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Improving Public Policy Program Outcomes: the Case for Sharing Administrative Records

Dawn Cash, Oklahoma Tax Commission

Haden Springer, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

Wednesday, November 30, 2016



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Innovation Capacity — Tools to Measure and Compare

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LED Series

**Introducing J2J Explorer! An Innovative Data Tool on Statistics
on Worker Reallocation in the United States**

December 19, 2016

1:30-2:30 PM Eastern

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State Data Sharing Initiative

Promoting Evidence-Based Policymaking: *Expanding Access to Administrative Data*

Haden Springer
Senior Program Manager
Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

C2ER/LMI Institute Monthly Webinar Series
Arlington, Virginia
November 30, 2016

Some Context: CREC Mission

Workforce Development



Policy Analysis



State Data Sharing



Economic Development

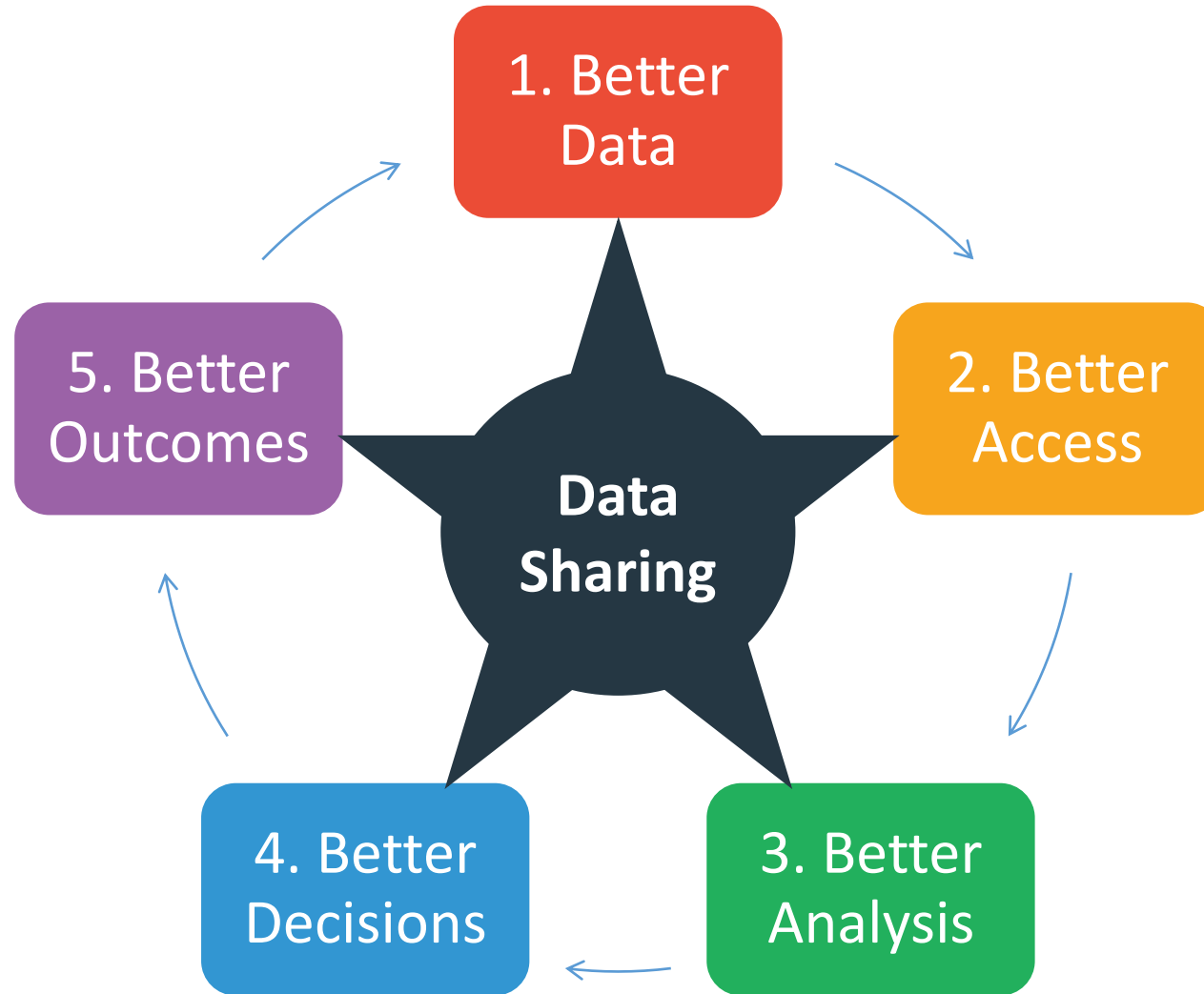


Program Evaluation



Initiative

5B's: Making the Case for Data Sharing



State Data Sharing Initiative (SDS)

Mission:

Improve public program outcomes by enabling evidence-based policy-making through greater sharing of administrative records for rigorous analysis and evaluation purposes.

Goals:

1. Raise awareness of the value of administrative records.
2. Deepen understanding of laws that protect administrative data.
3. Build upon existing data governance and management process models.
4. Foster collaboration between state leaders and agencies to improve access to microdata.

SDS Strategy

1. Research – Data, laws, regulations, policies, & practices:

- Studies
- Presentations

2. Technical Assistance – Case examples and resources:

- 5 state-specific efforts
- Data sharing tools/website

Better Data.

Better Access.

Better Analysis.

Better Decisions.

Better Outcomes.

SDS Research Objectives

Better Data.

Assess the **value** of administrative microdata for policy analysis and program evaluation.

1. What data is available?
2. What questions can the data help answer?
3. What are the benefits and limitations of using this data?

Better Access.

Analyze **legal** and **policy approaches** states use to protect and govern access to administrative data.

1. What do state confidentiality laws and regulations say?
2. What data sharing policies/practices do states follow?

Value of Administrative Records

Better Data.

UI Microdata

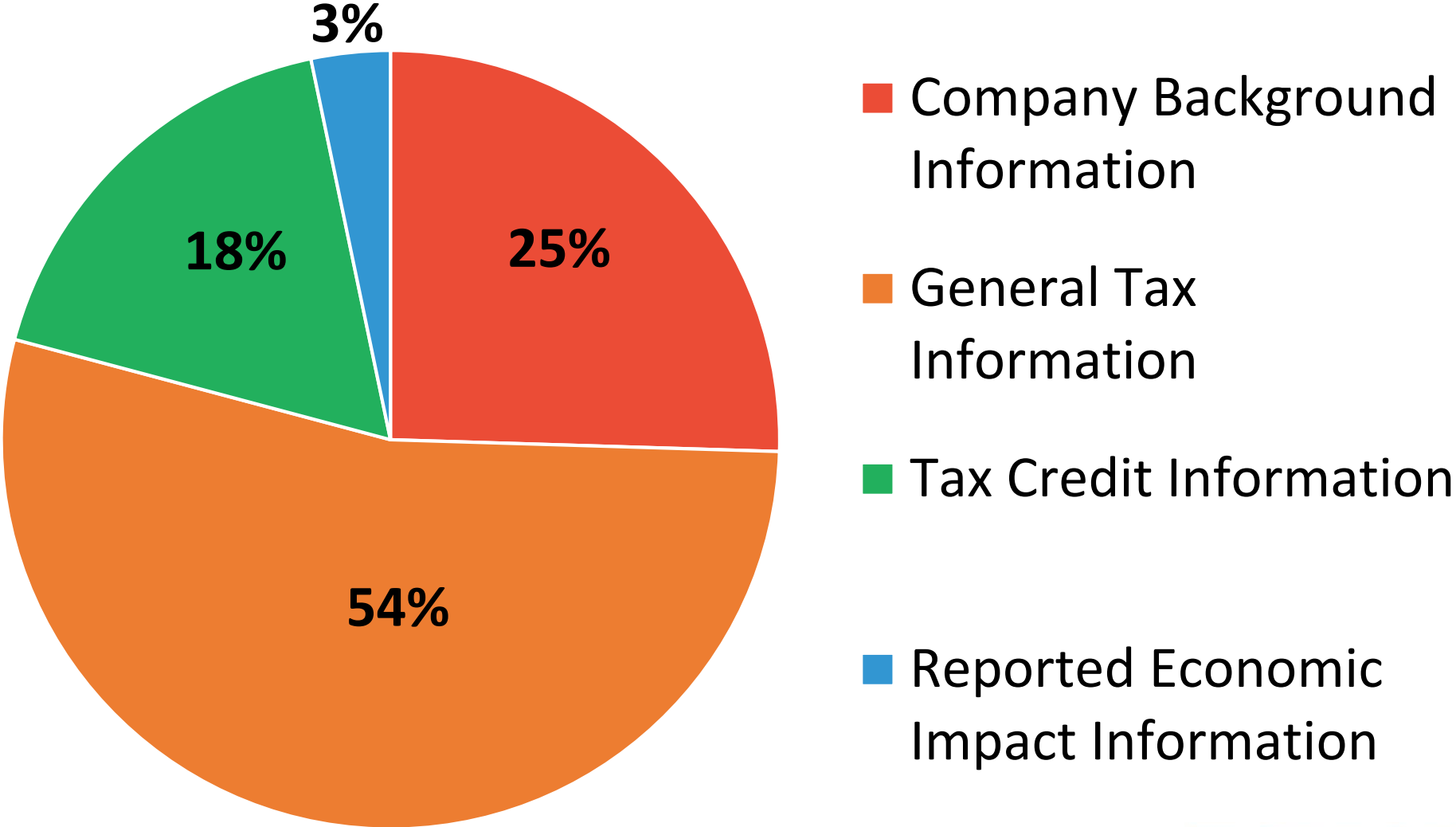
- Employment
- Wages
- Occupation (LA, AK)

Corporate Tax Microdata

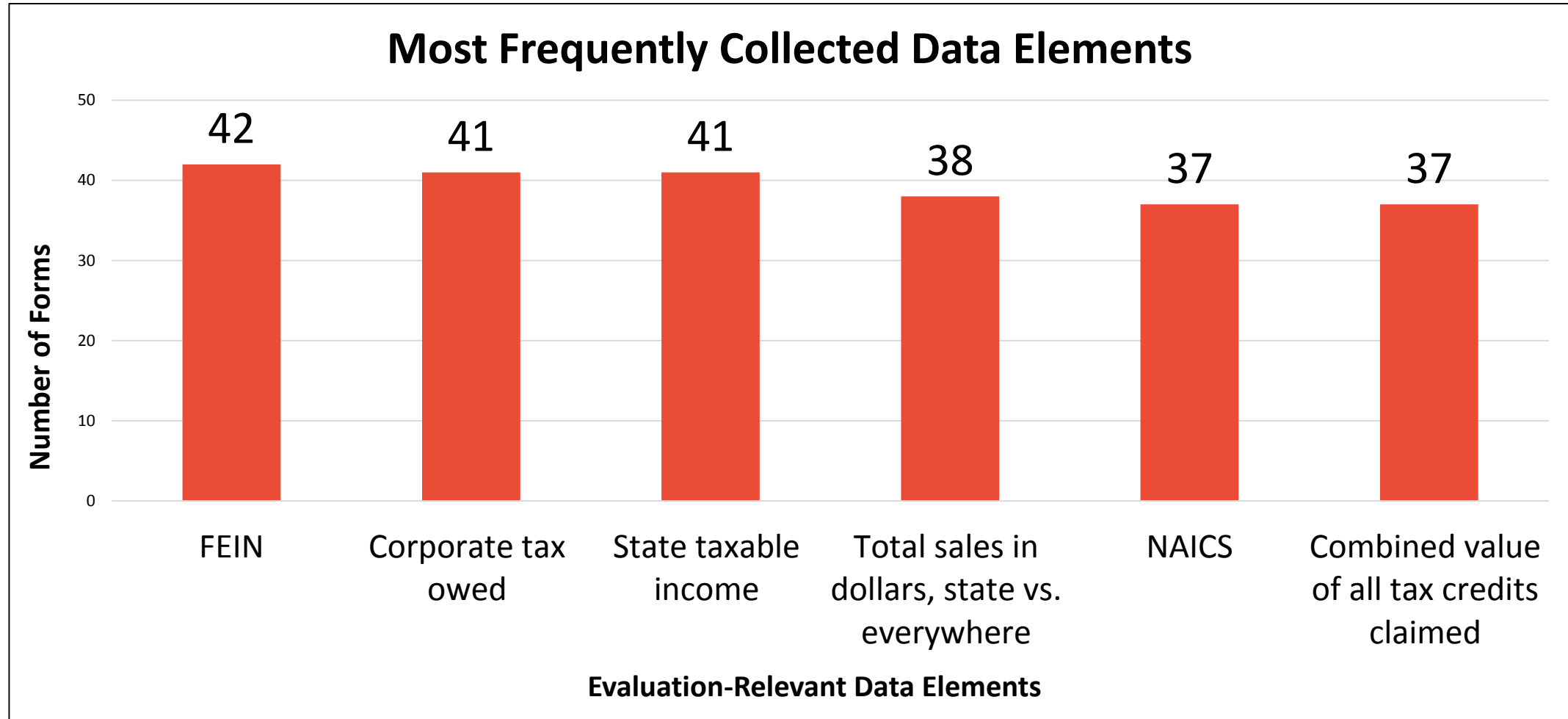
- State taxable income
- Value of tax credits claimed
- Jobs created (attributable)

1. Are there any recognizable trends in employment, wages, or credits claimed?
2. Which companies or workers may be at risk?
3. Are tax credits creating new jobs and/or generating new economic activity?
4. Are new jobs “quality” jobs?

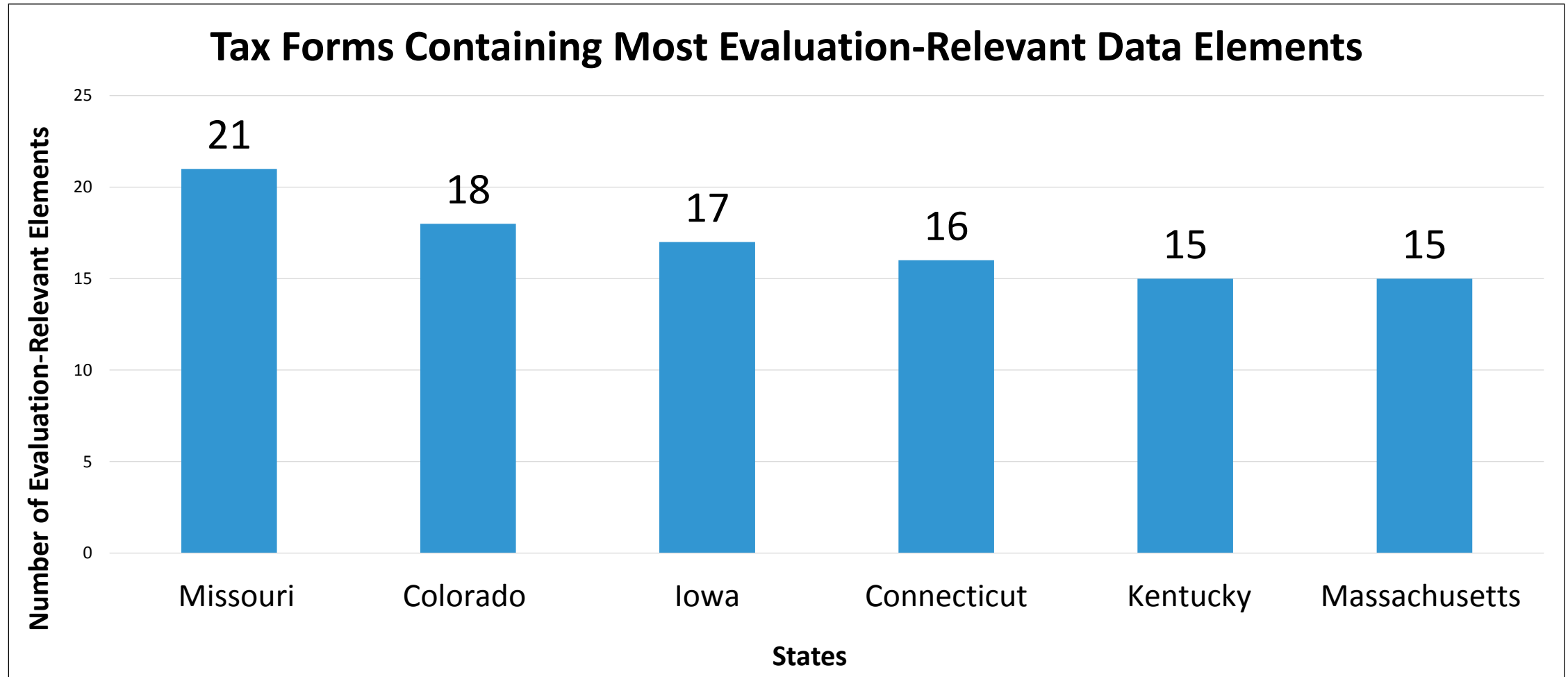
Key Findings: 2015 Corp. Tax Form Comparison



Key Findings: 2015 Corp. Tax Form Comparison



Key Findings: Corp. Tax Form Comparison



Using Microdata: Benefits & Challenges

Better Analysis.

Benefits

- Relatively comprehensive
- Longitudinal analysis capability
- Reduced burden on companies
- Significant cost savings for government

Challenges

- Legal and regulatory restrictions/interpretations
- Process management limitations
- Technical difficulties
- Data sharing climate/cultural differences

Analyzing Laws & Regulations

Better Access.

Objective

- Compare legal approaches applied by states to protect data and permit access.

Methodology

1. Apply Data Confidentiality Framework
2. Extract Relevant Language
3. Assign Specificity Rating

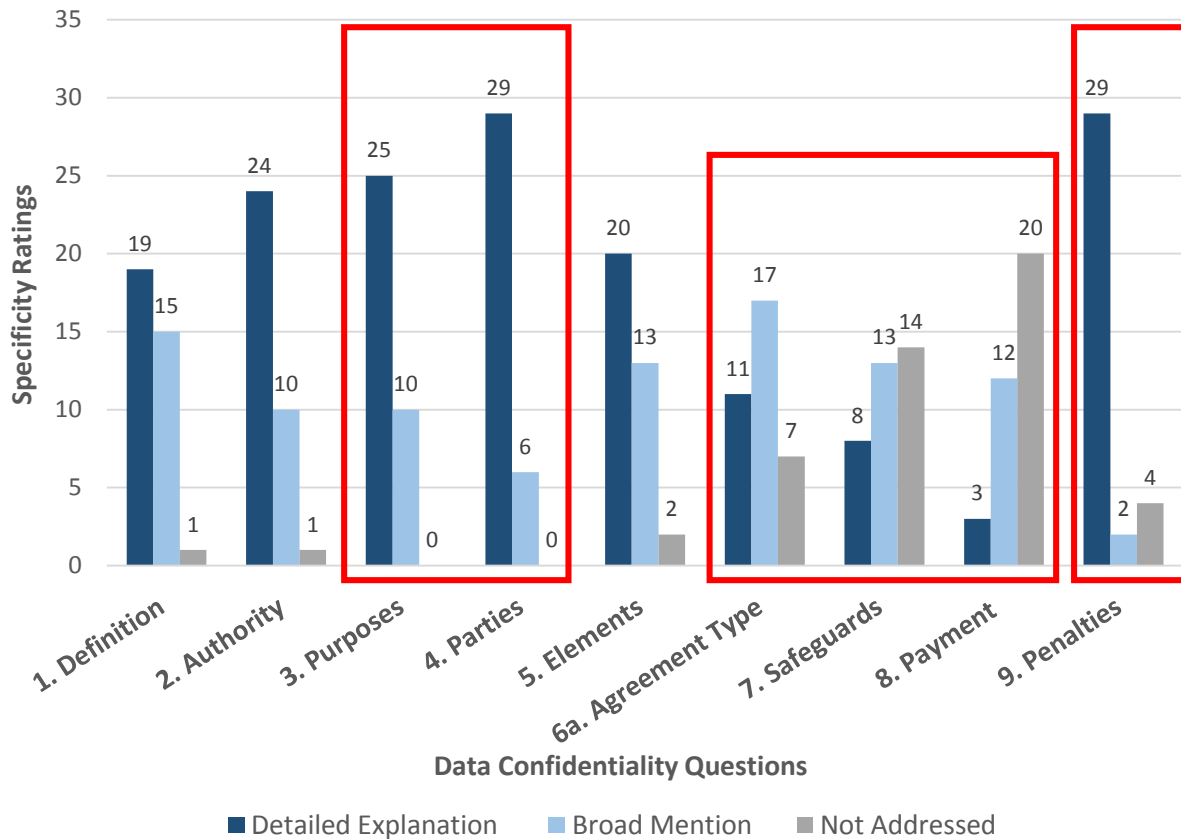
Data Confidentiality Framework

1. Definition
2. Authority
3. Purposes
4. Parties
5. Elements
6. Content Requirements
7. Safeguards
8. Payment Provisions
9. Penalties

UI: 20 C.F.R. § 603 CT: 26 U.S.C. § 6103

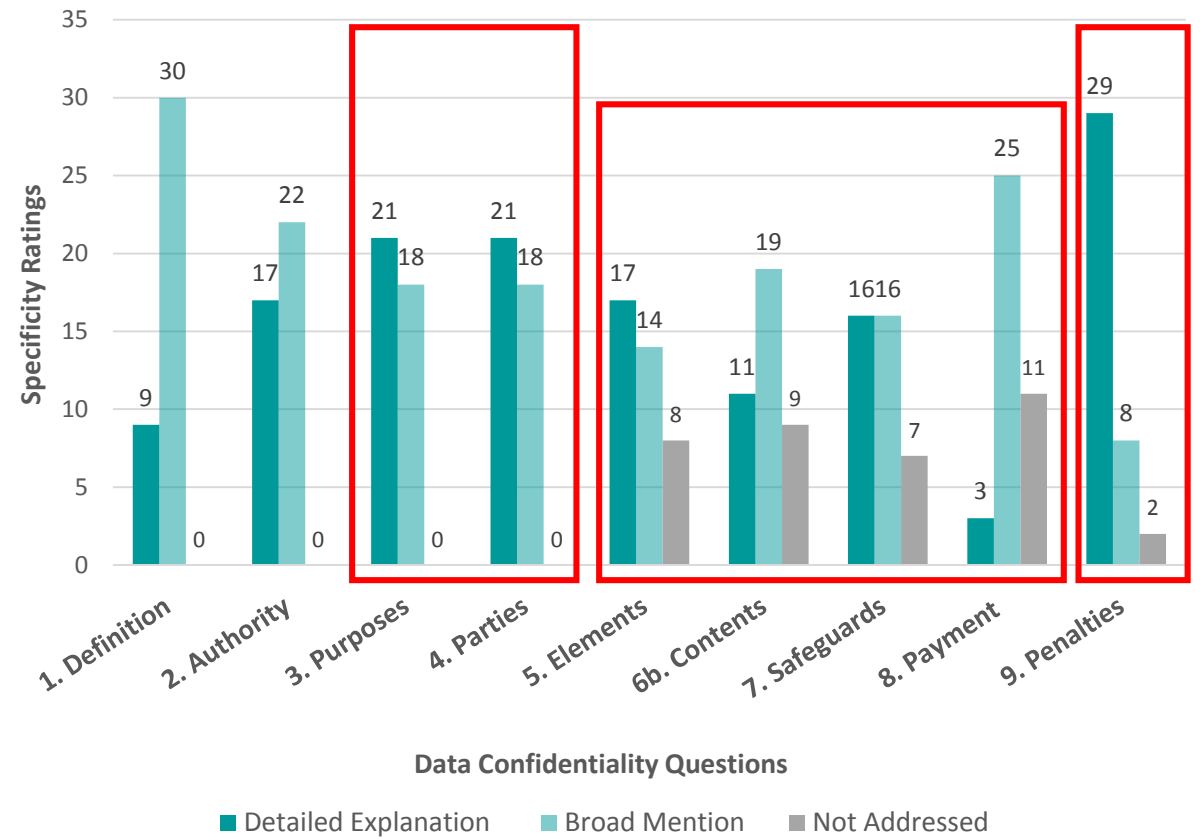
Key Findings: Laws & Regulations Analysis

CT Laws & Regulations Specificity Ratings



39 Laws & Regulations

UI Laws & Regulations Specificity Ratings



35 Laws & Regulations

Advancing Data Sharing

Better Decisions.

- Educate state leaders on the value of administrative records and data sharing.
- Revisit antiquated state data confidentiality laws and regulations.
- Deepen agency-level understanding that protecting and sharing data are not mutually exclusive.
- Help streamline data sharing policies and processes across state agencies.

Next Steps

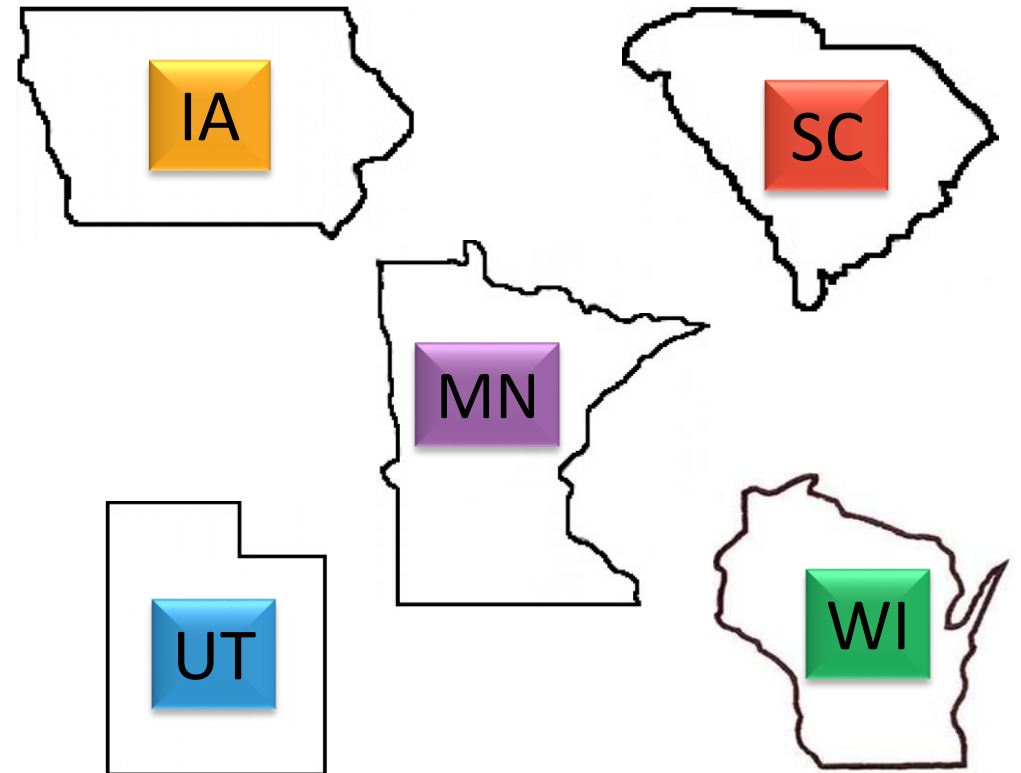
Better Outcomes.

Technical Assistance

- 5 multi-agency state initiatives
- Case example dissemination

Data Sharing Tools

- Tax Data Comparison Tool
- Confidentiality Laws & Regulations Database
- Data Sharing Toolkit



State Data Sharing Initiative

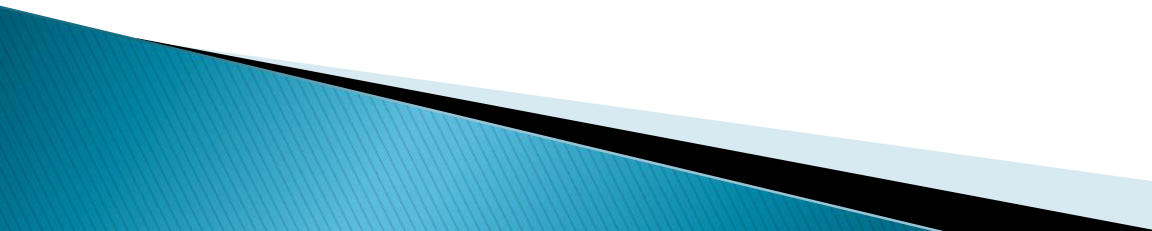
Thank You

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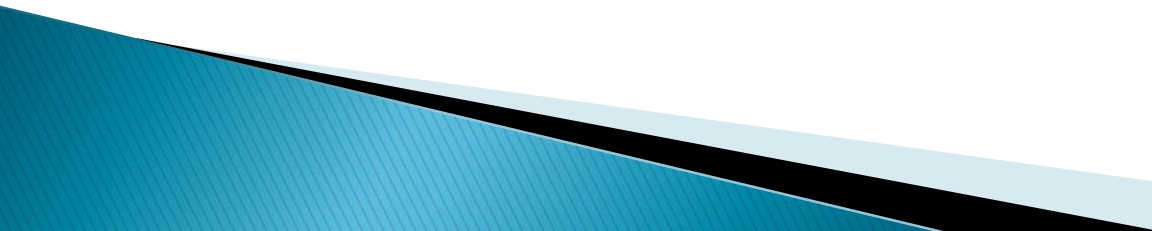
Information Sharing Between State Agencies

Administration of the
Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program

Department of Commerce

- ▶ The Department administers the Quality Jobs Program and accepts applications into the program.
 - ▶ The Department requires the most recent four quarterly employment reports filed with the Employment Security Commission to be attached to the application.
 - ▶ To be approved, the Department verifies that all companies are in good standing with:
 - Secretary of State,
 - Tax Commission, and
 - Employment Security Commission.
 - ▶ Contracts signed between the Department and an approved company are forwarded to the Tax Commission.
- 

Employment Security Commission

- ▶ The Commission plays a role in the administration of the Quality Jobs Program by providing employment and payroll data to:
 - Department of Commerce to verify information supplied through the Quality Jobs application process and
 - Tax Commission to verify information supplied through the payment claims process.
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Tax Commission

- ▶ All claims for the payment of benefits under the Quality Jobs Program are submitted to the Tax Commission.
- ▶ The Tax Commission accesses Employment Security Commission directly to obtain:
 - Individual wage data, and
 - Employer report data.
- ▶ Tax Commission verifies, prior to payment, that the company has complied with its Commerce Department contract by:
 - Meeting its baseline number of employees,
 - Using the correct benefit rate on the claim form as reflected in its contract,
 - Meeting its annual payroll threshold, and
 - Is still under their maximum total benefit available?
- ▶ Upon verification of claim, the Tax Commission pays the benefit to the company.

3 Keys to Data Exchange

1. MOU between Department of Commerce and Tax Commission.
 2. Limited waiver of confidentiality as part of program application.
 3. Statutory ability to data share via electronic exchange with Unemployment Security Commission.
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