

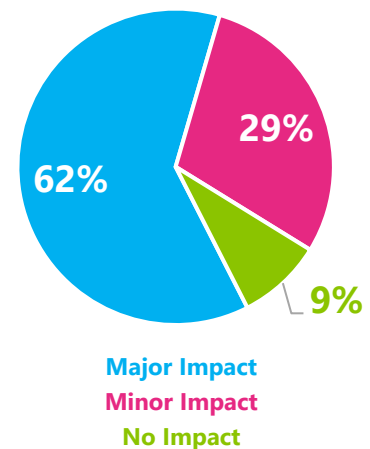
Civic Participation Data Users - Public Data User Impact Snapshots

From the SSRS 2026 EMERGE survey¹, supported by the Knight Foundation, this brief examines how civic participation, elections and voting behavior data users rely on federal statistical data.

In 2025, government shutdowns, budget cuts, and layoffs impacted the collection and dissemination of federal data. **Nine in ten** civic participation, elections and voting behavior public data users report major (62%) or minor (29%) impacts to their work due to federal data changes.

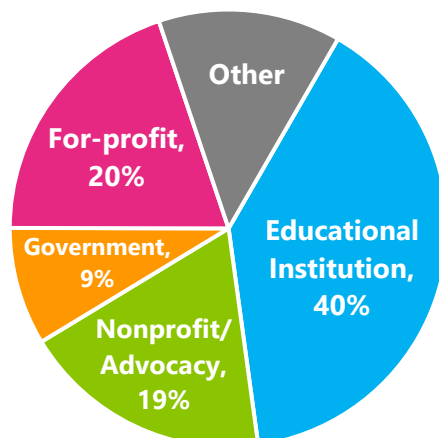
“The **politicization and reduction** of the federal civil service has made it **difficult to trust the validity of the information** available on government sites. Never in my career have I **not trusted data coming from a .gov site**, but I am wary now.” - **Civic Participation, Elections and Voting Behavior Public Data User**

Impact of Federal Statistical Data Changes



Civic participation data users most often work for educational institutions (40%), nonprofits (19%), government (9%), or for-profit companies (20%). Changes targeting these settings can affect research planning and data reliability.

Work Settings that Leverage Federal Civic Participation Data



“We have explored **other approaches** to obtaining **representative national data**, but **none** to date have proved **sufficiently granular** (geographically and temporally).” - **Civic Participation, Elections and Voting Behavior Public Data User**

¹ The SSRS EMERGE program surveyed 521 online respondents from February 6 through March 9, 2026 through a nonprobability convenience sample. <https://ssrs.com/emerge-initiative/>