Federal Guidance on Statistical Use of Administrative Data

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December 16, 2014

The views expressed in this presentation do not represent changes in OMB policy.
Presentation outline

Part I: Why Administrative data?

Part II: Background

Part III: Common challenges

Part IV: Addressing those challenges
As a supplement or replacement for survey data, they have the potential to:

- Reduce burden on public
- Sometimes provide a more accurate estimate (e.g., benefit amount, diagnosis)
- Add detail beyond what can collect in a survey, including outcomes
- Reduce some agency data collection costs
• Administrative data: collected as normal part of administering a program
  – e.g., unemployment claims

• Personally Identifiable Information (PII): can be used to distinguish or trace an individual’s identity
  – e.g., name, social security number

• Statistical purpose: use of data to describe characteristics or outcomes of groups or subgroups
  – e.g., demographic estimates or program evaluation
Major terms and definitions (2): providing and linking

**PROVIDING**

*Program unit provides data to statistical unit.*

**LINKING**

*Program records are matched to other records.*

**Match via common IDs**

(DATA 1) -> (DATA 3) (Overlap of 1 and 2)
Common challenges

• Statistical agency or component access to administrative data
  – Legal interpretations & institutional incentives
• Agency Infrastructure (both sides)
  – Policies, procedures, FTE, hardware
• Administrative data quality/fitness for use
  – e.g., timeliness, relevance, accuracy, match rates
• Researcher access to data
  – Documentation, access modes/program
To facilitate data access, the guidance addresses:

- Determining what access is legally permitted (in authorizing statute over dataset of interest)
- What privacy requirements apply in order to do it (Privacy Act of 1974)

M-14-06 issued to help address these challenges (1)
M-14-06 issued to help address these challenges (2)

- Leadership support to facilitate
  - Coordination, leveraging existing processes, discovery, mutual benefit

- Tools to support agency infrastructure
  - Model agreement
  - Privacy Act requirements

- Administrative data quality assessment and documentation tool
Implementing M-14-06

• At the agencies
  – Role of statistical agencies, program agencies & others
  – Status reports to OMB

• At OMB
  – Ongoing encouragement and technical assistance
  – Review of agency reports
  – Facilitation and coordination efforts
Routinizing Our Successes and Next Steps for FSS

- Agencies are working together and exploring ways to develop, share, and institutionalize best practices

- Next steps
  - Ongoing collaboration
  - OMB support
  - Sharing of successes