

State LMI Agency Funding: Why It's Important and How You Can Make an Impact

C2ER Webinar

April 28, 2021

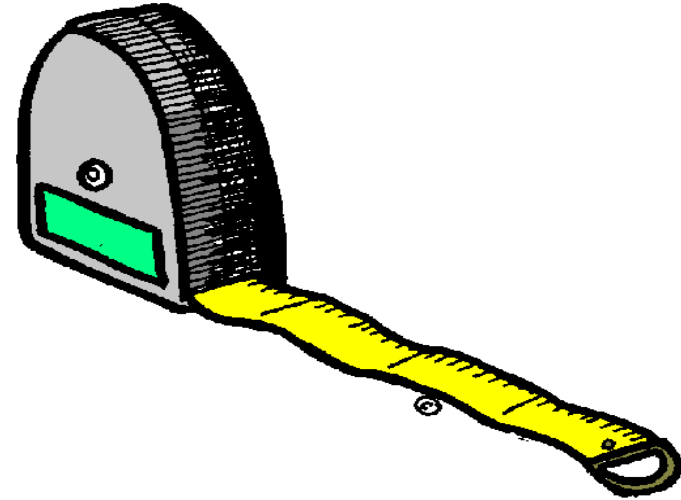
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Cornell University
ILR School

Agenda

- Data are 21st century infrastructure
- Current state of labor market statistics
 - Successes during COVID
 - Deficiencies
- Friends of BLS FY22 recommendation
 - Funding
 - Initiatives (especially UI records)
 - Agency reorganization

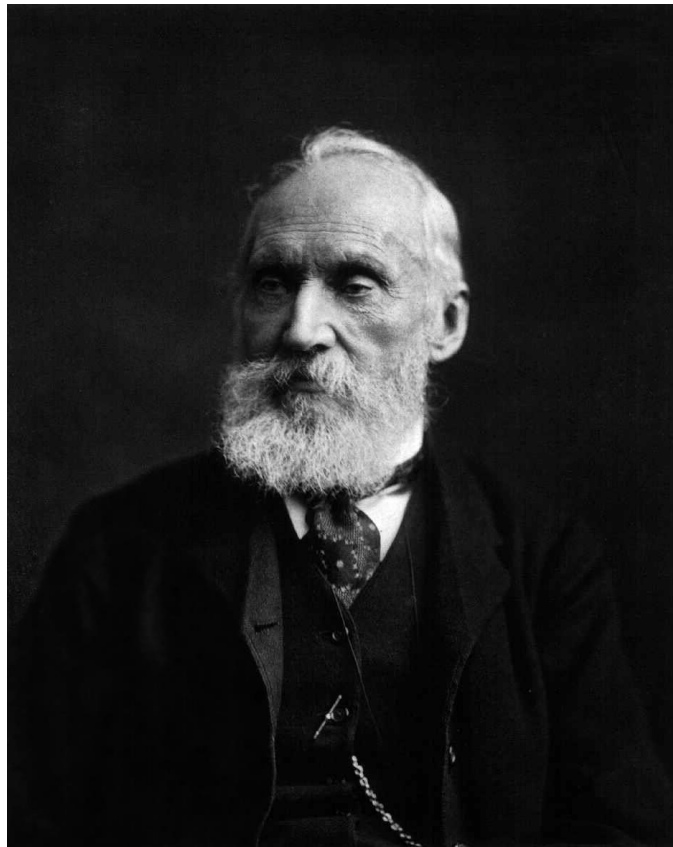


Key step toward equity—better measurement

“If you can’t
measure it, you
can’t improve it.”

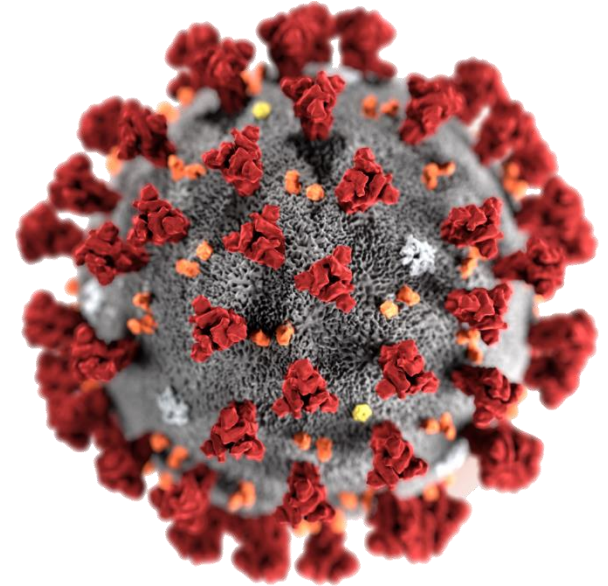
William Thomson,
1st Baron Kelvin (paraphrased)

→ Official data are 21st century
infrastructure.



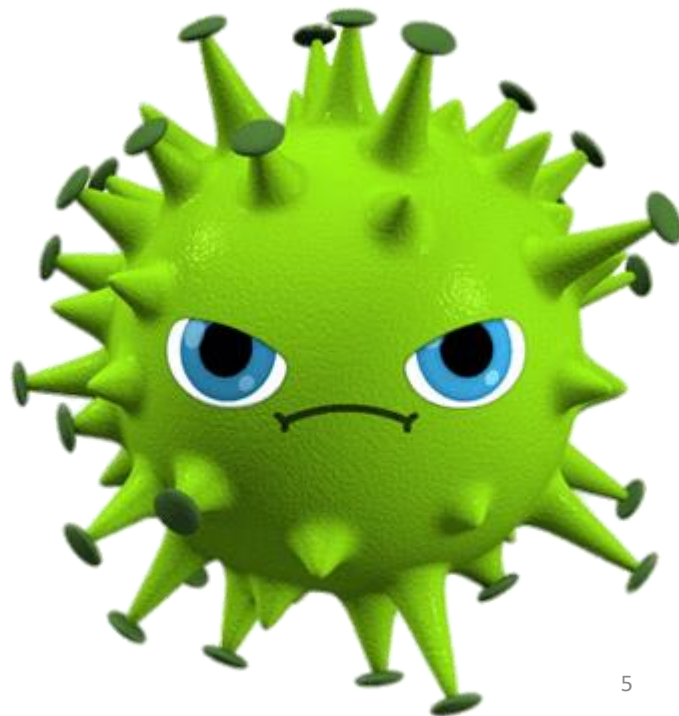
Successes during COVID era, BLS examples

- Continuity: on-time, high-quality, relevant
- CPS transparency and new questions
- One-off employer survey
- Updated seasonal adjustment factors
- Changes in JOLTS and LAUS estimation techniques



Official statistics deficiencies highlighted by COVID

- To better inform decisions and target policy, we need more
 - Granularity
 - Timeliness and frequency
 - Consistency across products to aid linking and combining data sets
 - Agility to pivot to new questions
 - Privacy protection
 - Guaranteed independence from political influence



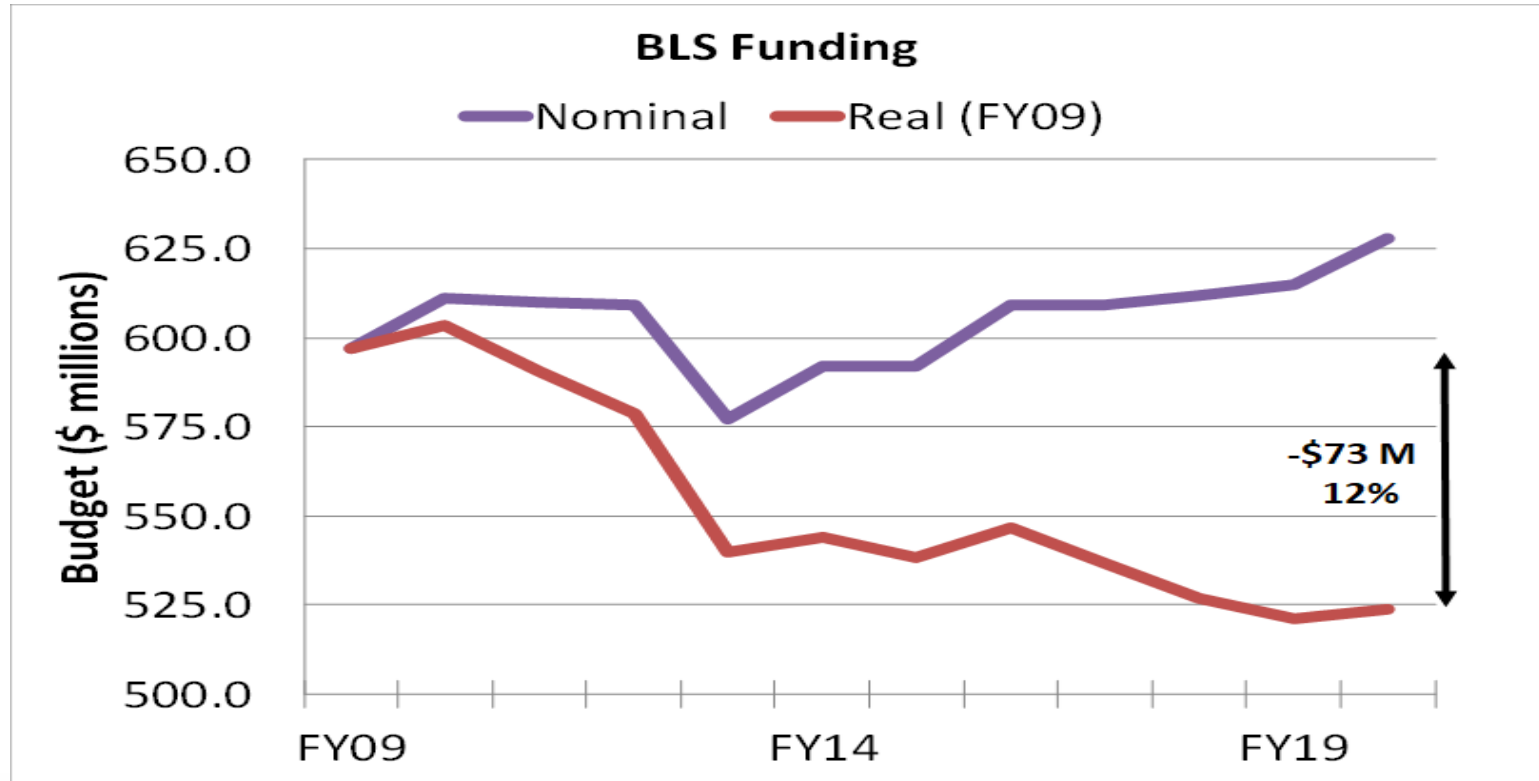
Official statistics deficiencies regarding racism

Workshop by American Economic Assn.'s Committee on Economic Statistics

- Deficiencies impede measuring racial disparities and other effects of systemic racism
 - Statistics not broken down by race and ethnicity
 - Poor coverage and low response rates for minority populations
 - No information on key issues (e.g., loans but not applications; income but not wealth)
- Fixes can [eventually] upgrade measures of economic consequences of racism
 - Oversample in surveys
 - Share government admin data, especially Unemployment Insurance and tax records
 - [Fund statistical agencies adequately]



FY2020 funding situation



Friends of BLS FY22 budget request initiatives

- Realize potential of UI wage and claims records--via enhancement, access, and State analytic capacity
- New Survey of Employer-Provided Training
- New cohort for National Longitudinal Survey of Youth
- Upgrade Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey to provide greater industry detail and state-level data
- Create BLS Data Science Center and 2nd electronic data collection facility
- Modernize Consumer Expenditure Survey and increase sample to support Supplemental Poverty measures
- Synchronize BLS and Census business registers on an ongoing basis
- CNSTAT study on reorganization of national economic statistics



UI wage and claims records -- goals

- Enhance granularity, timeliness, accuracy, frequency of existing BLS products
- Modernize Mass Layoff Statistics and Initial and Continuing UI Claims releases
- Create new micro data resources for State LMI shops
 - Program evaluations
 - Labor-shed analysis
 - In-demand occupations and skills
- Scale back OES and NCS data collections

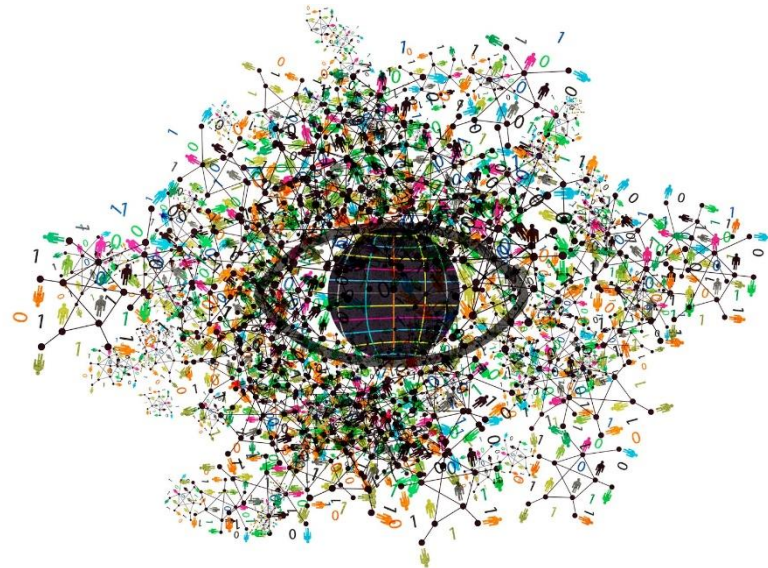


A photograph of an "UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM FORM" resting on a wooden surface. A black pen with a gold tip is positioned over the form. The form includes sections for "Personal Information" and "Services needed". The "Personal Information" section contains fields for Name (Last, First, Middle Initial), Address (Mailing Address), E-Mail Address, City, State, Home Telephone, and Other Telephone. The "Services needed" section is partially visible at the bottom.



UI wage and claims records -- process

- Standard MOU (ala BLS pilot) to share data with BLS and state-to-state
- Fund States adequately to curate and analyze data
- Enhance records
 - Hours
 - Work site
 - Job title
 - Demographics
- Use T3 Innovation Network data schema
 - US Chamber of Commerce Foundation



Why now for a UI record initiative?

- Public recognition of data deficiencies (e.g., UI Claims, LMI detail and timeliness)
- Administration priorities
 - Measure racial inequities
 - Rely on evidence for policy-making
 - Reform and modernize UI
 - Enhance infrastructure, broadly defined
- Proofs of concept in hand
 - BLS pilot for MOU
 - QCEW for curation and supervision
 - LEHD for examples of uses
- T3 Network to engage private sector, improve data quality, and reduce reporting burden
- New technologies lower costs and expand potential uses



Statistical agency reorganization

- Goals
 - Pool resources (scale and scope)
 - Expand data-sharing
 - Advance use of nontraditional data
 - Reduce inconsistencies across agencies' products
 - Enhance independence
- Process—CNSTAT review of statistical system organization



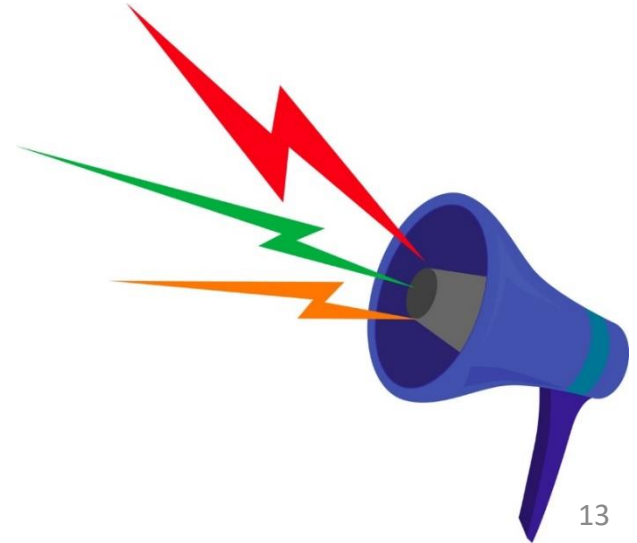
Help improve official statistics

- Decry political interference; independence necessary for trust
- Communicate needs and concerns to BLS
- Don't free ride—speak up for evidence and official statistics
 - Cite your sources and attest to trustworthiness
 - Participate in federal surveys; encourage others
 - Tell State leaders and representatives to support funding and restructuring
 - Join Friends of BLS

www.friendsofbls.org

LinkedIn: “Friends of BLS” group

Twitter: @Friends_of_BLS



Bottom line

- To thrive in 21st century, States need better official statistics, particularly LMI
- BLS could provide States with better LMI and micro data via Friend of BLS FY22 recommendation
 - Shared, curated, enhanced UI wage and claims records
 - Better funding for BLS operations and State-level analysis
 - Stat system reorg?



Thank you.

Questions?



Friends of BLS FY21 initiatives in budget request

Proposed increments for initiatives			
1	Tap the potential of UI wage and claims records--via enhancement and access	\$76M for BLS to manage records + \$22M for analytical grants to States	\$ 98
2	Expand data modernization and data linkage by creating a BLS Data Science Center and second Electronic Data Collection Facility	\$2 for the EDF + \$10 for center + \$1 for public internet and data base	\$ 13
3	Survey of Employer-Provided Training	\$7 employer + \$5.5 employee	\$ 12.5
4	Benchmark the Consumer Expenditure Survey semiannually. and provide robust data to support the Supplemental Poverty measure		\$ 7
5	Start a new National Longitudinal Survey of Youth Survey cohort		\$ 7
6	Upgrade the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey to provide greater industry detail and state-level data		\$ 5
7	Improve data access--Synchronization of BLS and Census business registers on an ongoing basis		\$ 1
8	Modernize economic statistics--CNSTAT study on reorganization of national economic statistics.		\$ 1
9	Continue support for American Time Use Survey		\$ -
	all initiatives		\$ 145
	2020 funding		\$ 655
	total		\$ 800

Incentives for using nonstandard data in official statistics

- Improve statistical quality via detail, coverage, timeliness, precision, or accuracy
- Reduce respondent burden and counteract falling household response rates
- Raise efficiency and resilience



Goals and caveats for successful agency reorganization

- Maintain statistical independence and missions of agencies
- Comprehensive data synchronization among agencies
- Coordinated interagency strategic planning for data collection and dissemination, negotiation with the private sector, joint projects, and common mechanisms for data governance
- Common measurement and statistical methods
- Common administrative infrastructure for information technology, training, and data access protocols
- Adequate investment for quality improvements and efficiency gains

