**Summaries of publically-available postsecondary education data**

* Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS): 2003-04 college freshmen with follow-up information on enrollment and degree attainment collected in 2006 and 2009; 1995-96 college freshmen with follow-up information collected in 1998 and 2001.
* Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS): Nationally representative sample of 10th grade students, collecting data from these students and their parents, teachers, librarians, and schools. Information collected 2004 and 2006 among enrolled college students and individuals who entered the work force.
* High School and Beyond (HS&B): 10th and 12th grade students in 1980; information collected every two years through 1986, 1992 among sophomores cohort, and 1996 among senior cohort.
* National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS): 1988 eighth graders; information collected on postsecondary enrollment status in 1994 and 2000.

For questions or follow-up comments, please don’t hesitate to contact me at:

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| **Table 1.** Longitudinal Data Sources | | | | |
| **Longitudinal Data Source** | **Base student level** | **Base year(s)** | **Follow-up year(s)** | **Sample size** |
| Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B) | Receiving a bachelor’s degree | 1992–1993 | 1994, 1997, 2003 | ≈ 11,000 |
| 1999–2000 | 2001 | ≈ 10,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS) | First-time postsecondary enrollment | 1989–1990 | 1992, 1994 | ≈ 8,000 |
| 1995–1996 | 1998, 2001 | ≈ 12,000 |
| 2003–2004 | 2006, 2009 | ≈ 19,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002 (ELS) | Tenth grade | 2001–2002 | 2004, 2006 | ≈ 15,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| High School and Beyond (HS&B) | Tenth grade | 1980 | 1982, 1984, 1986, 1992 | ≈ 30,000 |
|  | Twelfth grade | 1980 | 1982, 1984, 1986, 1996 | ≈ 28,000 |
| National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS) | Eighth grade | 1988 | 1990, 1992, 1994, 2000 | ≈ 25,000 |

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| **Table 2.** Cross-sectional Data Sources | | | |
| **Cross-sectional Data Source** | **Population surveyed** | **Reporting level of data** | **Data available** |
| American Community Survey (ACS) | All Census geographic regions with populations of 65,000 or more | Individual/student | Annually since 2005 |
|  |  |  |  |
| ED*Facts* | All K–12 state education agencies | School, district, and state | Annually since 2004-05 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) | All postsecondary education providers that participate in the federal student financial aid programs | Postsecondary education provider | Annually since 1986 |
|  |  |  |  |
| National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) | Nationally representative sample of all students in postsecondary education (≈ 109,000 students in 2004 year of data) | Individual/student | 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 2000, 2004 |

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| **Table 3.** Population Distinctions and Outcome Measures | | | | | | | | | |
| **Data source** | **ACS** | **B&B** | **BPS** | **ED*Facts*** | **ELS** | **HS&B** | **IPEDS** | **NELS** | **NPSAS** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Population Distinctions** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Low-income students | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X |
| First-generation college students |  | X | X |  | X | X |  | X | X |
| Students with disabilities | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome Measures** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Retention of students in postsecondary education |  |  | X |  | X | X | X | X |  |
| At IHEs offering a baccalaureate degree, students’ completion of degree programs |  |  | X |  |  |  | X | X |  |
| At IHEs not offering a baccalaureate, students’ completion of degrees or certificates |  |  | X |  |  |  | X | X |  |
| At IHEs not offering a baccalaureate, extent to which students transfer to IHEs offering baccalaureate degrees |  |  | X |  | X |  |  | X |  |
| Service to students remaining in good academic standing that the projects were funded to serve. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |