

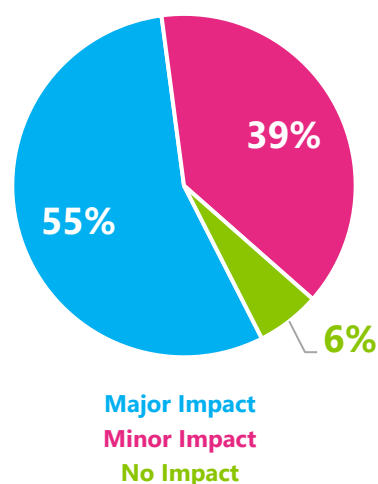
Population and Demographic Data Users - Public Data User Impact Snapshots

From the SSRS 2026 EMERGE survey¹, supported by the Knight Foundation, this brief examines how population and demographic data users 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** population and demographic public data users report major (55%) or minor (39%) impacts to their work due to federal data changes.

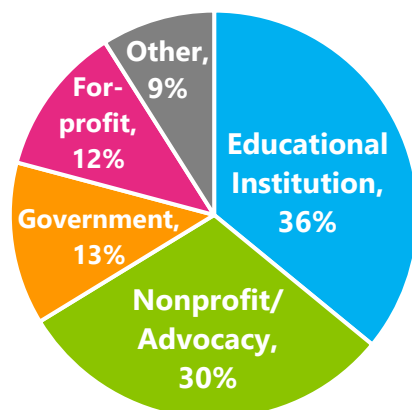
*“Uncertainty about the continued availability of data has created **problems with efforts to benchmark** against national data which hurts our ability to do strategic planning. **Erasure of gender identity data** has impeded the ability to understand health disparities and target interventions. Colleagues who we relied on to **help answer data questions are gone.**” - Population and Demographic Public Data User*

Impact of Federal Statistical Data Changes



Population and demographic data users most often work for educational institutions (36%), nonprofits (30%), government (13%), or for-profit companies (12%). Changes targeting these settings impact data reliability and research outcomes.

Work Settings that Leverage Federal Population Data



*“We’ve been advocating for more **state-based data collection** and for private survey firms to **add SOGI questions** to more survey. We also **recently paid to do our own** nationally representative survey of LGBTQ people.” - Population and Demographic 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/>