

Summary of Recommendations

Multiple Purposes of Linked Administrative Data

- Advocate for federal guidelines that would facilitate the research use of state data, while protecting the privacy of personal information.
- Provide guidelines for federal grantmakers that would strengthen researchers' access to contextual and implementation data, and call for federal agencies to make administrative data available in response to these needs.
- For federal performance management systems, recommend policy changes that support goal-setting with data-sharing requirements.
- Recommend legislative or administrative language that helps states understand the value for their own decision-making as well as for achieving national goals of connecting state data systems to national survey data with in-depth background information.
- Recommend legislative language that would require states to share data on program participation for purposes of research on policy formation and evaluation.
- Urge federal agencies and non-governmental research groups that conduct national surveys to collaborate with the Census Bureau to add additional surveys to the Federal Statistical Research Data Center infrastructure.
- Provide a framework that articulates the technical requirements, legal standing, and accepted purposes or linking and sharing data across federal agencies and with willing state partners.
- Recommend a pilot data-sharing effort, perhaps building on the examples of innovative approaches to linking administrative data.

Building Capacity for the Production and Use of Research Evidence

- Examine existing infrastructure supports found in various agencies, identify best practices, and recommend their wider adoption. Examples include leadership positions focused on evidence use; interagency collaborative bodies; dedicated offices for research and evaluation; and codified sets of principles and practices.
- Identify models of partnerships between researchers and policymakers, and promote their use across the federal government. Consider local and state examples as models for the federal level.