

Income and Poverty Data Users - Public Data User Impact Snapshots

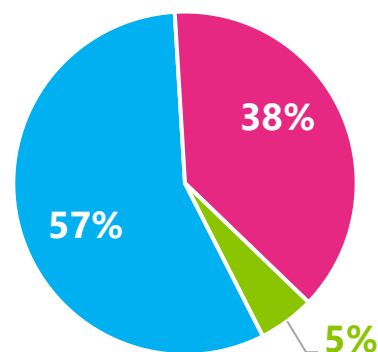
From the SSRS 2026 EMERGE survey¹, supported by the Knight Foundation, this brief examines how users of income and poverty data rely on federal statistical data.

In 2025, government shutdowns, budget cuts, and layoffs impacted the collection and dissemination of federal data. Over **nine in ten** income and poverty public data users report major (57%) or minor (38%) impacts to their work due to federal data changes.

*“I monitor and evaluate how well USDA food assistance programs impact populations and states--which total almost \$100 billion in Federal spending each year. **Food security** is one critical outcome **used to assess effectiveness** of these programs. **Without the CPS-FSS**, we will be **unable to assess** how major **recent changes to the SNAP program** impact this critical outcome.”*

- Income and Poverty Public Data User

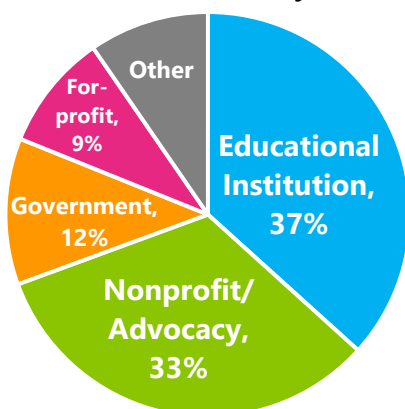
Impact of Federal Statistical Data Changes



Major Impact
Minor Impact
No Impact

Income and poverty data users most often work for educational institutions (37%), nonprofits (33%), government (12%), or for-profit companies (9%). Changes targeting these settings can affect program assessment and need evaluation.

Work Settings that Leverage Federal Income and Poverty Data



*“We are examining potential **model-based** food security methods. However, models do **not capture the same dimension/nuance** that the experiential survey captured.”*

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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/>