

# HUD's Experience Supporting and Enhancing Its Data Infrastructure and Use

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## Presentation Outline:

- Learning Agenda
- Tenant Data Warehouses
- Data License Agreement
  - Sponsorship at Research Data Centers
- Research Partnership
- Data Linking



# Learning Agenda



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# HUD's Learning Agenda: Research Roadmap

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- A multi-year learning agenda or “evidence-building plan”
- Set of research questions addressing critical knowledge gaps in support of evidence-based policy
  - Set of projects to answer research questions
- Developed with stakeholder input
- A strategic view supporting shorter-term planning
- Basis for annual research plans shared with Congress for our budget request



# HUD's Learning Agenda: Topical Categories

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1. Community Development and Place-based Initiatives
2. Core Housing Programs
3. Disaster Response and Preparedness
4. Fair Housing and Discrimination
5. Housing Finance and Affordable Housing Supply
6. Housing and Health
7. Indian and Rural Issues
8. Self-sufficiency and Economic Opportunity
9. Single Family Homeownership
10. Vulnerable and Special Populations
11. Enhanced Data and Methods



# Quick Note: Evaluation Functions – Where/Who?

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## Where?

- Policy Development and Research (PD&R)
  - Office of Research, Evaluation and Monitoring
  - Office of Economic Affairs
  - Office of Policy Development
  - Office of Innovation

## Who?

- Social Science Analysts/Economists/Statisticians (PhD/MA/MS)
- Primary project manager with ownership of the evaluation requirements



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# Tenant Data Warehouses



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# HUD's Tenant Data Warehouses

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HUD's tenant data are stored and maintained in two data warehouses.

- Inventory Management System/PIH Information Center (IMS/PIC)
- Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System (TRACS)

These systems of record serve as the authoritative sources from which HUD develops data marts to support a large share of its evidence-building on housing assistance programs.



# HUD's Tenant Data Warehouses

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HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) develops data marts to support internal and external evidence-building.

## Data Content for:

- 9.5 million individuals in 4.5 million households  
(Approximately 3.5 million children across all households)
- Households:
  - 41 percent non-elderly non-disabled
  - 37 percent elderly
  - 22 percent non-elderly disabled



# Quick Note: HUD's Rent Subsidy Programs

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- Monthly subsidy to make housing rental more affordable to extremely low-income renters
  - Subsidy covers the difference between reasonable rent and 30 percent of household's adjusted income
- Two categories of rent subsidy programs
  - Project based housing
  - Tenant based housing



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# Data License Agreement



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# Data License Agreement

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PD&R has the authority to enter into a Data License Agreement with research organizations:

- important policy-relevant research questions can only be answered by using personally identifiable information in the possession of HUD
- the research organization can offer adequate safeguards for the confidentiality of the data
- the research organization does not need funding or other resources from HUD to carry out the research project
- the research organization will destroy all personally identifiable information received from HUD at the expiration of the license



# Data License Agreement

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PD&R priorities for entering into a Data License Agreement with qualified researchers will fall into one of the following areas:

- Homeownership and housing finance
- Affordable rental housing
- Housing as a platform for improving quality of life
- Sustainable and inclusive communities
- HUD Assets



# Sponsorship at Research Data Centers

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In Spring 2017, HUD moved two of its randomized evaluation datasets to the Census allowing access to researchers within a Research Data Center (RDC). These were the first experimental study data in the Census Bureau Data Linkage Infrastructure.

- Moving to Opportunity (MTO)
- Family Options Study

In addition to piloting the use of this infrastructure to access HUD's randomized evaluation datasets, HUD wanted to promote further evidence-building efforts requiring additional data linking.



# Research Partnership



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# Research Partnership

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PD&R has the authority to accept unsolicited research proposals that address current research priorities.

## Requirements:

- Eligible applicants
- Provide cost sharing for at least 50 percent of total project cost from philanthropic entities or Federal, state or local government agencies

\* The Department is interested in increasing participation of MSIs and HBCUs and encourages applicants that are not themselves MSIs or HBCUs to partner with these organizations.



# Research Partnership

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PD&R priorities for cooperative agreements on Research Partnerships fall into one of the following areas:

- Promote Economic Opportunity
- Enhance Rental Assistance
- Reduce the Average Length of Homelessness
- Support Sustainable Homeownership and Financial Viability
- Remove Lead Hazards from Homes
- Provide Effective Disaster Recovery
- Opportunity Zones
- Reduce Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing



# Data Linking



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# Data Linking

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Data linking with HUD's administrative data provides a key opportunity for evidence-building. Linked data is integral to our evaluation, research and other evidence-building efforts.

- HUD's learning agenda specifies policy-relevant analysis requiring linked data
- Nearly all (if not all) our evaluations and demonstrations require linked data with local, state, and/or federal government
- Monitoring HUD's mission performance draws on linked data
- Inter-agency evaluation and research partnerships rely on linked data to investigate segments of the population we share an interest in serving



# Data Linking with Federal Partners

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- National Directory of New Hires
- Center for Medicare and Medicaid
- National Health Interview Survey
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
- Financial Student Aid
- American Community Survey
- National Flood Insurance Program



# A Health Picture of HUD-Assisted Adults, 2006–2012

HUD Administrative Data Linked With the National Health Interview Survey



## A Health Picture of HUD-Assisted Children, 2006–2012

HUD Administrative Data Linked With the National Health Interview Survey



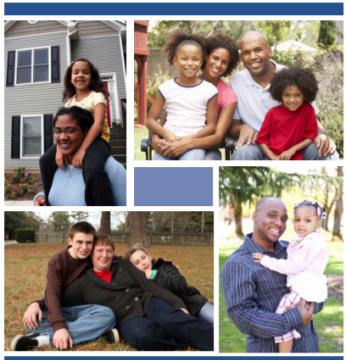
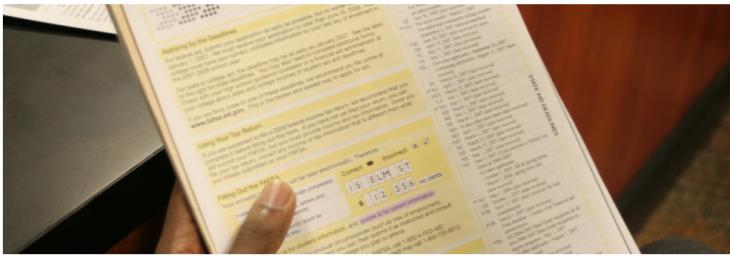
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## Increasing FAFSA Completion by HUD-Assisted Youth

Sending letters to HUD-assisted youth had no significant effect on FAFSA completion rates.



### Family Options Study

3-Year Impacts of Housing and Services Interventions for Homeless Families

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## The Rent Reform Demonstration: Interim Findings on Implementation, Work, and Other Outcomes



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development | Office of Policy Development and Research

## HUD SECTION 811 PRA Project Rental Assistance Program

Phase II Evaluation Final Report  
Implementation and Short-Term Outcomes  
Executive Summary

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development | Office of Policy Development and Research

# Thank You!



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