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Date Experts and Users Nationwide Urge Congress to Restore Missing Federal Data

More than 230 national, state, and local organizations and 2,600 individuals representing data users from the private, public, non-profit, and scientific sectors nationwide called on Congress to order the restoration of taxpayer financed data removed from federal agency websites.

[In a letter to Congress](#), three organizations, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, American Statistical Association, and Population Association of America, organized the letter in response to recent incidents that began on January 27, 2025, in which public data began disappearing, without notice, from federal websites including the U.S. Census Bureau, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Scientific and Technical Information and many other agencies. While some federal data have since been restored, it is not clear why the data were removed in the first place or how these haphazard changes in data release are consistent with longstanding policies of the Office of Management and Budget that [govern](#) statistical releases.

“My organization understands the right of policymakers to legally pursue data collection activities that align with their priorities. However, removing existing federal data from secure, accessible portals and agency websites is unacceptable. These actions have undermined trust in the federal statistical system,” said Irma Elo, President, Population Association of America.

The thousands of organizations and individuals who signed the letter said, “We call on Congress to demand the complete restoration of any federal data that have been removed and to work with the Administration to prevent any future purge or removal of data from federal agency websites and portals.”

“Reliable, uninterrupted access to taxpayer-funded data is fundamental to open government, public trust, and evidence-based decision-making across all sectors of society. I urge immediate

action to prevent future disruptions and ensure all taxpayer-funded information remains readily accessible,” Ronald L. Wasserstein, Executive Director, American Statistical Association.

“Transparency is a basic principle of our federal statistical system, one which promotes trust between the data users and the agencies which collect the data,” said Paul Schroeder, Executive Director of COPAFS. “Removing these data, even temporarily, calls this into question. We are asking Congress to take swift action and fully restore any data or data assets which were previously accessible.”