

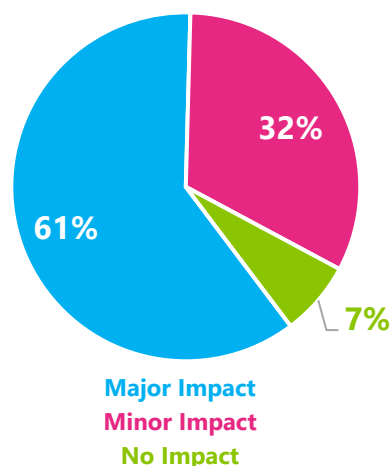
Workers at Educational Institutions - Public Data User Impact

From the SSRS 2026 EMERGE survey¹, supported by the Knight Foundation, this brief examines how data users working at educational institutions rely on federal statistical data.

In 2025, government shutdowns, budget cuts, and layoffs impacted the collection and dissemination of federal data. **Nine in ten** public data users at educational institutions report major (62%) or minor (32%) impacts to their work due to federal data changes.

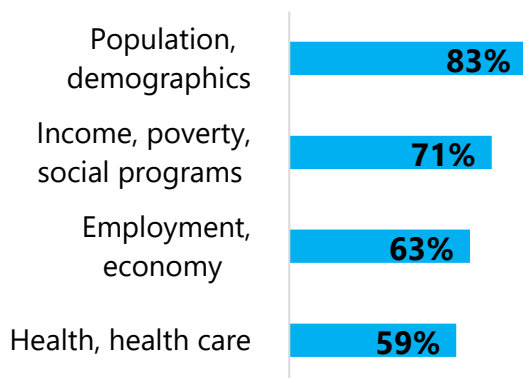
*“The biggest impact is **uncertainty**. If I plan a research project to use a particular dataset in the future, can I be sure that it will be **still available, collected in the same way, released on time, and made publicly available** with limited access challenge.” - Public Data User at an Educational Institution*

Impact of Federal Statistical Data Changes



Data users at educational institutions most often rely on population/demographic data (83%), income/poverty data (71%), employment data (63%), and health data (59%). Changes in these data sources can affect planning, policy analysis, and program evaluation.

Most-Used Federal Data Type Categories



*“While I have actively **archived federal data** sets in my library's institutional repository and have been an active participant in broader **data rescue projects**, the loss of staff, budgets, and whole departments within statistical agencies will mean a **massive and ongoing gap** in the federal data ecosystem.” - Public Data User at an Educational Institution*

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/>