

State of State Data Systems Study
*Critique of the 2009 Data Collection
Instrument*

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Objective

Produce a baseline report on state postsecondary student unit record (SUR) systems

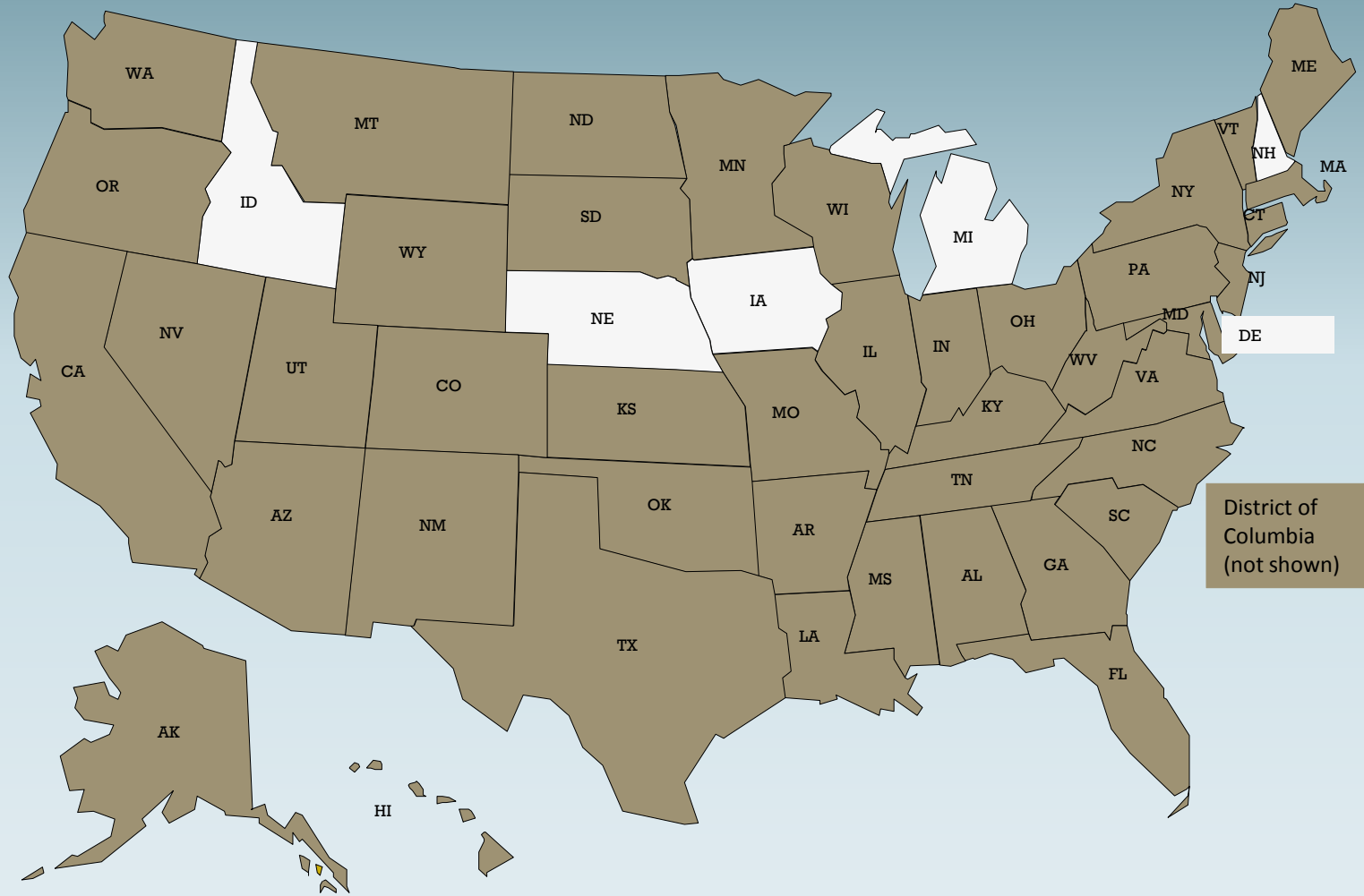
Scope

- State-level SUR systems containing postsecondary data
- Identified 92 such systems as of 2009 representing state boards of higher education, state boards of education, state financial aid agencies/entities, state budget agencies, and state labor/workforce agencies
- Invited 60 to participate based on SHEEO membership, percentage of undergraduate enrollments, institutional coverage, and other study considerations

Overview of Study

- Phase One: General Information
 - Online data collection instrument
 - 59 out of 60 responded: **98%** response rate
- Phase Two: Data Elements
 - Excel spreadsheets with two tables
 - 47 out of 59 responded: **80%** response rate

Study Included 45 States



Next Steps

- Conduct focus groups to finalize data collection instrument
- Conduct site visits to 5 or 6 states making good use of their SUR systems for decision-/policymaking

2009 Data Collection Instrument

- Section 1: Background Information
- Section 2: Data Collected, Data Elements, and Metadata
- Section 3: Using Student Unit Record Data
- Section 4: Linking Postsecondary Student Unit Record System Data to Other Systems
- Section 5: Mechanisms to Ensure Data Quality
- Section 6: Sustaining Student Unit Record Systems

IPEDS

- What role does your agency/entity play with regard to institutional IPEDS verification?
- What role does your agency/entity play with regard to institutional IPEDS reporting?
- Please select the IPEDS surveys your agency/entity verifies or reviews on behalf of the institutions in your state.

Discussion – Refining the Questions

With regard to IPEDS:

- What is expected of a coordinator?
- What is expected of a keyholder?
- What about those who don't fall into either of these roles, but assist institutions with IPEDS?
What is the scope of their involvement?
- How do you use IPEDS data?

Metadata

- What types of business procedures does your agency/entity currently maintain?
 - data element dictionary, data submission/reporting procedure, data certification forms
- What types of technical procedures does your agency/entity currently maintain?
 - data validation/data checking procedure, data audit procedure, statistical checks

Discussion – Refining the Questions

With regard to metadata:

- Do business/technical procedures capture the essence of metadata?
- What does a basic SUR system's metadata look like compared to that of a sophisticated system?
- What do you need to know about the metadata in place across agencies and entities?

Remediation

- Which of the following non-credit instructional activities are contained in your agency's SUR system?
 - a. pre-college courses (remedial, developmental)
 - b. continuing education courses
 - c. other, please specify:

Discussion – Refining the Questions

With regard to remedial/developmental education:

- What is the best way to describe these courses (e.g. non-credit instructional activity, pre-college, etc.)?
- How are these courses captured in SUR systems (e.g. as flags, detailed course info, etc.)?
- What do you need to know about the data used to collect information on these courses?
- How do you use these data?

Linkages

- Does your state have a P-20 data warehouse or another P-20 data infrastructure? Who contributes to, hosts, & manages the warehouse?
- With which other state agencies, states, and external organizations does your entity link, share, and/or exchange data?
- What primary ID #s and demographic data elements are used for matching?
- What are the legal mechanisms and barriers to linking, sharing, and exchanging?

Discussion – Refining the Questions

With regard to linking, sharing and exchanging SUR data:

- How would you categorize/characterize the types of linkages?
- What specific information would you like to know about linkages?

Any Questions Not Worth Asking?

Which questions do not provide much value to your agencies or entities and should be considered for deletion?

Any Questions Worth Adding?

Which questions not currently
in the instrument should be
considered?

Questions?

thank you very much!

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3. Why was your agency/entity's SUR system originally established?

- a. Legislative mandate
- b. Audit compliance
- c. Institutional resource allocation/funding formula
- d. Awarding financial aid
- e. IPEDS reporting
- f. Increasing student achievement
- g. Tracking student retention/graduation
- h. Tracking students across institutions
- i. Federal civil rights mandates
- j. Other federal mandates
- k. Other reason

5. What legal authority assigns your agency data collection and reporting responsibilities?

- a. n/a – data collection occurs on a voluntary basis
- b. State law creating coordinating or governing board
- c. State law creating data system
- d. State law requiring the collection of student unit record data
- e. Executive branch mandate
- f. Administrative regulations/rules issued to interpret state law(s)
- g. Coordinating or governing board policy interpreting state law(s)
- h. Coordinating or governing board policy interpreting executive branch mandate
- i. Memorandum of understanding
- j. Attorney general opinion/statement
- k. Other legal authority

14. What types of data are included in your SUR system?

- a. K-12 academic history (high school, admissions test scores)
- b. postsecondary academic history (placement test scores, transfer)
- c. demographic
- d. postsecondary enrollment
- e. course-level information
- f. finance (tuition, fees, fiscal management)
- g. financial aid
- h. completions
- i. non-credit instructional activity
- (remedial, developmental, continuing education)
- j. academic program inventory
- k. faculty/staff
- l. institutional characteristics
- m. facilities/capital projects
- n. Adult Basic Education (GED, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language)
- o. labor/workforce/Unemployment Insurance
- p. other type of data

17. When are the selected types of data collected?

- a. Census Date
- b. End of Term
- c. Annual
- d. Other collection period

19. Who has authority to change data elements and definitions?

- a. agency/entity staff
- b. group that includes appropriate institutional/campus personnel
- c. legislature
- d. other agency/entity

20. Which of the following sources does your agency use to define data elements?

- a. IPEDS
- b. U.S. Census
- c. SPEEDE/EXPRESS
- d. agency staff/workgroup
- e. other source

Other sources

- state law
- agency/staff workgroups
- IPEDS
- Common Data Set
- Common Core of Data
- U.S. Census
- SPEEDE/ ExPRESS
- AACRAO
- NASFAA
- NACUBO
- SREB
- College Board
- Educational Testing Service
- Achieving the Dream
- other source

Definition Sources for 12 Elements

- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- Citizenship
- State residency status
- Dependency status
- Census date
- High school attended
- Degree-seeking status
- Attendance Status-
Full-time/part-time
- Program/major
- Degree awarded
- Degree date

21. What is your internal primary key to build longitudinal records within your SUR system?

- a. Social Security Number
- b. K-12 student identifier
- c. statewide student identifier
- d. internally generated student identifier
- e. other

22. Does your agency have plans to discontinue use of SSN as an internal primary key?

28. For what purpose(s) does your agency currently use SUR data?

- a. decision-/policymaking
- b. generating reports and statistics (internal and external)
- c. consumer information for prospective students
- d. research
- e. cross-sector collaboration (k-12, labor, etc.)
- f. other purpose

30. What types of reports does your agency generate using SUR data?

- a. articulation
- b. completions
- c. course cost analysis
- d. course taking patterns
- e. distance education
- f. dual credit/dual enrollment
- g. economic impact/jobs
- h. enrollment (age, gender, ethnicity)
- i. facilities utilization
- j. financial aid
- k. high school feedback
- l. institutional finance
- m. institutional profile, public
- n. institutional profile, private
- o. mobility/migration
- p. non-credit instructional activity
- q. performance measures
- r. remediation
- s. retention
- t. student learning
- u. transfer
- v. tuition/fees/college costs
- w. other reports

33. For which audience(s) does your agency generate reports using SUR data?

- a. Governor's office
- b. Legislature
- c. Coordinating or governing board
- d. K-12 agency, districts, schools
- e. Other state agencies
- f. Federal agencies
- g. General public
- h. Other audience

44. Which primary ID number(s) are used to match your SUR data to other state unit record data systems?

- a. Social Security Number
- b. K-12 ID
- c. State ID
- d. Other ID

46. Which demographic data elements are collected to match your SUR data to other state unit record data?

- a. Name
- b. Date of birth
- c. Gender
- d. Race/ethnicity
- e. Address
- f. Other data element

55. Which of the following currently allow your agency to link to other unit record systems?

- a. n/a
- b. legislative mandate
- c. executive mandate
- d. attorney general opinion/statement
- e. memorandum of agreement/understanding
- f. administrative rule/regulation
- g. other

59. Which of the following barriers to linking apply to your agency?

- a. n/a
- b. Legislation
- c. attorney general opinion/statement
- d. Resources
- e. lack of common identifiers/crosswalks
- f. coordination with other state authorities/ administrators
- g. incompatible systems
- h. data quality concerns
- i. FERPA concerns
- j. lack of interest from other agencies
- k. other barrier

64. What office/division within or outside your agency is responsible for entering data in your agency's SUR system?

65. What office/division within or outside your agency is responsible for checking/verifying data in your agency's SUR system, including institutional data?

66. How does your agency inform the appropriate institutional personnel that they must reconcile data submission inconsistencies?

**67. Does your agency/entity
conduct on-site institutional data
verification?
–How often?**

**68. Does your agency/entity provide professional development training to institutional data personnel?
–How often?**

71. When was the last time your SUR system was significantly upgraded or modified?

a. Since 2000

b. Between 1990 and 1999

c. Prior to 1990

72. Did your agency/entity receive start up funds for this upgrade or modification?

73. Did your agency/entity receive recurring funds for this upgrade or modification?

Questions?

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