

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*