



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



Why administrative data?

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



Major terms and definitions (1)

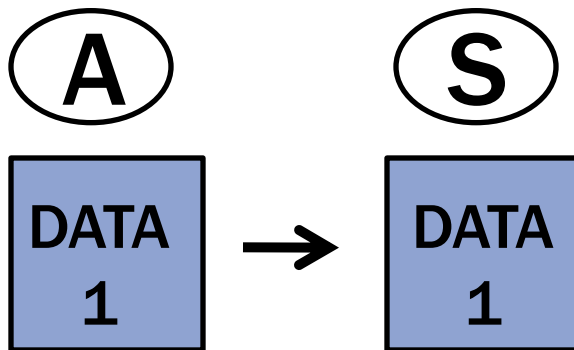
- **Administrative data:** collected as normal part of administering a program
 - e.g., unemployment claims
- **Personally Identifiable Information (PII):** can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity
 - e.g., name, social security number
- **Statistical purpose:** use of data to describe characteristics or outcomes of groups or subgroups
 - e.g., demographic estimates or program evaluation



Major terms and definitions (2): providing and linking

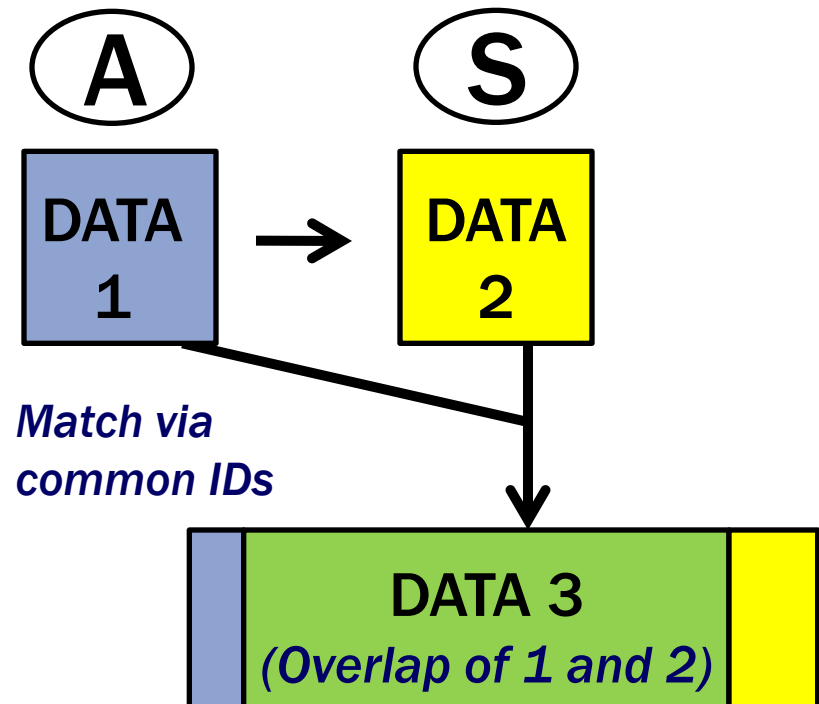
PROVIDING

Program unit provides data to statistical unit.



LINKING

Program records are matched to other records.





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



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

- **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 (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