



UI Wage Records and the Role of the Federal Government

David Rowe

Education Branch Chief

Office of Management and Budget



The Role of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- Helps the President and the Executive Branch:
 - Prepare the federal Budget
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of federal programs
 - Assess competing funding priorities
- Coordinates cross-cutting management and administrative issues across the Executive Branch



OMB and Performance Information

- Data on program performance helps agencies:
 - Manage their programs
 - Compare performance across programs
 - Make informed budget and policy decisions
- OMB plays an active role in helping agencies improve program performance measures and data
 - Job Training Common Measures
 - President’s Management Agenda—Performance Improvement Initiative (PII)
 - Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART)



OMB and Performance Information

- In formula grants like Career and Technical Education, OMB has an interest in helping States adopt processes for collecting outcome data that are:
 - Timely
 - Accurate
 - Cost-effective
 - Comprehensive
- There is a growing capacity to use administrative data sources, like UI wage records, to gather program and performance information



Use of UI Wage Records for Employment Outcomes

- UI Wage records can inform performance measures relating to employment:
 - Placement
 - Retention
 - Earnings
- Longstanding interest in using UI wage records:
 - States have explored the use of UI wage records to measure student employment outcomes since at least 1985
 - Two ED-sponsored reports (1992, 1997) documented the benefits of using UI wage records
 - In 2006, the Lumina Foundation issued a report on State-level student unit record (SUR) databases that included a focus on linking these databases to UI wage records
(http://www.luminafoundation.org/publications/Critical_Connections_Web.pdf)



Use of UI Wage Records for Employment Outcomes

- **Department of Labor**
 - Employment and Training Administration Programs
 - Veterans Employment and Training Programs
- **Vocational Rehabilitation**
 - Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants Program
- **Adult Education**
 - Adult Education State Grants Program
- **Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems/P-20 or K-16**
 - According to the 2006 Lumina Foundation report, 23 out of the 47 databases in 40 states reported links with UI wage records.



Possible Barriers to Using UI Wage Records

- Timeliness of Data?
- Cost?
- Privacy Issues?
- State laws?
- Agency communication problems?
- Others?



Federal Role in Addressing These Barriers

- Since States have adopted different approaches, OMB and other Federal agencies have an interest in:
 - Understanding what barriers and issues States face
 - Helping States learn from each other
 - Identifying obstacles States are facing and resolving those obstacles
 - Clarifying federal and State requirements