



External Researchers Expert Group #3

Len Burman, Ken Troske

October 2022

Key Takeaways

Expert Group Discussion

- This report contains a number of recommendations that will enhance researchers' access to confidential data allowing them to produce better research to support policy making. Of particular importance are the recommendations around:
 - Strengthening the Presumption of Accessibility
 - Continuing to build out the Standard Application Portal
 - Developing tools that will expand the access to administrative data for research through multiple tiers, including published tabulations, synthetic data, validation servers to perform statistical analysis on sensitive data, and secure multiparty computation that could allow linking different datasets, all while protecting privacy more effectively than traditional statistical disclosure control methods

Future Engagement

Expert Group Discussion

- Our use cases will help to demonstrate the impact that enhancing data access can have on policy. Examples that are relevant to our own areas of research include:
 - Constructing better ways to trace the labor market earnings and employment of individuals participating in job training programs and higher education
 - Current research efforts are limited to tracking participants who stay in the state where they went to school or received the training and also use different definitions of who is a participant.
 - The pandemic showed the importance of more timely, detailed, and accurate labor market data. It also demonstrated that one possible source, data from state UI programs, had significant problems. A project within the NSDS framework will help identify issues, allowing production of better data, which will result in more targeted and efficient efforts to support individuals and businesses in future crises.

Summing It Up

Expert Group Discussion

Given the value of these efforts provide in advancing high-quality research, we hope the broader research community will work with officials across government to advance and promote the recommendations in this report.