HUD’s Experience Supporting and Enhancing Its Data Infrastructure and Use

Presented by
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• Learning Agenda
• Tenant Data Warehouses
• Data License Agreement
  ▪ Sponsorship at Research Data Centers
• Research Partnership
• Data Linking
Learning Agenda
HUD’s Learning Agenda: Research Roadmap

• A multi-year learning agenda or “evidence-building plan”
• Set of research questions addressing critical knowledge gaps in support of evidence-based policy
  ▪ Set of projects to answer research questions
• Developed with stakeholder input
• A strategic view supporting shorter-term planning
• Basis for annual research plans shared with Congress for our budget request
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<th>HUD’s Learning Agenda: Topical Categories</th>
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Quick Note: Evaluation Functions – Where/Who?

Where?
• Policy Development and Research (PD&R)
  ▪ Office of Research, Evaluation and Monitoring
  ▪ Office of Economic Affairs
  ▪ Office of Policy Development
  ▪ Office of Innovation

Who?
• Social Science Analysts/Economists/Statisticians (PhD/MA/MS)
• Primary project manager with ownership of the evaluation requirements
Tenant Data Warehouses
HUD’s tenant data are stored and maintained in two data warehouses.

- Inventory Management System/PIH Information Center (IMS/PIC)
- Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System (TRACS)

These systems of record serve as the authoritative sources from which HUD develops data marts to support a large share of its evidence-building on housing assistance programs.
HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) develops data marts to support internal and external evidence-building.

Data Content for:

- 9.5 million individuals in 4.5 million households
  (Approximately 3.5 million children across all households)

- Households:
  - 41 percent non-elderly non-disabled
  - 37 percent elderly
  - 22 percent non-elderly disabled
Quick Note: HUD’s Rent Subsidy Programs

- Monthly subsidy to make housing rental more affordable to extremely low-income renters
  - Subsidy covers the difference between reasonable rent and 30 percent of household’s adjusted income
- Two categories of rent subsidy programs
  - Project based housing
  - Tenant based housing
Data License Agreement
Data License Agreement

PD&R has the authority to enter into a Data License Agreement with research organizations:

- important policy-relevant research questions can only be answered by using personally identifiable information in the possession of HUD
- the research organization can offer adequate safeguards for the confidentiality of the data
- the research organization does not need funding or other resources from HUD to carry out the research project
- the research organization will destroy all personally identifiable information received from HUD at the expiration of the license
Data License Agreement

PD&R priorities for entering into a Data License Agreement with qualified researchers will fall into one of the following areas:

- Homeownership and housing finance
- Affordable rental housing
- Housing as a platform for improving quality of life
- Sustainable and inclusive communities
- HUD Assets
In Spring 2017, HUD moved two of its randomized evaluation datasets to the Census allowing access to researchers within a Research Data Center (RDC). These were the first experimental study data in the Census Bureau Data Linkage Infrastructure.

- Moving to Opportunity (MTO)
- Family Options Study

In addition to piloting the use of this infrastructure to access HUD’s randomized evaluation datasets, HUD wanted to promote further evidence-building efforts requiring additional data linking.
Research Partnership
Research Partnership

PD&R has the authority to accept unsolicited research proposals that address current research priorities.

Requirements:

• Eligible applicants
• Provide cost sharing for at least 50 percent of total project cost from philanthropic entities or Federal, state or local government agencies

* The Department is interested in increasing participation of MSIs and HBCUs and encourages applicants that are not themselves MSIs or HBCUs to partner with these organizations.
PD&R priorities for cooperative agreements on Research Partnerships fall into one of the following areas:

- Promote Economic Opportunity
- Enhance Rental Assistance
- Reduce the Average Length of Homelessness
- Support Sustainable Homeownership and Financial Viability
- Remove Lead Hazards from Homes
- Provide Effective Disaster Recovery
- Opportunity Zones
- Reduce Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing
Data Linking
Data linking with HUD’s administrative data provides a key opportunity for evidence-building. Linked data is integral to our evaluation, research and other evidence-building efforts.

- HUD’s learning agenda specifies policy-relevant analysis requiring linked data
- Nearly all (if not all) our evaluations and demonstrations require linked data with local, state, and/or federal government
- Monitoring HUD’s mission performance draws on linked data
- Inter-agency evaluation and research partnerships rely on linked data to investigate segments of the population we share an interest in serving
Data Linking with Federal Partners

- National Directory of New Hires
- Center for Medicare and Medicaid
- National Health Interview Survey
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
- Financial Student Aid
- American Community Survey
- National Flood Insurance Program
Thank You!