



Investment in Data Integration Drives Evidence-based Policy and Decision-making

When public agencies share and link administrative data across otherwise siloed systems they can improve programs, brighten futures, and save lives. Integrated data allow policy makers and service providers to understand individual and family experiences across domains like housing, health and education and craft holistic solutions to our most complex public policy challenges.

Sharing data is a first step toward improved coordination across agencies who care about similar outcomes. Data integration is even more powerful, connecting individual level records across agencies who serve the same people. Identifiable information about individuals remains private and protected, but agencies gain cross-program insights to drive smarter interventions and resource allocation.

Data integration supports:

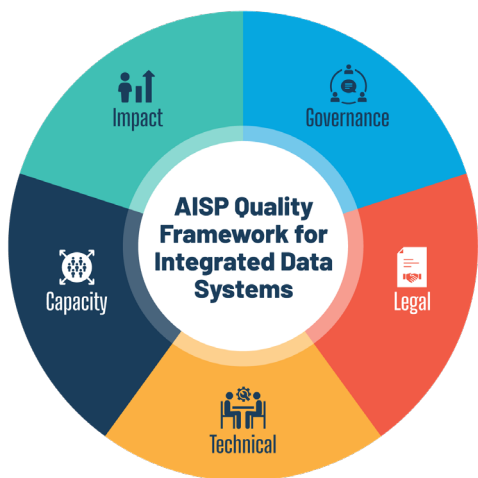
- [Maternal and child health](#)
- [Kindergarten readiness](#)
- [Economic mobility](#)
- [Reduced homelessness](#)
- [Improved addiction treatment](#)
- [Fast, targeted vaccine distribution](#)

Seizing the Moment

With increasing federal support and investment in data and evaluation capacity, more and more states and communities are building integrated data systems to tackle complex issues and identify effective solutions. These systems make it possible to re-use existing administrative data to fuel data-driven decision making and directly benefit communities, through:

- Improved service coordination
- Smarter use of finite agency resources through targeted allocation and outreach
- Sharper and more holistic snapshots of short and long-term outcomes for service recipients and subgroups
- More timely, efficient research and evaluation to assess which programs work, for whom, and at what cost
- More accurate needs assessments and asset maps to support funding requests and grant applications
- More secure technology and enhanced protocols to protect individual privacy and comply with legal requirements

Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP) supports the ethical use of individual-level administrative data for social policy change and advocates for the expansion of resources and infrastructure that makes this possible. We help foster cross-sector collaborations, build the relationships and trust that enable and sustain data sharing, and center equity.



Building Quality Systems

To enable routine sharing and linking of administrative data, governments need to invest time and resources to bring agency partners together as responsible stewards of data assets. These investments will have maximum impact if they are both informed by national best practices and shaped by local context. While integrated data systems come in many shapes and sizes (a State Longitudinal Data System for education looks very different from a Health and Human Services Data Warehouse), each needs collaborative data governance, a strong legal framework, technical tools, and human capacity to achieve their goals.

Become a Data Leader: Guiding Principles for Successful Efforts

- **Seek to understand the full data-sharing landscape.** As you begin your journey, connect with existing data-driven efforts in your region to align, define roles, and reduce duplication.
- **Start small and grow smart.** In many cases, building capacity to descriptively understand who each agency serves and identify areas of overlap is the first step, and major progress.
- **Let purpose drive design.** Priority use cases and policy questions should drive your technical approach and staffing decisions.
- **Gather and incorporate meaningful contributions from community members.** Be transparent about your goals and build trust by inviting feedback early and often.
- **Standardize processes for data access.** Clear data documentation and pathways for requests will save time and enable more strategic decisions about data use.
- **Strategize for sustainability.** Look for allies who see the potential—like a Chief Data or Chief Evaluation Officer—and can help ensure your effort is positioned to add value and respond to shifting priorities.

Getting Started: Resources for Policy Makers

[Learn more about how data sharing and integration works](#)

[Connect with AISP Network members in your region](#)

[Discover how integrated data can improve programs and services](#)



AISP is housed at the University of Pennsylvania in the School of Social Policy and Practice. We are funded through federal, state, and local contracts and the generous support of private foundations. To learn more about data sharing and integration, please [contact us](#).

