

Missouri
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History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
The first academic year we started collecting unit-record data was 1987-1988.
2. By whom?
The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education.
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
For a variety of purposes, including the above.

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in your SUR system?
All Missouri public two- and four-year institutions.
2. Are any independent institutions included (number or percentage)? What about proprietary institutions? Are different kinds of data or different schedules for data collection used for any of these institutions?
No.
3. Are there plans to expand the system's coverage in terms of institutions? Please explain.
There are discussions but no action plans.
4. When are data of which type collected (e.g. term/quarter/semester census date, annual, end of term, etc.)? Other reporting cycles?
Data are collected annually from institutions during the period from September to November.
5. Are there plans to collect data more frequently or on a different cycle?
No.
6. Is non-credit enrollment or instructional activity covered (e.g. ABE, ESL, GED, other job-related continuing education activity, etc.)? If so, is this in a separate database and what data elements are captured?
No.

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?
The Board in consultations with the State Data Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives from selected institutions.

2. Are SSNs used as a key link? If they are not, what is used instead? Are there immediate or long-range plans to discontinue use of the SSN as a key link?

Yes the SSN is used as the key link – there are no plans to discontinue.

3. Can campuses access datasets (unit records) themselves -- access in what terms (results, unit record data after it has been cleaned, unit-record data value added). If yes, who has access and how is this managed?

For cross-institutional data, they do not have direct access.

4. How do you handle privacy and FERPA issues? Do you have an explicit privacy policy and/or policies governing the use of SUR data by third parties such as institutions and researchers?

Only aggregate data are distributed.

We use a non-disclosure statement and an agreement regarding the use of the data when a third party, including our institutions, want access to the data base. Attached is a typical agreement we have with the Missouri Department of Elementary Secondary Education. This agreement applies to some research we are doing related to students graduating from high school eligible for an A+ scholarship (student meet certain requirements while in high school receive a scholarship to attend a Missouri two-year community college or area vocational technical school). Also attached is a copy of the statement used with the University of Missouri-Columbia faculty working with us who have to get approval from their IRB board to do research related to human subjects. I will need to locate a non-disclosure statement and send it to you separately.

5. Have any FERPA or privacy issues come up recently in your state? If so, how have they affected your ability to use student record information?

No.

6. Do you link SUR data within your state to other databases?

We have pilot tested linking our higher education unit record system to the elementary/secondary education unit record system for the purpose of assigning elementary/secondary MOSIS Student Identifiers to our higher education records for Missouri high school graduates. It went well and we will continue doing this.

7. Have you cooperated with other state higher education agencies to share data? If so, please explain.

Not student-level data involving SSNs. FERPA does not allow that.

Reporting and Use of Data

1. What kinds of statistics and reports are generated regularly using SUR data?
Quite a few. Two major ones are the Missouri Higher Education Progress Report and the Missouri High School Graduates' College Performance Report.
2. If graduation and retention statistics are generated for institutions (or for the state or system as a whole), how are they calculated (e.g. IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey method, other methods)?
Three-year for community colleges and six-year for four-year institutions.

We use both the IPEDS Graduation Rate method to assist the schools in completing the IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey plus we calculate graduation rates of native students graduating from their home institution and from any public institution in the state. The numerator is the number that graduated; the denominator is the cohort of first-time, full-time, degree seeking freshmen. For retention, the numerator is the number that completed the first semester, the second semester, or returned the following fall. The denominator is the cohort of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen.

3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?
Performance-based funding; institutional mission review; ad hoc research.
4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?
Having sufficient personnel and financial resources is the biggest challenge and obstacle. There is more we can and could do if we had the resources. Currently, we limp along, knowing what is possible and could do, but simply can't at this point.

Overview

1. Have there been any significant developments in regards to your SUR since 2002?
The biggest and only new development has been to develop a linkage with elementary/secondary education data to begin building a K-20 data base and warehouse.
2. Is there anything that you would like to add that we have not addressed?
Part of the reason we are moving to begin using the elementary/secondary education student identifier for Missouri high school graduates is the emerging resistance on some campuses to use the SSN as their campus student identifier.