

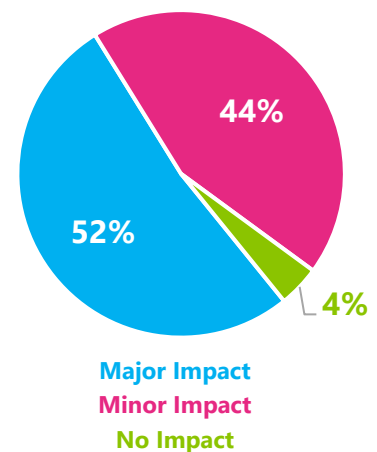
Nonprofit Workers - Public Data User Impact

From the SSRS 2026 EMERGE survey¹, supported by the Knight Foundation, this brief examines how data users working at nonprofits/advocacy organizations 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** public data users at nonprofits and advocacy organizations report major (52%) or minor (44%) impacts to their work due to federal data changes.

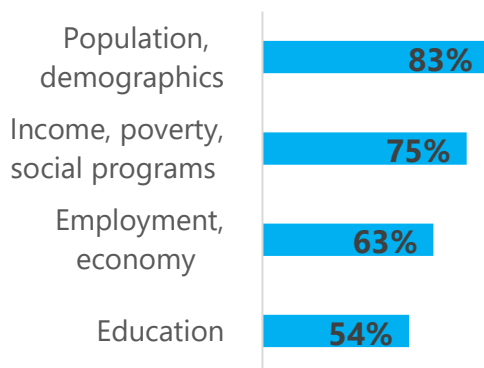
*“The federal shutdown **delayed the release of the 2024 ACS**, making it so that the data given to our state legislators had data that was **outdated**. As an organization advocating for policies in early childhood, we can **no longer provide lawmakers exact data points** at the beginning of each legislative session. This **affects our messaging** throughout the legislative session.” - Public Data User at a Nonprofit or Advocacy Organization*

Impact of Federal Statistical Data Changes



Data users at nonprofit and advocacy organizations most often rely on population/demographic data (83%), income/poverty data (75%), employment data (63%), and education data (54%). Changes in these data sources can affect strategy and resource allocation.

Most-Used Federal Data Categories



*“I have been trying to advise the researchers to **make copies of documentation and data** they are relying on and keep it locally. We are fortunate to be in NYS, which has a well funded department of health, so some **local statistics** come in that way, but many of our researchers do national research as well. Overall, there **hasn't really been a substitute**.” - Public Data User at a Nonprofit or Advocacy Organization*

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/>