth** in membership development, engagement and reach, alongside policy development and business planning.

Engagement and Reach

Membership Network – Member Organisations and Individual Members
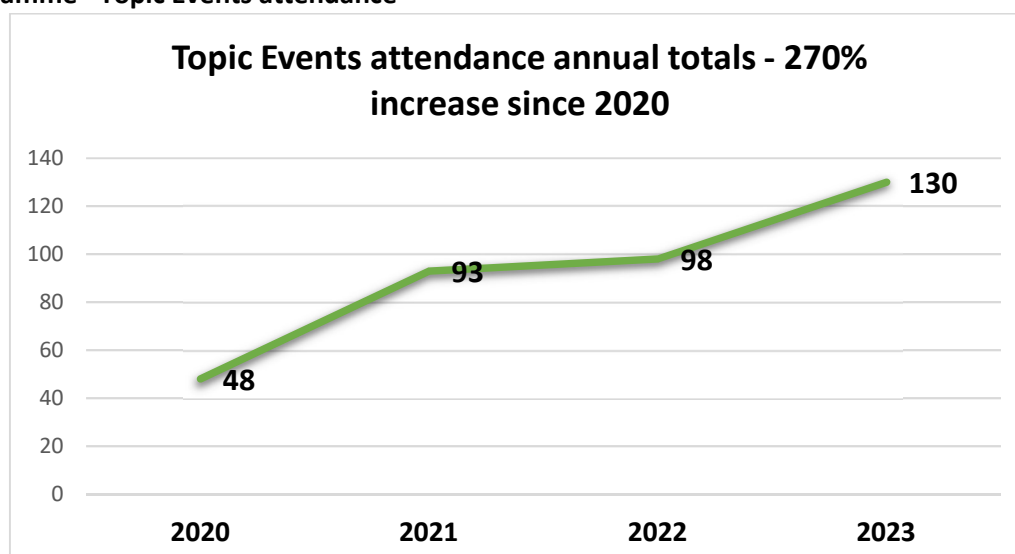
SDAP Membership Network from 2020 to 2023:
- 3.5 fold increase in individual members
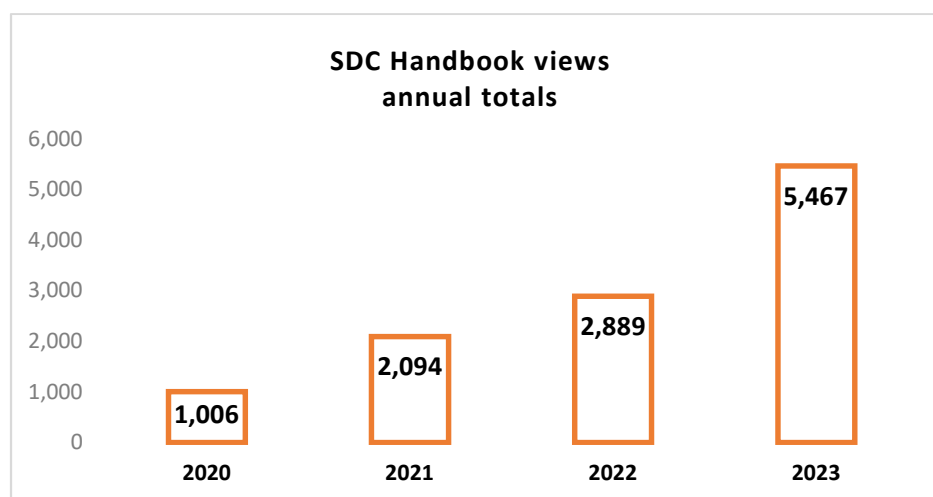- 2.2 fold increase in member organisations

2023 comparison with 2022:
- 40% increase in individual members
- 48% increase in member organisations
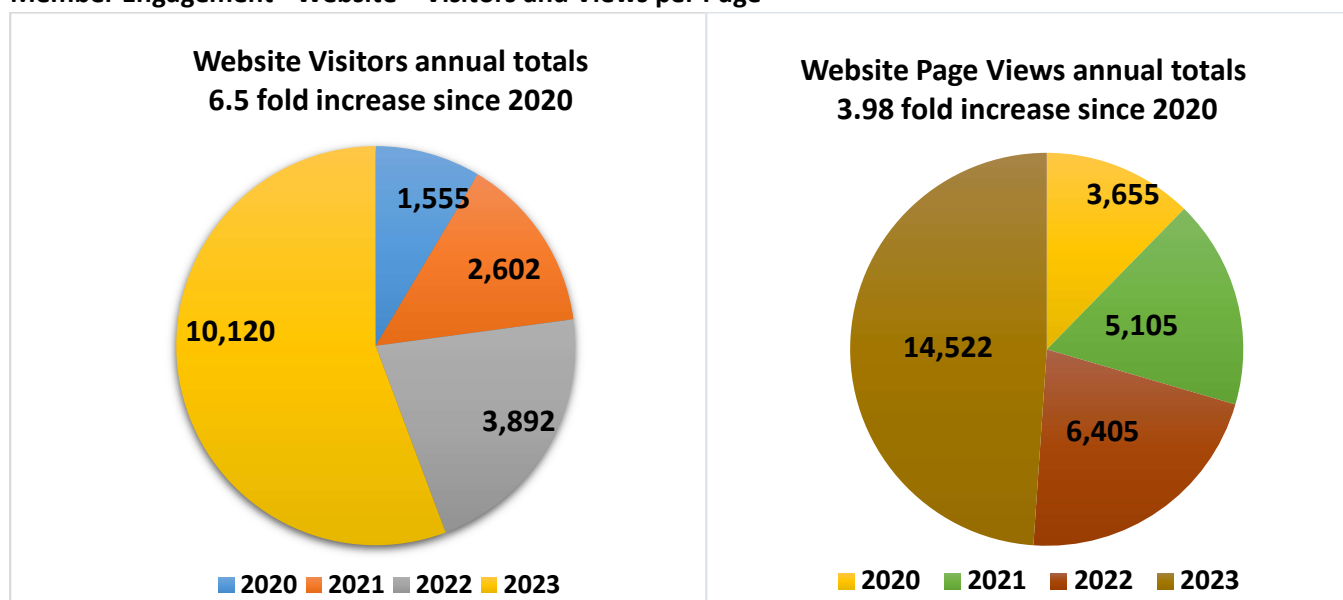

Member Programme - Topic Events attendance

Member Programme – Guides and Resources - Statistical Disclosure Control Handbook

SDC Handbook views annual totals

Year	Views
2020	1,006
2021	2,094
2022	2,889
2023	5,467

Note: since being published online in 2019 (until the end of 2023), the Statistical Disclosure Control Handbook has been viewed a total of 13,500 times across the world.

Member Engagement - Website – Visitors and Views per Page

**Website Visitors annual totals
6.5 fold increase since 2020**

Year	Visitors
2020	1,555
2021	2,602
2022	3,892
2023	10,120

**Website Page Views annual totals
3.98 fold increase since 2020**

Year	Page Views
2020	3,655
2021	5,105
2022	6,405
2023	14,522

Our SDAP network meetings have reflected on the following topics over the last two years:

Providing safe setting users with access to synthetic data.	Researcher management during output checking process.
Setting up a remote services (alongside a safe centre operation).	Technical controls used in the disclosure control of machine learning model outputs.
Exploration of how authentication and authorisation infrastructure (AAI) can facilitate international researchers accessing UK data.	Technical infrastructure for secure data access; anonymization (beyond just outputs).
Trusted Research Environments (TRE's) evolution of standards/progression through different accreditation standards (e.g. ISO, NHS Toolkit and DEA).	Office for National Statistics (ONS) Integrated Data Service. Role of HDR UK Innovation Gateway in providing a single point of access to a range of data.

Working Together – across our member work programme and governance:

Membership Network

We reviewed our membership criteria, ethos and values – that all members collaborate and cooperate in working together to create a supportive network based on 'trust, goodwill and integrity'. We consolidated our commitment to a membership culture based on respect and dignity characterised by 'equality, diversity and inclusivity' by devising our **Membership Code of Conduct** after consulting widely with our network members in 2022.

Steering Group

We plan all our work through conferring and consulting with the Steering Group, a group of **eight** SDAP members, who bring a broad and strategic understanding of the sector. In 2023 we finalised our strategic planning through an Action Plan for the next five years.

Summary

Overall, since 2020, we are committed to improving our service to our members developing our membership and direct consultation, reviewing and revising our processes and meeting the ever changing demands and evolution of the sector through a new action plan that can take the network beyond 2024.

Appendices

Membership Category	Data Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL	Detail
Member Organisations	New Joiners	8	4	6	6	2	14		
	Accumulated		8	12	18	24	26		
	End of Year total	**8**	**12**	**18**	**24**	**26**	**40**	**40**	
	% increase		33%	33%	25%	8%	35%	% increase year on year (2023 on 2022)	Accrued % increase each year from 2018
	From 2018 to 2023	8					40	Fold increase of 5 (500%)	From 2018 to end 2023
	From 2021 to 2023 (From 2020 to 2023)			**18**	**23**	**25**	**40**	**Fold increase of 1.22 (122%)**	**From 2020 to end 2023**
Individual Members	New Joiners	9	9	9	16	13	39		
	Accumulated c/f		9	18	27	43	56	Note – accumulated loss of one member	
	End of year total	**9**	**18**	**27**	**43**	**56**	**95**	**95**	
	% increase		100%	50%	59%	30%	70%		Accrued % increase each year from 2018
	From 2018 to 2023	9					95	**Fold increase of 10.5 (1,055%)**	From 2018 to end 2023
	From 2021 to 2023 (From 2020 to 2023)			27	**44**	**57**	**95**	**Fold increase of 3.5 (350%)**	From 2020 to 2023

Membership Organisations

Pre-funding comparator taken from the end of December 2020 – total member organisations = 18

Post-funding comparator data taken from the end of December 2023 – total member organisations = 40

% growth rate of 35% compared to 2022 and, from 2020, a fold increase of 1.22.

Overall growth from 2018 to 2023 of 500% or a fold increase of 5.

Individual Members

Pre-funding comparator taken from the start of January 2021 – total individual members = 44

Post-funding comparator data taken from the end of December 2023 – total individual members = 95

% growth rate of 70% compared to 2022 and, from 2020, a fold increase of 3.5

Overall growth from 2018 to 2023 of 1,055% or 10.5 fold increase.

Notes: Data taken from the date JISC set up (2018) to current point in time with ESRC function taking effect from July 2021. The number of leavers each year is not recorded.

Engagement and Reach – end of 2023

Membership Network – Topic Events

NETWORK (JISC)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Summary	Notes – previously % increase on 2020
Individual Members	**43**	**63**	**68**	**95**	40% increase on 2022	*2022 saw a 58% increase on 2020*
Member Organisations	**21**	**24**	**27**	**40**	48% increase on 2022	*2022 saw a 28% increase on 2020*

Member Topic Events Programme

EVENTS (Minutes or Eventbrite)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Summary	Notes – previously % increase on 2020
4 Topic Events – total attendance	**48**	**93**	**98**	**130**	32% increase on 2022 (170% increase on 2020 or 1.7 fold increase)	*2022 saw a 148% increase on 2020*

Website - visitors have increased by 160% since 2022 with a fold increase of 6.5 since 2020.

WEBSITE	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Summary	Notes – previously % increase on 2020
Visitors	**1,555**	**2,602**	**3,892**	**10,120**	160% increase on 2022 (650% increase on 2020 or 6.5 fold increase)	*2022 saw a 49% increase on 2020*
Views	**3,655**	**5,105**	**6,405**	**14,522**	126% increase on 2022 (398% increase on 2020 or 3.98 fold increase)	*2022 saw a 42% increase on 2020*
Views per Hour	**2.35**	**1.96**	**1.65**	**1.43**		
Content – SDC Handbook	**1,006**	**2,094**	**2,889**	**5,467**	89% increase on 2022 (543% increase on 2020 or 5.43 fold increase)	*2022 saw a 187% increase on 2020*