

Using Administrative Data for Program Evaluation and Research: Recent Successes and Next Steps

November 1-2, 2016

**Hosted by the U.S. Census Bureau
at the Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building Auditorium
1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20230**

Recent Federal policy and legislation reflect the growing importance of using administrative data from federal agencies and federally funded programs for policy-relevant program evaluation and research. In March 2016, Congress passed the Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2016, which created a 15 month-long commission to conduct a comprehensive study on integrating and making available administrative data to “facilitate program evaluation, continuous improvement, policy-relevant research, and cost-benefit analyses by qualified researchers and institutions.” This supports earlier guidance from the Administration (Memorandum M-14-06) to help program, statistical, and evaluation agencies and units use administrative data more fully while respecting privacy and confidentiality. These policies suggest an urgent need, particularly in the context of increasing budget constraints, for Federal agencies to build evidence using administrative data in a cost-effective manner for the mutual benefit of program agencies, statistical agencies, and the American public.

The conference will highlight recent successful uses of administrative records to study social and demographic trends and inform public policy. This conference focuses on the broad, socio-economic status of the household and its members. Specific areas of policy interest include outcomes on health, housing, education, food security, and criminal justice, as well as the veteran population. On the first day, presentations will provide insight into and lessons learned for the myriad ways the analysis of administrative data can build evidence for policy decision-making. The presentations will cover characteristics of populations served by programs as well as their well-being and behavioral outcomes. The second day of the conference will consist of presentations on data and modeling issues followed by informal discussion among Federal policymakers from several Departments. The discussion will reflect on the information gaps and data needed by Federal agencies to design and improve programs in a cost-effective manner.

*This conference is a joint effort of the
Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications (CARRA) at the U.S. Census Bureau and the
Economic Research Service (ERS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture*

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AGENDA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016 (WebEx available)

9:00 – 9:15 *Welcome and opening remarks*

John Abowd, Associate Director for Research and Methodology, U.S. Census Bureau

9:15 – 11:00 *Session I. Education and Work (Moderator: Marsha Silverberg, National Center for Education Evaluation, Institute of Education Sciences, Department of Education)*

Do Low-Income Students Have Equal Access to Effective Teachers

Philip Gleason, Mathematica Policy Research

Using Administrative Data to Study the Labor Market Returns to Postsecondary Education

Thomas Bailey, Columbia University

Using Administrative Data to Evaluate Veterans' Participation in Workforce Services and Civilian Employment

Linda Rosenberg, Mathematica Policy Research
Grace Roemer, Mathematica Policy Research

11:00 – 12:30 *BREAK*

12:30 – 2:15 *Session II. Housing and Criminal Justice (Moderator: Calvin Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development)*

Using Administrative Records and Survey Data to Study the Effectiveness of Self-Sufficiency Interventions for Housing-Assisted Families: Observations from the NYC Work Rewards Demonstration

Stephen Nuñez, MDRC

Understanding Homelessness among Post-9/11 Era Veterans through Administrative Data: Past Findings and Future Directions

Stephen Metraux, National Center for Homelessness among Veterans, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Evaluation and Research Using the National Corrections Report Program

Gerald G. Gaes, Consultant to Abt Associates

2:15 – 2:30 **BREAK**

2:30 – 4:15 **Session III. Health and Income Security (Moderator: Mary Bohman, Administrator, Economic Research Service)**

Beyond Spend-down: The Prevalence and Process of Transitions to Medicaid

Brenda Spillman, The Urban Institute

SNAP Benefits and Pregnancy-Related ER Visits

Irma Arteaga, University of Missouri

Using Linked Survey and Administrative Data to Better Measure Income: Implications for Poverty, Program Effectiveness and Holes in the Safety Net

Bruce Meyer, University of Chicago

4:15 – 4:45 **Open Discussion/Adjourn**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016 (Closed– in person only)

8:30 – 9:45 **Session IV. Data and Modeling Issues (Moderator: Bob Dalrymple, Food and Nutrition Service)**

Joint Project between the U.S. Census Bureau, the Food and Nutrition Service, and the Economic Research Service

Mark Prell, Economic Research Service

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Household Composition: Issues and Findings from Linked Survey and Administrative Data

John Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research

Karen Cunyngnam, Mathematica Policy Research

9:45 – 10:00 **BREAK**

10:00 – 12:00 **Panel Discussion. Policymaker Perspectives on Administrative Data and Program Evaluation and Research. (Moderator: Robin Bachman, Chief, Policy Coordination Office, U.S. Census Bureau)**

Calvin Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy Development and Research, Office of Research, Evaluation and Monitoring, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Susan D. Sullivan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Data Governance & Analytics, Office of Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs

Richard Lucas, Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Mark Fucello, Division Director, Division of Economic Independence, Administration for Children and Families

Marsha Silverberg, Economist and Team Leader, National Center for Education Evaluation, Institute of Education Sciences, Department of Education

12:00 **ADJOURN**

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Session I. Education and Work

Do Low-Income Students Have Equal Access to Effective Teachers

Philip Gleason, Mathematica Policy Research

Abstract

Inequality in educational outcomes is substantial and persistent in the United States. Recent policy initiatives to address these gaps have emphasized teachers' contributions to student achievement. A key question for policymakers is whether inequality in educational outcomes is caused by differences in students' access to effective teachers. This report examines whether low-income students are taught by less effective teachers than high-income students, and if so, whether reducing this inequity would close the student achievement gap. We also describe how the hiring of teachers and their subsequent movement into and out of schools could affect low-income students' access to effective teachers. To address these questions, we obtained administrative data covering 4th to 8th grade students and teachers from 26 school districts around the country over a five-year period, from the 2008-2009 to 2012-2013 school years. The data include students' scores on state assessments, students' demographic and other characteristics, links between students' and their English/Language Arts and math teachers, and teacher characteristics. With these data, we estimated value-added models to measure teacher effectiveness, compared the effectiveness of teachers of high- and low-income students (using students' free and reduced-price meal status to measure income level), and examined teachers' movement into, between, and out of high- and low-poverty district schools.

Using Administrative Data to Study the Labor Market Returns to Postsecondary Education

Thomas Bailey

Abstract

This presentation will draw on research conducted by researchers at the Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE), headquartered at Teachers College, Columbia University. CAPSEE is funded by the Institute for Education Sciences at the Department of Education. CAPSEE researchers have used detailed college transcript data linked to unemployment insurance data from eight states to analyze the labor market returns to postsecondary education. The presentation will review the most important outcomes and insights from the Center's research, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of using these data for this type of analysis, and make some suggestions about changes that could improve the efficiency of the process of acquiring and analyzing administrative data for this purpose.

Using Administrative Data to Evaluate Veterans' Participation in Workforce Services and Civilian Employment

Linda Rosenberg, Mathematica Policy Research
Grace Roemer, Mathematica Policy Research

Abstract

This presentation will describe how Mathematica Policy Research (Mathematica) used administrative data to evaluate veterans' participation in workforce services and civilian employment as part of two recent studies for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

On the Veterans' Supplemental Study, as part of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs Gold Standard Evaluation, Mathematica analyzed veterans' participation in workforce services in two states using a data base that combined data from Wagner-Peyser/Employment Services and WIA—DOL's two major public workforce programs. On the Evaluation of the Army Unemployment Compensation for Ex-service Members Claimants' Initiative, Mathematica analyzed veterans' post-separation employment and workforce services experiences in one state; to complete these analyses, Mathematica used data from five separate state data bases linked with data from the Army.

This presentation will cover:

- The specific research goals of each study and high level findings;
- How each study team identified and obtained administrative data to address research questions that required multiple data sources; and
- Lessons learned about the use of administrative data to analyze veterans' participation in workforce services and civilian employment.

Session II. Housing and Criminal Justice

Using Administrative Records and Survey Data to Study the Effectiveness of Self-Sufficiency Interventions for Housing-Assisted Families: Observations from the NYC Work Rewards Demonstration Stephen Nuñez, MDRC

Abstract

In 2007, New York City officials launched three initiatives testing distinct strategies for promoting employment and economic well-being among housing-assisted recipients, particularly those receiving Housing Choice Vouchers, which provide rent subsidies. Called the Work Rewards demonstration, the collection of interventions tested the effectiveness of New York City's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program alone, FSS combined with a set of special work incentives, or "reward payments, and a separate test of the special incentives by themselves." These interventions targeted voucher holders with household income under 130 percent of the federal poverty level.

Using randomized control trials, Work Rewards assessed the effects of the FSS program and special work incentives on employment and other quality-of-life outcomes among nonelderly and nondisabled voucher holders. FSS and FSS + the special work incentives were tested in partnership with New York City

Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD); the special work incentives offered alone were tested in partnership with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

The evaluation drew on extensive qualitative and quantitative data to report on participant experiences, program impacts, and program benefit-costs. This includes six years of administrative records on employment, earnings obtained from New York State unemployment insurance (UI) wage records; welfare and food stamp payments obtained from the New York City Human Resources Administration, and housing subsidy data obtained from the two PHAs participating in the demonstrations; FSS services and milestones from a MIS used by the program operators; FSS graduation and escrow outcomes from the PHA operating the FSS program (HPD); data from an 45-minute in-depth survey completed with FSS study participants about 42 months after they enrolled in the program; qualitative data obtained through in-depth interviews with a sample of FSS participants and nonparticipants and through observations of program operators selected to implement Work Rewards; and program operation costs.

This presentation reports on findings from this long-term evaluation and describes the uses of the abovementioned data sources to support a comprehensive research agenda, assessing the implementation and effectiveness of employment-focused interventions for housing-assisted families. The presentation will also reference the use of these types of data and methodologies in other national evaluations of interventions for voucher households.

Understanding Homelessness among Post-9/11 Era Veterans through Administrative Data: Past Findings and Future Directions

Stephen Metraux, National Center for Homelessness among Veterans, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Abstract

This presentation reviews several studies conducted by the author and his colleagues that focus on the nature and extent of homelessness among veterans from the current era, which includes those veterans who were deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The focus here is on the capabilities and challenges of investigating this topic in a data-rich environment, and how the administrative data sources used in these studies can inform a homelessness prevention initiative.

Evaluation and Research Using the National Corrections Report Program

Gerald G. Gaes, Consultant to Abt Associates

Abstract

The National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP) is a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) data collection program, which collects offender-level data on persons admitted to and released from state prisons and post-confinement community supervision. BJS obtains administrative records from state departments of corrections and community supervision in all fifty states. Offender records include unique offender identification numbers, demographic information (e.g., age, sex, race, education level, veteran status), conviction offenses, sentence length, minimum time to be served, type of admission, and type of release. The unique offender identifiers enable BJS to link individual

offender prison terms, as well as potentially to link NCRP records to offender records in other federal administrative databases.

Since 1983, BJS has used the NCRP to monitor correctional populations and address policy questions related to recidivism, prisoner reentry, and trends in demographic characteristics of the incarcerated and paroled populations. More recently, BJS has begun exploring whether the NCRP can be used to evaluate policy initiatives. This presentation highlights analyses undertaken by BJS and its data collection agent (Abt Associates) that have focused on:

- Alternative definitions of recidivism that have different policy implications
- The effects of welfare benefits on offender recidivism
- The impact of the Affordable Care Act on offender recidivism
- The effects of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative reforms on prison admissions, total prison populations, and prison population offender seriousness levels

Session III. Health and Income Security

Beyond Spend-down: The Prevalence and Process of Transitions to Medicaid

Brenda C. Spillman, The Urban Institute

Abstract

Aged Medicare beneficiaries are disproportionately expensive for Medicaid because of their high likelihood of using long term services and supports. Nursing home costs still dominate Medicaid spending for the aged. This study updates and expands knowledge about the prevalence and process of transitions to Medicaid among aged Medicare enrollees, with a focus on the role of nursing home use, using multiple years of Medicare, Medicaid, and assessment data linked to the 2004 National Long Term Care Survey (NLTCS).

SNAP Benefits and Pregnancy-Related ER Visits

Irma Arteaga, University of Missouri

Abstract

Income constraints at the end of the month may limit food consumption and trigger health problems for low-income individuals with health conditions making them sensitive to daily fluctuations in nutritional in-take. We examine how the date that benefits are issued for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) changes the probability that a pregnant woman will go to the emergency room. We use linked administrative data from SNAP and Medicaid for the state of Missouri over the 2008-2010 time period for more than 2.7 million claims. Missouri was the only state in the nation to issue SNAP benefits over a 22-day period during the calendar month; payment date was based on the first letter of the household head's last name and month of birth, providing an exogenous source of variation to the timing of benefit receipt. Women who received SNAP benefits in the second or third week of the calendar month were less likely to submit a pregnancy-related ER claim in the following week than they were earlier in the month. Additionally, we found that women who receive higher levels of SNAP benefits were less likely to submit an ER claim than those with lower levels. Results from this study offer strong empirical evidence about the health benefits of

SNAP participation. The study also speaks to the importance of programmatic decisions, such as the timing of the issuance of program benefits, which may have significant consequences for recipients.

Using Linked Survey and Administrative Data to Better Measure Income: Implications for Poverty, Program Effectiveness and Holes in the Safety Net

Bruce D. Meyer, University of Chicago and NBER

Nikolas Mittag, CERGE-EI/Charles University

Abstract

We examine the consequences of underreporting of transfer programs in household survey data for several prototypical analyses of low-income populations. We focus on the Current Population Survey (CPS), the source of official poverty and inequality statistics, but provide evidence that our qualitative conclusions are likely to apply to other surveys. We link administrative data for food stamps, TANF, General Assistance, and subsidized housing from New York State to the CPS at the household level. Program receipt in the CPS is missed for over one-third of housing assistance recipients, 40 percent of food stamp recipients and 60 percent of TANF and General Assistance recipients. Dollars of benefits are also undercounted for reporting recipients, particularly for TANF, General Assistance and housing assistance. We find that the survey data sharply understate the income of poor households, as conjectured in past work by one of the authors. Underreporting in the survey data also greatly understates the effects of anti-poverty programs and changes our understanding of program targeting, often making it seem that welfare programs are less targeted to both the very poorest and middle income households than they are. Using the combined data rather than survey data alone, the poverty reducing effect of all programs together is nearly doubled while the effect of housing assistance is tripled. We also re-examine the coverage of the safety net, specifically the share of people without work or program receipt. Using the administrative measures of program receipt rather than the survey ones often reduces the share of single mothers falling through the safety net by one-half or more.

Session IV. Data and Modeling Issues

Joint Project between the U.S. Census Bureau, the Food and Nutrition Service, and the Economic Research Service

Mark Prell, Economic Research Service

Abstract

The Census-FNS-ERS joint project is a strategic partnership that is acquiring USDA administrative data from States and linking those data to the American Community Survey and other surveys, which leverages the strengths of each data source and each partner. This presentation explains how the partnership addressed some common barriers to projects that use administrative and linked data, explores data and modeling issues, and summarizes selected research results. As USDA agencies, ERS and FNS seek to inform policymakers and others on: who participates in USDA food assistance programs, how program participation affects the lives of those individuals, and who does not participate and why. The Census Bureau's interests are primarily to improve their surveys, the 2020 Census, and data-linkage processes. The joint project serves the missions of all three agencies,

gaining policy-relevant results using linked data that are unobtainable using either data source separately. Three recent products are ERS reports on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that examined sub-State detail on SNAP access, targeting of SNAP benefits by income level, and measurement of monthly and annual SNAP participation rates.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Household Composition: Issues and Findings from Linked Survey and Administrative Data

John Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research

Karen Cunyngnam, Mathematica Policy Research

Abstract

When a household survey is used to simulate eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a key step is to identify the SNAP unit(s) within each sample household. A SNAP unit is defined as those individuals who share a residential unit and customarily purchase and prepare food together. Individuals who live together but do not purchase and prepare food together generally may apply as separate SNAP units. Typically, household surveys that collect data on SNAP participation do not identify the members of the SNAP unit. Thus, eligibility simulations must construct SNAP units. Comparisons of aggregate characteristics between SNAP units in administrative data and simulated eligible SNAP units in survey households show large differences. Most notably, eligibility simulations generate too few one-person units. Because administrative data are compiled at the unit level rather than the household level, it is not clear if the shortfall in one-person units is due to underestimating the frequency of multiple units within households or across households. This paper presents findings from an analysis of linked data from three Census Bureau surveys and SNAP administrative records from two states. SNAP unit membership as recorded in the administrative data was compared to simulated unit membership from two surveys (the American Community Survey and the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement) and reported unit membership from the third (the Survey of Income and Program Participation). Our results suggest that the underestimation of one-person units is due to too few households with simulated eligible one-person units rather than too few households with multiple simulated one-person units. Other key findings include the frequency with which SNAP households include persons who are not in a SNAP unit—that is, not receiving SNAP benefits. The paper includes a discussion of issues in linking SNAP administrative records to household survey data and how limitations in both data sources may affect empirical outcomes.

SPEAKER AND PANELIST BIOS

Session I. Education and Work

Philip Gleason is a Senior Fellow and Associate Director of Human Services Research at Mathematica Policy Research. He is an expert in evaluation design with 25 years of experience conducting and directing studies of education initiatives and federal nutrition programs. He is currently directing two major studies for the U.S. Department of Education—one that examines the distribution of highly effective teachers in school districts around the country and a second that looks at a school reform effort centered around the implementation of data-driven instruction to improve teacher effectiveness. He also recently directed a large-scale evaluation of (KIPP) Knowledge Is Power Program schools and led a rigorous national evaluation of charter schools. In recent years, Gleason has played a key role in research examining administrative and nutrition-related aspects of federal nutrition programs, including the relationship between school meal participation and childhood obesity, the accuracy of certification for free and reduced-price school meals, and the dynamics of participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. He is currently the principal investigator of an evaluation of a demonstration program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reduce childhood hunger. He is on the board of editors of the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* and the *American Educational Research Journal*. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Notre Dame and he holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Thomas Bailey is the George and Abby O'Neill Professor of Economics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. He directs the Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Teachers College and two National Centers funded by the Institute for Education Sciences: the Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE) and the Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness (CAPR). Along with Shanna Smith Jaggars and Davis Jenkins, Dr. Bailey wrote *Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success*, published in 2015 by Harvard University Press. Professor Bailey holds a PhD from MIT with specialties in education, labor economics, and econometrics. He is an AERA Fellow and member of the National Academy of Education.

Ms. Linda Rosenberg, a senior researcher at Mathematica, has more than 20 years of experience conducting qualitative research of programs in domestic policy areas, including education, labor, and welfare. Ms. Rosenberg is currently the co-project director on the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs Gold Standard Evaluation, in which she contributed to the design and implementation of this random assignment evaluation studying the impact of WIA services. She also led the evaluation's supplementary study of workforce services provided to veterans. She is currently leading Mathematica's national evaluation of the Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3) for DOL and its partner agencies and has led the design, data collection, and analysis of program implementation for many large-scale studies. Ms. Rosenberg holds an M.P.A. in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Ms. Grace Roemer, an associate director at Mathematica, has more than 20 years of experience in primary and secondary data collection, as well as federal performance reporting systems. She is currently leading the evaluation of the Army UCX Claimants Initiative; this initiative was designed to foster innovative approaches to outreach and workforce service delivery to unemployed

veterans. Ms. Roemer has previously directed evaluations of veterans' priority of service in the workforce system and veterans' mental health treatment programs, and led data collection and development of performance measures systems on numerous studies for DOL and other federal agencies. Ms. Roemer holds an M.S. in urban planning from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Presentation.

Session II. Housing and Criminal Justice

Stephen Nuñez is a Research Associate at MDRC. He is conducting quantitative social network analysis for the Chicago New Communities Project, leading impact analysis on the national evaluation of the Family Self-Sufficiency program, and is the lead author of the interim report on the Opportunity NYC-Work Rewards program. He is particularly interested in the areas of financial inclusion and microcredit and is working on several projects to improve evidence in this field. He has a PhD in sociology and an MA in economics from Stanford University as well as an AB in politics from Princeton University.

Stephen Metraux, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Health Policy and Public Health at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, and an Investigator at the Center for Homelessness Among Veterans at the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Metraux has done extensive research on housing and homelessness, mental illness and community integration, prison reentry, and various aspects of urban health. Currently his research focuses on homelessness among veterans, with projects focusing on veterans of the post-9/11 era and on homelessness prevention. Dr. Metraux has a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Gerald G. Gaes, Ph.D., is a criminal justice consultant and Visiting Faculty at Florida State University in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice. He served six years from 2002 to 2007 as a Visiting Scientist for the National Institute of Justice where he was senior advisor on criminal justice research funded by that agency. He was Director of Research for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and retired from government service in 2002. Working for Abt Associates, he is co-principal investigator for the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Corrections Reporting Program.

Session III. Health and Income Security

Brenda Spillman, Ph.D., is a health economist and senior fellow in the Health Policy Center at the Urban Institute. She is a nationally recognized researcher focusing on disability trends and measurement, long-term care use and financing, informal caregiving, and projections of service use and cost for the Medicare elderly. She is leading the long-term evaluation of Medicaid Health Homes, a new model of care for beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions that integrates delivery of health, behavioral, and nonclinical support services. Dr. Spillman has extensive experience in use of a broad range of complex national surveys, Medicare and Medicaid administrative data, and assessment data and expertise in survey design. She is a co-investigator for the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS), a national longitudinal survey of the Medicare elderly funded by the National Institute on Aging, and the companion National Study of Caregiving (NSOC).

Irma Arteaga is Assistant Professor of Public Affairs at the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. Dr. Arteaga received her doctoral degree in Applied Economics and Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota. Her research interests include family policy, and program evaluation of early childhood interventions. Her research has focused on the evaluation of social programs designed to reduce poverty, children malnutrition, and gaps on food insecurity, health and achievement. Dr. Arteaga has worked as a consultant and principal investigator in projects for the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank on the design of health programs that aimed to reduce child malnourishment, maternal and infant mortality for impoverished population in Central American countries. She is currently studying the dynamic effect of food insecurity as well as the mechanisms through which early childhood interventions reduce food insecurity. She has used the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study and other datasets to evaluate the effects of NSLP, WIC and CACFP on food insecurity among households with kindergartener children, and has specifically examined how these programs affects food insecurity during children's transition into the school system. She is also investigating the ethnic gaps in math and language of Peruvian children using the Young Lives Study, a longitudinal dataset that follows children from birth to age 20. She recently published a paper that studies the dosage effects of preschool on high school completion, criminal behavior, health decisions and earnings using self-reports and administrative data. Her work has been published in various journals including Science, Economics of Education Review, Child and Youth Services Review and Social Service Review.

Bruce D. Meyer is the McCormick Foundation Professor at the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago where he has been since 2004. From 1987 to 2004, he was a faculty member in the Economics Department at Northwestern University. Meyer is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a former editor or associate editor of the *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, the *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, and the *Journal of Labor Economics*. He is a member of the Federal Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, the Bureau of Labor Statistics Technical Advisory Committee, was recently Chair of the Business and Economic Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, and served on the National Academy Panel on Redesigning the BLS Consumer Expenditure Surveys, and the Advisory Panel on Research Uses of Administrative Data of the Northwestern University/University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research. He studies poverty and inequality, welfare policy, social insurance programs and other topics. His most recent work includes research on measuring poverty in the U.S., measurement error in household surveys, the consequences of disability, and the effects of Medicaid on child health.

Session IV. Data and Modeling Issues

Mark Prell is a senior economist at the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he studies economic and policy issues involving USDA food assistance programs. His work addresses issues involving food program targeting and delivery, program dynamics and administration, and dietary and nutritional outcomes. His recent research has focused on expanding the statistical and research applications of administrative records, the interactions between the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Unemployment Insurance, and the effect of expanded SNAP benefits on food insecurity. He has taught at the Johns Hopkins University, UCLA, and the University of Southern California, and served on details at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. He received a Ph.D. in economics from MIT.

John Czajka is a senior fellow at Mathematica Policy Research, where he has been employed since the fall of 1978. In his career Dr. Czajka has worked with administrative records from the federal tax system, Social Security, Medicaid, and SNAP and addressed applications that range from enhancing survey data to evaluating their potential use in the decennial census. His other recent work has included comparative analysis of income and wealth data from multiple surveys. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and is currently chairing a Committee on National Statistics panel that is reviewing the redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Karen Cunyningham, an associate director at Mathematica, has over 15 years of experience in conducting SNAP-related research. Ms. Cunyningham has directed a series of projects for FNS that develop and use microsimulation models based on SNAP Quality Control, CPS ASEC, and SIPP data to (1) estimate how changes in SNAP policy would affect benefit costs, eligibility, and participation and (2) estimate national and state SNAP participation rates. Ms. Cunyningham has also directed SNAP-related projects for the Economic Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the California Food Policy Advocates.

Panel Discussion

Mark Fucello began his federal career as a Presidential Management Fellow in 1987 and has been the Director of the Division of Economic Independence in the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services since 2008. Mark has designed and directed national evaluations of employment and training services for low-income individuals and family self-sufficiency research demonstrations as well as public assistance and safety net research. He received a Master of Public Policy degree from the George Washington University and is a graduate of Rutgers College.

Calvin Johnson is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Office of Research, Evaluation and Monitoring, at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Richard Lucas is the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support at USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In that capacity, he is responsible for research and analysis that informs policymaking for, and management of, the Federal nutrition assistance programs. These programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the school meals programs, and the WIC program, are currently budgeted at over \$100 billion annually and serving 1 in 4 Americans in the course of a year. Rich's team in the FNS Office of Policy Support includes professionals from a wide range of disciplines, including economists, statisticians, program evaluators, sociologists, nutritionists, and others. They work closely with policymakers and program officials to find answers to critical questions to make nutrition assistance programs more effective, estimate cost and participation impacts of legislative, budgetary and regulatory changes, evaluate the impacts of programs and program components on food security, diet quality, and other outcomes, analyze extant data to better target strategies and track performance, and demonstrate and test potential program improvements. Rich has worked at FNS since 1994. He holds degrees from Brown University and Stanford University, and lives in Bethesda, Maryland with his wife and children.

Marsha Silverberg, an economist, is a team leader at the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES), National Center for Education Evaluation. She has more than two decades of experience designing and conducting rigorous evaluations of federal programs and federally-supported strategies, particularly in the areas of high school improvement, college access and success, and school choice. Most recently, she has helped the Department develop its evidence agenda, supporting program offices and grantees in both using and generating evaluations to improve program outcomes.

Ms. Susan Sullivan is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Data Governance and Analytics at the Department of Veterans Affairs. In this position she reports to the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy and Planning and is responsible for leading data governance, data analytics, and business intelligence capabilities to inform VA-wide decision making and providing an authoritative clearinghouse for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information about Veterans and VA programs. Ms. Sullivan previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, responsible for ensuring integration, collaboration, and cooperation across VA with regard to policy and strategy development and fostering balanced decision-making across the Department, facilitating development of VA's 2014-2020 Strategic Plan and VA's Agency Priority Goals. Prior to joining VA, Ms. Sullivan was responsible for managing a variety of aspects of command and control and logistics automated information system acquisition programs as well as information technology policy at the Department of Defense.