

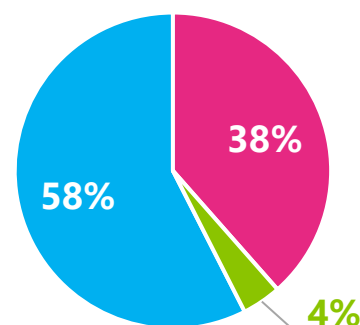
Health Data Users - Public Data User Impact Snapshots

From the SSRS 2026 EMERGE survey¹, supported by the Knight Foundation, this brief examines how users of health and healthcare data rely on federal statistical data.

In 2025, government shutdowns, budget cuts, and layoffs impacted the collection and dissemination of federal data. Over **nine in ten** health and healthcare public data users report major (58%) or minor (39%) impacts to their work due to federal data changes.

“ We have many researchers interested in Social Determinants of Health who have been heavily impacted by the **uncertainty**. I have had to advise them to keep backup copies of statistical reports they are relying on. I have also had to spend a lot of **time monitoring the situation** and watching for changes that I need to warn researchers about, which is **lost time**. We have **entirely stopped linking to the CDC** as a resource in our guides because the site has been so **unstable**, not just for data.”
- **Health and Healthcare Public Data User**

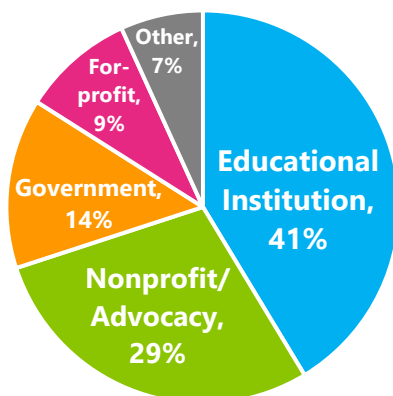
Impact of Federal Statistical Data Changes



Major Impact
Minor Impact
No Impact

Health and healthcare data users most often work for educational institutions (41%), nonprofits (29%), government (14%), or for-profit companies (9%). Changes targeting these settings can affect evaluations of health outcomes and health recommendations.

Work Settings that Leverage Federal Health Data



“ We have investments in **local data collection** (e.g. population health surveys) that may be able to help fill in gaps. However, resources for this type of work is **threatened in the context of federal funding cuts** to programs and grants to our organization.” - **Health and Healthcare 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/>