

Attitudes Towards the Use of Administrative Records

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Abstract

In reaction to declining response rates, increased operational costs, and increased demands for data, the Federal Statistical System (FSS) is carefully examining the possibility of increased reliance on administrative records to supplement current survey data collections. In addition to legal, policy, data quality, and other matters, the FSS wanted to learn more about the public's potential reaction, what concerns exist about administrative records usage, and how to best communicate such activities if this approach is expanded. An interagency team developed a series of questions that are asked at the end of an ongoing nightly telephone survey. The survey is being fielded from February 2012 to September 2013 and completes interviews with about 200 nationally representative respondents most nights. Respondents are asked a number of questions regarding their attitudes towards and knowledge about the FSS, as well as questions that gauge attitudes and knowledge of the potential use of administrative records data for statistical purposes. Building on past research in this area, through the nightly survey, we have examined various ways of measuring, and possibly informing, opinions towards the use of administrative records.

This paper explores overall attitudes towards administrative records use and compares whether mentioning different social benefits (such as saving money or time), using different data sources (such as government, commercial, or health records), and different federal agencies requesting use of the record may produce different results. In addition, we show how respondents of different demographic groups and of different mindsets may have different attitudes towards the use of administrative records depending on how the use is framed. We also show how this line of research can be used to help frame the public discussion of the use of administrative records for statistical purposes.

Key Words: Federal Statistical System, Administrative Records, Attitudes

1. Background¹

The Federal Statistical System (FSS) must find ways to reverse the decline in response rates for their ongoing surveys or face both increasing operational costs and declines in data quality. The Census Bureau is partnering with other Federal Statistical Agencies² to collect data to assess attitudes, beliefs, and concerns the public may have regarding its trust (or confidence) in federal statistics and in the collection of statistical information by the federal government from the public, as well attitudes toward and knowledge of the

¹ This report is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. Any views expressed on statistical, methodological, technical, or operational issues are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau or Westat.

² The member agencies of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) have expressed an interest in this effort. A subgroup of ICSP member agencies have been particularly helpful in developing this research. They include the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the National Center of Health Statistics, the Economic Research Service, Statistics of Income Division (IRS), and the Statistical and Science Policy Office, Office of Management and Budget. The ICSP agencies plan to use results from this data collection to inform public communication and for future planning of data collection. Each of these offices put forth working group members who have managed this project.

statistical uses of administrative records. Ultimately, this public opinion data will enable the FSS to better understand public perceptions, which will provide guidance for communicating with the public and for future planning of data collection that reflects a good understanding of public perceptions and concerns.

In a similar effort, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) working group developed a survey for measuring trust in official statistics that was cognitively tested in six of the member countries (Brackfield, 2011). The goal of that development was to produce a model survey questionnaire that could be made available internationally to be used comparably in different countries. Many national statistical offices are recognizing the critical role of public trust and robust communication to ensure high quality data, particularly in an era of constrained resources. This international effort recognized that rather than relying on anecdote or no evidence at all, having objective, quantifiable information about public attitudes is needed to inform decision-making.

Unfortunately, a 2010 National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) cognitive study revealed that these questions are inadequately understood by U.S. respondents (Willson, et al., 2010) and therefore would be unable to sufficiently measure the trust in the FSS in the United States. As such, the FSS Working Group sought to build upon the theoretical constructs and previous research on this subject (Felligi, 2004; OECD Working Group, 2011; Wilson, et al., 2011) in designing and administering a version of this poll that might adequately measure U.S. public opinion of the FSS. The FSS team focused on definitions of trust in statistical products and trust in statistical institutions that were derived from work by Ivan Fellegi (1996, 2004). The development and pretesting of this questionnaire has been documented elsewhere (Childs, et al., 2012).

The 2008 Census Barriers, Attitudes and Motivator's Survey (CBAMS II) was conducted to gain an in-depth understanding of the public's opinions about the 2010 Census (Conrey, ZuWallack, and Locke, 2011). Most related to this study, the study experimentally divided respondents into three groups in order to test their views of administrative records use as a means of (1) reducing Census (government) costs, (2) reducing respondent burden or (3) as simply an alternative option to a self-response (the control group). From this research, they found that the justification of cost reduction (when using a frame of a \$10 Billion dollar census) was more powerful in increasing public support of administrative records usage, though alleviating respondent burden was also a successful motivator (Conrey, ZuWallack, and Locke, 2011). Both arguments of reducing cost and of alleviating respondent burden increased public support of administrative records use. Additionally, the CBAMS II found that particular administrative records are less sensitive and people are more comfortable with the Census Bureau obtaining one's name, date of birth, gender and race from tax returns (50%), other government records such as unemployment or social security (45%), whereas a credit bureau (25%) or medical records (22%) were much less in favor. Further, most people (65%) would not be willing to allow the Census Bureau to use SSNs to obtain sex, age, date of birth and race information from other government agencies. Building upon this research and other research in this vein (Miller and Walejko, 2010; Singer, Bates and Van Hoewyk, 2011) the FSS working group sought to understand the relationships between knowledge, trust and opinions towards the use of administrative records so that public opinion can be bolstered through future communication campaigns.

In the same time frame, a study conducted by the ONS (2009) revealed that the UK general public is varied in their knowledge about government agencies and their current levels of data sharing. Over fifty percent of respondents were aware that no single government central data base currently exists, but that there are separate databases maintained by individual departments, though this varied by education, age and region. Overall the response received was supportive (approximately two thirds in favor) of data sharing and the creation of a single central population database of UK residents. By including similar questions about knowledge and evaluations of data sharing, the FSS may be able to take measures to increase awareness and/or alter current data sharing practices, which would enable the government to save costs and improve data quality.

2. Methods and Results

The goals of this paper are to:

- Explore overall attitudes towards administrative record use for statistical purposes.
- Compare opinions towards different social benefits of administrative record use.
- Compare opinions about different agencies requesting the statistical use of administrative records and the sources of those records.
- Determine which demographics or attitudes are related to a respondent's opinion of administrative record use.

Data for this paper were collected as part of Gallup's daily tracking survey, which is conducted with a nationally representative sample using landlines and cellphones. Each night Gallup asked approximately 200 respondents a series of questions that the FSS interagency group developed. The questions focused on the following subjects:³

- Knowledge of the FSS
- Attitudes towards the FSS
- Attitudes towards the potential statistical use of administrative records

We designed the questionnaire so that the questions about knowledge and attitudes of the FSS would remain static over time, but the questions about administrative records would be dynamic and change, or be "rotated," over time.⁴ Data are presented in two parts. The first part is called the "Original Rotation" and presents results of the original administrative record questions that we fielded. Following the "Original Rotation" questions designed to investigate specific topics were rotated into the survey for shorter periods of time. We call these the "Experimental Rotations."

Original Rotation

The original rotation was in the field for 25 weeks and had 23,511 responses. The response rate was 10.3 percent (AAPOR RR3, AAPOR, 2011).

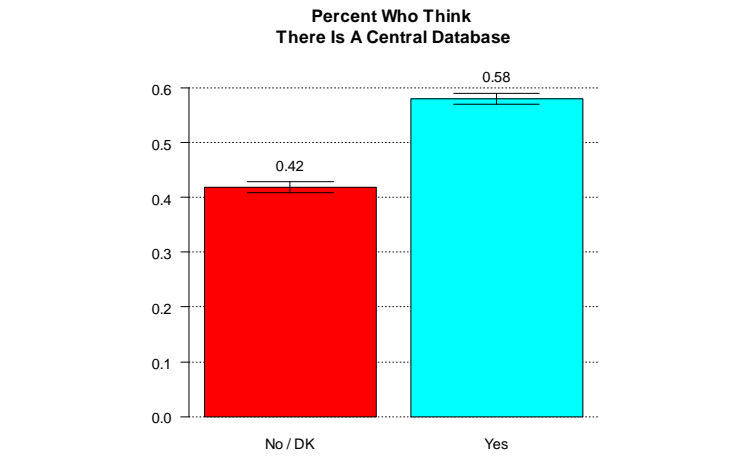
Respondents were asked, "Next, a question about the U.S. Government as a whole. Do you think federal government agencies share a single central database of the name,

³ Full questionnaire is available upon request.

⁴ By keeping certain questions static, we would build a wealth of data that could be used to detect changes in respondent's attitudes over time. If a change in attitudes was detected, questions could be rotated in to address these changes; otherwise, the rotated questions would be used to address specific administrative record questions. This paper focuses on specific administrative records questions.

address, and date of birth of U.S. residents, or not?” Figure 1 below shows the distribution of results.

Figure 1. Percent of Respondents Who Report Thinking the Federal Government Shares a Central Database of the Name, Address, and Date of Birth of U.S. Citizens



Source: FSS Analysis Files⁵

Interestingly, more than half of our respondents report that they believe (erroneously) the U.S. Government shares a single central database. We saw that those with higher knowledge of the FSS and persons who say they are data users of federal statistics were less likely to report this view.

In the original rotation, we also asked general questions about how respondents felt about the FSS using administrative sources to produce statistics that have been typically collected through the use of surveys. We asked respondents the following five questions:

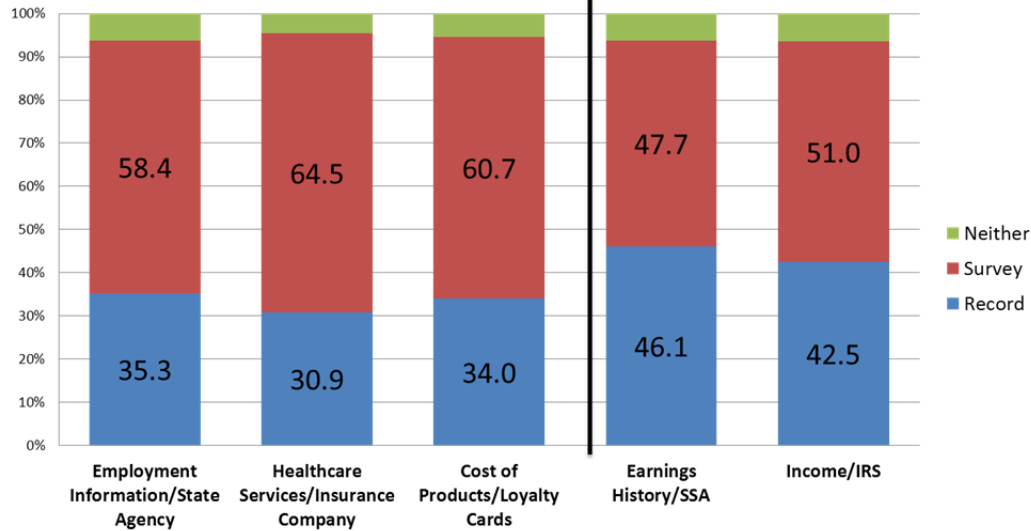
In order to produce statistics, federal agencies can ask people for information in a survey or get it from another source. If you knew your name and other information would never be singled out and would only be used for statistics, would you prefer that federal statistical agencies:

1. *Ask you for your employment information in a survey -- or ask a state agency, like the employment or workforce office for it?*
2. *Ask you for information on your use of healthcare services in a survey -- or ask your insurance company for it?*
3. *Ask you about the cost of products you buy in a survey -- or use commercial records, like grocery store loyalty cards?*
4. *Ask you for your earnings history information from you in a survey -- or ask the Social Security Administration for it?*
5. *Ask you for your income information in a survey -- or ask the IRS for it?*

⁵ Note: All standard errors were calculated using the Jackknife method with two strata and four PSU's.

The first three questions inquire about using a state or local government record or a third party record to obtain information, while the last two questions ask about getting information from a source that is part of the federal government.

Figure 2. Percent of Respondents Who Report a Preference for Federal Agencies to Get Their Information from a Survey or an Administrative Record by Type of Information



Source: FSS Analysis Files

Figure 2 shows that most respondents reported that they prefer providing their information in a survey, ranging from 47.7 percent (Earnings History/SSA) to 64.5 percent (Healthcare Services/Insurance Company). However, when a federal government agency is the source of the administrative record to be used instead of a survey, the two columns to the right of the black vertical line in Figure 2, we see that respondents report a preference for using the administrative source slightly more often than non-federal government sources.

When a respondent did not report a preference for using the administrative record (either the red or green shaded area from the chart above), there was no follow-up question to ask why. We implemented an experimental series of questions after this original rotation to further investigate the source and type of information to be obtained, as well as to further investigate why a respondent may or may not prefer the use of an administrative record.

Experimental Rotations

There were three experimental rotations. Table 1 below details the three different rotations, including the requesting agency, the type of information of interest, and the source of the administrative data. Also included in the table are the number of weeks each rotation was in the field, the number of responses, and the response rate for each rotation.

Table 1. Details About the Questions Included in the Experimental Rotations

	Rotation 1	Rotation 2	Rotation 3
Requesting Agency	Census Bureau	National Center for Health Statistics	Bureau of Labor Statistics
Data	Name and Age	Medical Information	Purchase Information
Record Source	Social Security Administration	Health Care Provider	Customer Loyalty Card
Weeks in the Field	6	4	4
N	8,725	5,557	5,537
AAPOR RR3	10.1%	9.3%	9.4%

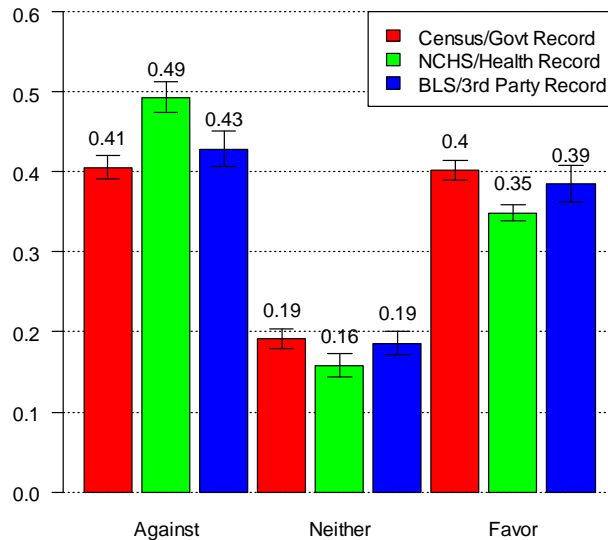
We asked respondents about the use of the administrative source through a series of questions. We initially asked the respondent about using the administrative source to collect the data without providing a benefit (or frame). This is called the “Cold Ask” question. Here is an example of the “Cold Ask” question that was asked in the Census Bureau rotation⁶:

For the next census in 2020, the Census Bureau could obtain your name and age directly from the Social Security Administration, instead of asking you for this information on a questionnaire. If you knew that this information was being obtained from the Social Security Administration only to produce statistics, and that your personal information would remain unavailable to the public, would you be strongly in favor of it, somewhat in favor of it, neither in favor nor against it, somewhat against it, or strongly against it?

Figure 3 below shows the results of the “Cold Ask” question for each of the rotations.

⁶ Questions from other rotations are available upon request.

Figure 3. Percent of Respondents Who Report Being Against or Favor of the use of the Administrative Source for Statistical Purposes by Federal Agency and Type of Record



Source: FSS Analysis Files

We see that respondents in the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) rotations are slightly more likely to report being in favor of the use of the administrative record (about 40% and 39%, respectively) compared to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) rotation (35%). A potential reason for this is that the NCHS question was asking about the use of medical records, which is something a respondent may want to keep private.

To understand the characteristics and opinions of respondents who report favoring the use of administrative records we ran a separate logistic model (our dependent variable was collapsed among those who strongly favor and those who somewhat favor) for each rotation (i.e. Federal Agency) using the following as independent variables in the model:

The following two variables represent a respondent's reported knowledge and use of the FSS products. We expect that persons who are more knowledgeable or who are data users may be more likely to favor the use of administrative records.

- Knowledge of the FSS – The first four questions in the FSS survey ask respondents whether they know who measures the total number of people in the U.S., who measures the number of deaths in the U.S. caused by different diseases, who measures the crime rate in the U.S., and who measures the U.S. Consumer Price Index, or CPI. If a respondent reported the correct agency, department, or the federal government they were given credit as being knowledgeable.
 - None - respondent knew who produced none of the four statistics mentioned above.
 - Low - respondent knew who produced one statistic.
 - Medium - respondent knew who produced two statistics.
 - High - respondent knew who produced three or four statistics.

- Data user – Has a respondent ever used statistics produced by federal statistical agencies for study or work. – Yes/No

The following five variables are a respondent's reported attitude towards the FSS or institutions (newspapers and universities). We expect that the more positive a respondent's attitude, the more likely they are to report favoring the use of administrative records.

- Trust in Federal Statistics –Does a respondent tend to trust or tend not to trust federal statistics. – Tend to Trust/Tend Not To Trust
- Policy makers need federal statistics to make good decisions about things like federal funding (Policy makers). – Agree/Other
- People can trust federal statistical agencies to keep information about them confidential (Confidential). – Agree/Other
- People can easily find out exactly how federal statistics are produced (Transparency). – Agree/Other.
- Confidence in Newspapers and Universities (Institutions) – There are two questions that ask separately about how much confidence a respondent has in Newspapers and Universities on a four point scale (Very little, Some, Quite a lot, and A great deal). These values were ranked from one to four, respectively (don't know or refused responses were treated as missing or zero), and a summary score was created that ranged from one to eight. Based on the summary score a respondent is identified as having less confidence, some confidence, or more confidence.
 - Less confidence – Summary scores of one to three.
 - Some confidence – Summary scores of four to five.
 - More confidence – Summary scores of six to eight.

The following demographic variables are included as controls.⁷

- Race/Ethnicity – White, Black, Hispanic, Other (includes Asian, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and multiple races reported)
- Gender – Male/Female
- Household Monthly Income – Low (Less than \$2000/month), Medium (Between \$2000 and \$7499/month), High (Greater than or equal to \$7500/month), Don't know/Refuse

Table 2 below shows the results of the logistic regression and Table 3 shows the results of several contrasts that we computed for the logistic regression. A positive parameter estimate indicates that person with that characteristic is more likely to report favoring the use of administrative records; while a negative parameter estimate indicates that a person with that characteristic is less likely to favor the use of administrative records. Again results are reported separately for each Federal Agency because questions about each were fielded at different times.

⁷ Age was in the original model, but removed due to concerns of oversaturation and multicollinearity.

Table 2. Results of Logistic Regression to Identify Respondents Who Report Favoring the Use of Administrative Records by Federal Agency

Variable	Census Bureau		NCHS		BLS	
	Parameter Estimate (SE)		Parameter Estimate (SE)		Parameter Estimate (SE)	
Intercept	-0.72 (0.12)	***	-1.16 (0.27)	***	-1.34 (0.25)	***
Knowledge – Low	0.06 (0.07)		-0.09 (0.11)		0.23 (0.13)	*
Knowledge – Medium	0.08 (0.09)		0.10 (0.11)		0.11 (0.13)	
Knowledge – High	0.04 (0.08)		0.15 (0.17)		0.32 (0.18)	*
Data User – Yes	-0.03 (0.03)		0.25 (0.05)	***	0.11 (0.09)	
Tend To Trust	0.60 (0.09)	***	0.53 (0.12)	***	0.55 (0.10)	***
Policy makers – Agree	0.14 (0.09)	***	0.42 (0.13)	***	0.26 (0.15)	*
Confidential – Agree	0.36 (0.08)	***	0.43 (0.04)	***	0.50 (0.07)	***
Transparency – Agree	0.16 (0.06)	***	-0.07 (0.09)		0.21 (0.04)	***
Confidence in Newspapers and Universities – Less Confidence	-0.69 (0.13)	***	-0.59 (0.18)	***	-0.68 (0.09)	***
Confidence in Newspapers and Universities – Some Confidence	-0.32 (0.07)	***	-0.28 (0.05)	***	-0.17 (0.12)	
Race/Ethnicity - Black	-0.03 (0.09)		-0.29 (0.15)	*	0.35 (0.26)	
Race/Ethnicity - Hispanic	-0.08 (0.11)		-0.09 (0.23)		0.48 (0.12)	***
Race/Ethnicity - Other	-0.08 (0.15)		-0.21 (0.15)		-0.08 (0.07)	
Female	-0.13 (0.05)	**	0.13 (0.05)	**	-0.12 (0.08)	
Low Income	-0.01 (0.08)		-0.02 (0.09)		0.01 (0.15)	
Medium Income	-0.07 (0.10)		-0.15 (0.11)		0.01 (0.13)	
DK/REF Income	-0.35 (0.09)	***	-0.54 (0.12)	***	-0.35 (0.14)	**

Source: FSS Analysis Files, *** p<=0.01, ** p<=0.05, * p<=0.10

Table 3. Contrast Results by Federal Agency

Contrast	Census Bureau	NCHS	BLS
High Knowledge compare to Low Knowledge		**	
Medium Knowledge compared to Low Knowledge		*	
Medium Knowledge compared to High Knowledge			
Some Confidence compared to Less Confidence	***	*	***
Black compared to Hispanic			
Black compared to Other			*
Hispanic compared to Other			***
Low Income compared to Medium Income		*	
DK/REF Income compared to Low Income	***	***	***
DK/REF Income compared to Medium Income	***	***	***

Source: FSS Analysis Files; *** $p \leq 0.01$, ** $p \leq 0.05$, * $p \leq 0.10$

Tables 2 and 3 show that for all rotations, respondents who tend to trust statistics produced by the FSS and those who believe the FSS will keep their information confidential are more likely to favor the use of administrative records. For the Census Bureau and BLS rotations, those who believe they can easily find out how statistics are produced were also more likely to favor the use of administrative records. For the NCHS/medical record rotation, those who believe policy makers need good statistics and those who are data users were more likely to favor the use of records.

The only purely demographic finding was in the BLS rotation, where Hispanics were more likely than persons who are white or some other race to favor the use of administrative records ($p < 0.01$), but there was no significant difference between Hispanic and black respondents.

Tables 2 and 3 show that in all rotations those who have less confidence in newspapers and universities – which can be seen as persons who are already skeptical of institutions in general – were less likely to favor the use of administrative records. In addition, those who Don't Know or Refuse their income were less likely to favor the use of administrative records research, supporting past research which has shown that is an indicator of persons who want their privacy (Fulton, 2012).

Thus, it appears that a respondents' attitudes generally have more influence on their attitudes towards administrative records use than their demographic characteristics do.

Following the “Cold Ask” question, we reworded the question to include “reasons why some people like the idea of getting data from other sources.”⁸ These reasons included:

- Saving the Government Money
- Saving Respondent Time
- Improving Accuracy
- For the Social Good

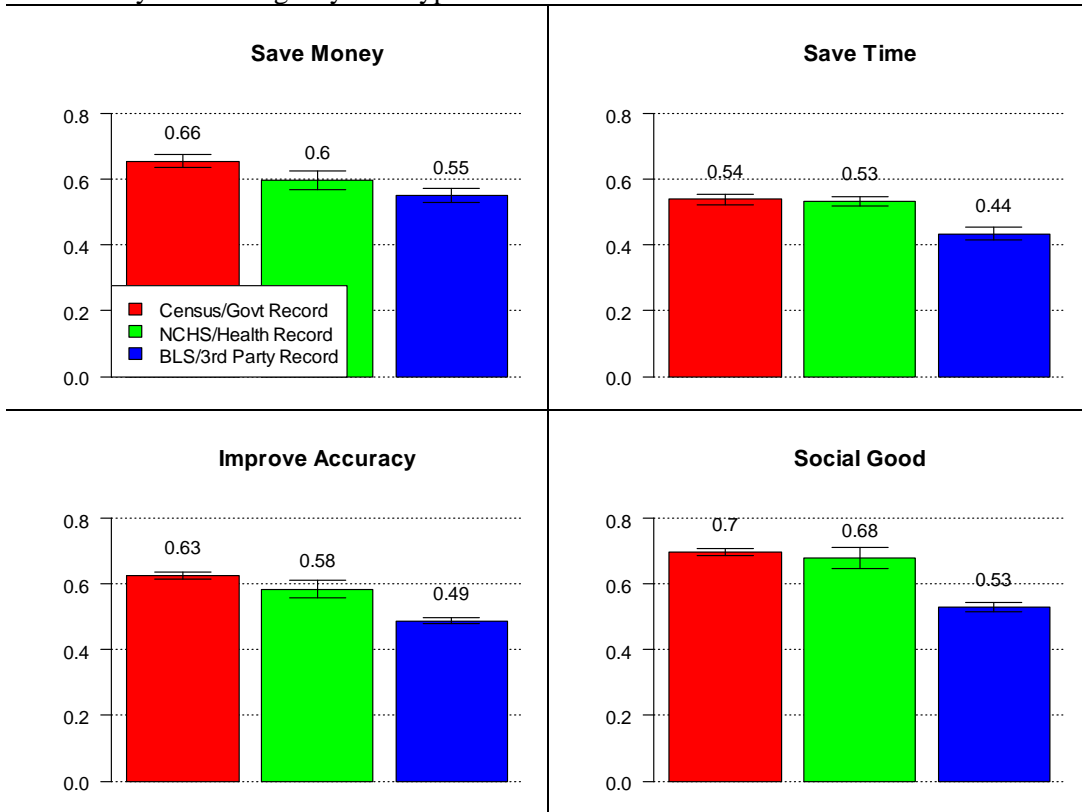
As an example of one of the “reason” questions, here is the question that was asked of respondents in the Census Bureau rotation about saving the government money:

⁸ Respondents who indicated that they were strongly in favor of the use of the administrative record were not asked these follow-up questions, as it was assumed they did not need any further information about the benefits of the use of the record.

- The 2010 Census cost over \$10 billion dollars. Getting your name and age directly from the Social Security Administration could reduce the cost for the 2020 Census and save government money. **(Interviewer: READ IF NECESSARY:)** Would this make you strongly in favor of Census obtaining your name and age from the Social Security Administration, somewhat in favor of it, neither in favor nor against it, somewhat against it, or strongly against it?)

Figure 4 below shows the percent of respondents who favor the use of administrative records by each of the above reasons and by each of the federal agencies (experimental rotations).

Figure 4. Percent of Respondents Who Favor the Use of Administrative Records by Reason by Federal Agency and Type of Record



Source: FSS Analysis Files

Recall that Figure 3 above had shown that from the “Cold Ask” question, between 35 and 40 percent of respondents reported being in favor of administrative record use. Figure 4 shows that all reasons for using administrative records produce an increase in the percentage of respondents who favor their use, when comparing back to the “Cold Ask” question, with the Census Bureau and NCHS generally showing more favorable results than the BLS.

We produced logistic models for each question and agency and saw similar results that were seen in the “Cold Ask” models. Results of the models can be made available upon request.

Why In Favor or Not In Favor

Based on the respondent's answer to the previous five questions⁹, the questionnaire instrument calculated whether a respondent was generally in favor, not in favor, or seemed to be neither in favor nor against the use of administrative records.¹⁰

Respondents were asked why they were in favor or not in favor. This was an open-ended response subsequently coded into a specific category by the interviewer. For persons who were generally in favor, the codes generally reflected one of the benefits from the previous reasons provided to the respondent. For persons who were generally not in favor, the codes focused on privacy, the record not being accurate, or a lack of trust in the government. Table 4 below shows the results for those who are generally in favor of administrative record use.

Table 4. Percent of Reasons Given by the Respondent for Being In Favor of Administrative Record Use by Federal Agency

	Census Bureau	NCHS	BLS
Reason	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)
Better Information/Accuracy/Quality	17.9 (0.7)	19.4 (1.2)	21.3 (0.6)
Helpful/Research/Good for Society	6.7 (0.5)	29.4 (0.8)	20.6 (1.2)
Easier/Convenience/Faster/Save Time	18.9 (0.4)	8.1 (0.5)	10.0 (0.9)
Save Money/Cost/Cheaper	22.7 (0.4)	8.1 (1.0)	11.9 (0.8)
Some Other Reason ¹¹	33.7 (1.1)	35.1 (1.2)	36.2 (1.2)
Total	100.1	100.1	100.0

Source: FSS Analysis Files¹²

Note: May not sum to 100, due to rounding error.

For all three agencies, about a third of respondents provided some other reason that was not coded into one of the substantive categories.¹³ Also in all three rotations, about a fifth of the time respondents mentioned better information, accuracy or quality. Lastly, respondents in the Census Bureau rotation mentioned saving money as an important reason, while the other two rotations more often mentioned a reason that was good for the society.

Table 5 below shows the results for those who were generally not in favor of administrative record use.

⁹ The "Cold Ask" question and the four framed benefits.

¹⁰ If a respondent gave favorable responses to the use of administrative records for three or more of the previous questions¹⁰, then they were coded as "in favor." Likewise, if a respondent indicated that they were against the use of administrative records for three or more of the previous questions, then they were coded as "not in favor." Otherwise, they were coded as "neither." Which will not be discussed further.

¹¹ Includes Other, No Reason, Don't Know and Refuse Options

¹² Note: Standard errors were calculated using the Jackknife method with two strata and four PSU's.

¹³ Includes Other, No Reason, Don't Know and Refuse. It is possible that some of "Other" responses could have been considered in line with one of the defined reasons, but since they were coded during the interview, they may have been overlooked.

Table 5. Percent of Reasons Given By Respondents for Not Being In Favor of Administrative Record Use by Federal Agency

	Census Bureau	NCHS	BLS
Reason	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)
Privacy/None of their Business/Confidential	39.2 (1.9)	56.3 (1.2)	53.0 (1.5)
Records Not Accurate	7.6 (1.2)	1.5 (0.5)	3.4 (0.5)
Don't trust the Gov't/Gov't is Wasteful/Gov't is too big/too involved	20.1 (1.3)	20.4 (1.6)	20.1 (1.5)
Some Other Reason ¹⁴	33.2 (1.4)	21.8 (1.6)	23.4 (1.3)
Total	100.1	100.0	99.9

Source: FSS Analysis Files¹⁵

Note: May not sum to 100, due to rounding error.

Respondents in all rotations indicated that they were against the use of administrative records because they were worried about their privacy and keeping their information confidential. Respondents in the NCHS and BLS rotations appeared to show more concern with keeping their privacy, while respondents in the Census Bureau rotation showed more concern with accuracy and some other reason. For all three rotations respondents reported that they were concerned with trusting the government about a fifth of the time.

3. Limitations

Data from this survey are intended to be used to gain insights into people's attitudes about the FSS and the potential use of administrative records. We consider the quantitative estimates informative in a relative sense, not as statistically precise estimates of a target population.

In addition, the response rates for each data set analyzed here are between 9.3 and 10.3 percent (AAPOR RR3). A non-response study found that these data appear to underrepresent full-time workers, and while there were some marginal differences, they do not appear to have a large impact on insights gained (Gallup, 2013).

¹⁴ Includes Other, No Reason, Don't Know and Refuse Options. It is possible that some of "Other" responses could have been considered in line with one of the defined reasons, but since they were coded during the interview, they may have been overlooked

¹⁵ Note: Standard errors were calculated using the Jackknife method with two strata and four PSU's.

4. Conclusion/Discussion

In conclusion, respondents who reported that they favor the use of administrative records to produce statistical estimates are those who generally show positive attitudes towards the FSS, while those who reported they do not favor the use of administrative records tend to have less confidence in institutions in general or want to keep their privacy. When a benefit of the use of administrative records is presented to the respondent, we see that no matter the type of agency or type of record being requested, there is an increase in the percentage of respondents who report they would favor the use of administrative records for statistical purposes. Our data have shown that the benefits of saving the government money and for the social good performed marginally better than the benefit of improved accuracy and saving time. This may be because the former two are more tangible to the average person than the latter two.

Future research involves experimenting more with the Census Bureau rotation. Using a framework of gathering a Social Security Administration record to retrieve a person's name and age, we plan on varying the source of the information and the type of information to be used. The source of information will be varied and will come from either government agencies, state-level government agencies, or commercially available sources. The type of information to be obtained includes generic information, income information, name and age, and a person's contact information.

We also plan to further explore the saving money and social good frames. In the original Census Bureau rotation for saving money, we mentioned that the 2010 Census cost over \$10 Billion and the use of administrative records could reduce the cost of the 2020 Census and save the government money. Using a split sample, we will experiment with a frame that states that the 2010 Census cost about \$100 per household and that the use of administrative records could reduce that cost. In the original Census Bureau rotation for social good, we focused on the local good that use of the administrative records allows communities to better know where to build new schools, roads and firehouses. Using a split panel, we plan to present a national good that allowing the use of administrative records would help the Census Bureau to distribute the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Results from these variations are forthcoming.

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