



# Government Data for Evidence Building Focus Area

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# Status Update

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## Focus Area Discussion

- We have had presentations of three use cases and on the potential impact on ACDEB activity from the President's proposed budget
  - JEDx project—a potential public private partnership
  - Shelly Martinez discussing President's proposed budget
  - SWIS data system—an agreement among all 50 states to share data from UI system for reporting outcomes for WIOA
  - PFAS project – EPA efforts to link confidential data for health research related to the impact of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on a variety of health outcomes

# Findings

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## Highlights from JEDx presentation

- JEDx is an attempt by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to try and standardize employment information businesses are required to report to a variety of different federal, state and local governments
  - Reduce reporting burden on businesses
  - Enhanced payroll/HR reporting that could be used for better, high-frequency measure of the performance of the economy in more localized areas
  - Standardized occupation and credential data for workers
- Challenging to get buy-in from all partners
  - Not all businesses use payroll processing firms
- Part of a larger effort by U.S. Chamber to use technology to increase the efficiency of data reporting by U.S. businesses
- Highlights how difficult it is to standardize and enhance data collection across all of the various entities involved in most data collection efforts

# Findings

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## Discussion of President Biden's proposed budget related to ACDEB

- Lots of emphasis on the importance of promoting evidence-based policy making
- Most of the discussion related to ACDEB work is in the Leveraging Federal Statistics Chapter
  - Emphasis on re-establishing trust in federal statistics agencies and system
- Major budgetary impacts
  - Investment in NCHS for developing a Virtual Data Enclave
  - Additional money for SOI at IRS that could allow them to support more research by outside researchers
  - Main increase in funding for NSF is going to NCSES to support the building out of America's DataHub

# Findings

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## SWIS System

- Overview—SWIS is an agreement among states to share UI wage record data so state Workforce agencies can track individuals who participated in WIOA activities
- Agreement is between states. Agreement is facilitated and coordinated by DOL and ED
- Does allow for other State agencies to collect information of participants that move to other states, such as higher ed institutions in the state, but only with approval from all signatories to the agreement
  - Any evaluation efforts also need agreement from all states, so it is difficult
- Demonstrates that it is possible to get states to agree to share data, but that the agreement is often for a very specific purpose and for very limited uses

# Findings

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## PFAS Presentation

- Overview – Since 1940s, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are commonly found in homes, businesses and industry with most people having been exposed to PFAS at some point.
- Given PFAS resistance to decomposition in the environment and humans (“forever chemicals”), there is known or suspected toxicity that could impact a variety of health outcomes.
- EPA has established multiple data layers to help assess PFAS at federal and state levels
- EPA health researchers have had some success linking with restricted-use CDC or NIH datasets with PFAS blood serum measurements to gauge health outcomes
  - NIH Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program covering ~50,000 children
  - CDC's National Exposure Report is a series of ongoing assessments of the U.S. population's exposure to environmental chemicals using biomonitoring.
- Better linkages between wide variety of EPA environmental monitoring data to restricted-use health information as well as to restricted health data could offer improved insights horizontally across federal agencies as well as vertically within agencies and within states

# Full Committee Discussion

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## Discussion Questions

- From these real-life use cases, what things can we do to improve access to data sets?
- What areas of successful cooperation/collaboration/willingness to share are illustrated by these use cases? How do we get parties to better cooperate, collaborate, and be more willing to share?
- How do we encourage parties to adopt mindsets that promote getting to Yes versus tendency to start with NO?
- How could an NSDS help to balance what is specifically mandated by statute/regulations to include in statistical groups or the permitted uses of such data versus whether the absence of exclusions allows a broader interpretation for data uses and sharing?