

THE STAKES ARE HIGH.

Federal cuts to data and statistical agencies are part of a war on facts that could lead to more under-resourced communities and privacy violations.

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Data is a crucial tool for creating good policies and funding our communities.

Like roads and bridges, schools, and child care facilities, federal statistics are part of our essential infrastructure on which families, workers and businesses rely.

Data also helps us to identify disparities that exist and guide us on how to address them. From health and housing data to economic and education data, our ability to disaggregate by race, ethnicity, geography, age, gender, and disability informs policy and contributes to fairer resource allocation.

Threats to census data

The census directs billions of dollars to federal programs right here in Michigan.¹ But census data is under threat.

The administration terminated the three advisory committees guiding the Census Bureau, including one convened to advise the Census on how to reach racial, ethnic and other populations that have been historically undercounted.²

In the lead-up to the 2030 Census, the administration is seeking to reduce the number of test sites and replace census workers with U.S. Postal Service staff.³

Despite a prior court decision finding that a question about citizenship on the 2020 Census would be unconstitutional, the administration is again attempting to add a citizenship question to the 2030 Census, a move intended to suppress immigrant participation.⁴

Why census data matters.

Accurate census data is important for the well-being of our communities. Undercounts of certain populations – including young children, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with low incomes – leave communities without their fair share of resources.

Michigan received \$62 billion in **census-guided federal spending** in 2023.

Federal assistance programs rely on data from the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey to determine how to direct funding.

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In Michigan, over 80% of this funding went to **health spending** on programs like Medicaid and Medicare, nutritional support, community health centers, and more.

Accurate census data is necessary for determining federal education spending for Title I grants, special education, school meals, and career and technical education, among other programs.

Federal spending on education by congressional district, 2022



Source: [National Education Association](#)

Additional data threats

Reductions in force — and stagnant or declining budgets — have left federal statistical agencies without sufficient staff capacity to fulfill their critical work.

Significant declines in staff and budget for federal agencies since January 2025

Agency	Estimated change from FY 24-FY 25	
	Staff capacity	Budget
Bureau of Labor Statistics	-20%	-1.6%
U.S. Census Bureau	-15%	-2.4%
National Center for Education Statistics	-95%	-2.4%
National Center for Health Statistics	-10%	-2.4%

Source: [American Statistical Association](#)

EDUCATION: The National Center for Education Statistics, the agency responsible for administering the Nation's Report Card, saw the greatest loss when **99 out of 102 staff members were terminated** in March 2025.⁵

HEALTH: The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a vital source of information on maternal and infant health, but remains under threat since **the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shut down the data collection system and eliminated the entire team responsible for the survey.**⁶ PRAMS has long served as an important source of data for understanding the racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes.

Disappearing data and data delays reduce the ability of policymakers and researchers to identify trends in a timely way and respond effectively.

ECONOMY: The State Job Openings and Labor Turnover news release, a key source of up-to-date information about the labor market, **will no longer be published on a monthly basis**, making economic data on the labor market less timely.⁷

FOOD SECURITY: Following the largest cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in history, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is **eliminating the annual Household Food Security Report.**⁸ This will hinder policymakers from identifying and addressing community needs. The final report released in December 2025 showed food insecurity is on the rise with 14.7% of households in Michigan experiencing food insecurity in 2024.⁹

Non-statistical data use **puts individual privacy at risk and decreases trust in data**, diminishing the quality of our public data and creating a tension for researchers who are using it for research purposes.

TAX & INCOME: The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has sought to access to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data in its quest to eliminate "waste, fraud, and abuse," **putting highly sensitive taxpayer data at risk.**¹⁰

IMMIGRATION: Efforts by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to **access Medicaid data for immigration enforcement** could make immigrant families more reluctant to access care.¹¹ Michigan is one of 22 states challenging this policy.¹²



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