



WDQI Monthly Resources: August

1. Announcing the KYSTATS Blog!

Over the past decade, the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS) has gained national recognition for its dashboards and data analyses, utilizing information from the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System and Labor Market Information branch. While continuing to develop and use dashboards, the center is now introducing a new narrative format for data presentation.

Through their blog, KYSTATS aims to explore labor force and education continuum trends, provide in-depth analysis of their dashboards and data, and share timely updates about their ongoing work. These efforts align with their 2023-25 Research Agenda, which revolves around four main themes: (1) Access, Usage, and Usability; (2) Equity; (3) Trends and Transition Points; and (4) Modeling and Predictive Analytics.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

2. Talking Data Equity

"Talking Data Equity" is a recurring series of informal discussions designed to engage with individuals actively involved in implementing data equity principles. These weekly drop-in conversations revolve around practical inquiries. Participants collectively share their journeys in progressing from aspiring to integrate equity into data-related initiatives to genuinely mastering this process.

Highlighted within the series is the session that took place August 25th, focusing on "Disability Data and Equity" featuring Brianna Blaser. Additionally, the September 8th session, led by Dr. Lauren Young, delves into the concept of probing "Why" within the context of data equity.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

3. SLDS Webinar: Employment Outcome Measures

Join the SLDS Webinar on September 25, 2023, at 12:00 PM ET, focused on Employment Outcome Measures. Discover the powerful insights gained by connecting workforce and education data, enabling states to gauge education's influence on employment success. Representatives from Ohio, Minnesota, and Virginia will engage in a panel discussion, exploring the rationale for linking education and employment data, along with strategies for effective utilization. Gain valuable insights into the experiences, considerations, and challenges faced by these states in harnessing education/employment data.

Click [here](#) to register/join.

4. Building State Evaluation Capacity Through Peer Learning Cohorts Webinar

This session spotlighted the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's (ETA) work, along with that of two state workforce agencies (SWAs), to enhance evidence-building and conduct evaluations in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014.

Together with representatives from Washington State and North Carolina, the presenters share insights concerning the evaluation and research community of practice. Key session topics:

- An introduction to the Evaluation and Research Hub (EvalHub) and the wealth of WIOA evaluation TA resources.
- A depiction of lessons garnered and advantages derived from participating in a peer-learning cohort, aimed at augmenting evaluation capabilities for SWAs and other WIOA core collaborators.
- Guiding a discussion regarding the goals, structure, and choices surrounding capstone activities, in addition to unveiling the timetable for the 2023 EvalPLC.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

5. Beyond Numbers: How Ethical Data Visualization Tells the Human Story

This article emphasizes that data transcends abstract numbers, possessing the ability to communicate meaningful narratives about individuals' experiences. Effective visualization techniques can enhance the impact of these stories. Ethical considerations and data visualization are closely linked, as neglecting the human aspect behind data can result in incomplete and misleading narratives.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

6. Unleashing Possibilities, Ignoring Risks: Why We Need Tools to Manage AI's Impact on Jobs

Recent advancements in Large Language Model-based systems like ChatGPT have generated excitement for their potential, but also sparked concerns about job displacement and decreased demand for human labor in various fields. AI Impact assessments are increasingly prevalent, though they often overlook the impact on jobs. There's a pressing need for tools to assess and shape AI's effects on employment, and we must prepare for potential significant shifts in the demand for human labor.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

7. Which Colleges Pay Off for Low-Income Students?

Recent data indicates a decline in college enrollment, partly due to some Gen Z individuals questioning the value of a four-year degree post-high school. Despite the general correlation between higher education and higher-paying jobs, research highlights the uneven impact on first-generation or low-income college students.

To explore this, EdSurge explored the College Scorecard data from the U.S. Department of Education to identify colleges and universities where low-income and first-generation students achieve the highest salaries post-graduation.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

8. Multi-Agency Research and Development Priorities for the FY 2025 Budget

The memo emphasizes the ambitious national goals of achieving comprehensive health, climate crisis resolution, global stability, economic competitiveness, responsible AI use, and a resilient democracy. Public science, technology, and innovation are highlighted as pivotal for attaining these aspirations. Federal research and development (R&D) are crucial components of this vision.

It outlines the Administration's cross-agency R&D priorities for the fiscal year 2025 budget submissions to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), aligning with constrained funding caps. It calls for collaboration among agencies with related activities to optimize resources and prevent duplication. Investments tied to these R&D priorities will be highlighted in the 2025 Analytical Perspectives Volume.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

9. What Now? A Vision to Transform State Data Systems

Over the years, states have invested in statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDSs) that compile individual-level data across different stages of education and the workforce. While these systems possess the potential to offer valuable insights for informed decision-making at key educational and career junctures, they often remain underutilized. The current juncture presents an opportunity for state leaders to establish and sustain data systems that cater to people's access requirements. A recent resource from DQC outlines a vision aimed at ensuring that everyone has personalized access to information, facilitating student success, economic mobility, and broader systemic transformation.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

10. White House Cyber Office has its Eye on Workforce Data

The Office of the National Cyber Director at the White House has formulated a comprehensive strategy aimed at tackling pressing issues in cybersecurity education and workforce development. This strategy entails several initiatives intended to bridge the gap between the demand for cybersecurity professionals and the existing workforce. It also emphasizes connecting underrepresented communities with cybersecurity roles. A significant focus, as highlighted by Camille Stewart Gloster, the Deputy National Cyber Director for Technology and Ecosystem Security, is gathering data pertaining to the cybersecurity workforce itself.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

11. Advancing Equitable Outcomes from Pre-K through the Workforce by Aligning State & Local Data Systems

The COVID-19 pandemic worsened existing disparities and changed how people engage with education, work, and the world. The impact was particularly significant in communities of color and those facing

poverty, affecting learning, employment, and well-being. Recognizing the need for improved data infrastructure to address these inequities, many states are upgrading their statewide longitudinal data systems. These systems aim to comprehensively track individuals' experiences and outcomes across pre-K, K-12, postsecondary, and workforce domains.

The podcast episode "On the Evidence" focuses on promoting equitable outcomes throughout one's journey from infancy to career by enhancing the accessibility and usefulness of data for state decision-makers. The guests include Keith White from the Public Education Foundation Chattanooga, Naihobe Gonzalez from Mathematica, Sara Kerr, and Ross Tilchin from Results for America.

Click [here](#) to listen.

12. Indiana Youth Institute County Dashboard

The Indiana Youth Institute (IYI) provides county-specific data on youth well-being in Indiana through their County Dashboard. This resource offers a convenient way to access information about children's well-being across various categories, including Family & Community, Health, Economic Well-Being, and Education. This data is highly sought after and allows individuals to gain insights into the well-being of children in their local communities.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

13. Beyond '23: KYSTATS Data Summit Registration

The Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS) is hosting a data summit in Louisville on September 28. The summit aims to provide attendees with insights into understanding the realities of the present and future. Participants will hear from the KYSTATS team, national data experts, and state policymakers. The event will focus on the lessons derived from the existing data infrastructure and explore possibilities beyond 2023. The conference is free of charge and open to all, with registration limited to the first 300 attendees. A detailed agenda will be released in the upcoming weeks. The summit is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by a reception.

Click [here](#) to register/join.

14. Fighting Poverty with Synthetic Data

From Brookings, this article discusses the "quantified self" movement involves using wearable tech like smartwatches to track health data, but it raises privacy concerns. While such data can lead to benefits like increased physical activity and efficient healthcare, there's fear that corporations could misuse it to discriminate against vulnerable groups. Synthetic populations offer a solution for balancing privacy and data collection. In NYC, World Data Lab used this approach to understand poverty rates at a granular level. Synthetic populations combine microdata (individual info) with summary statistics (populations) to simulate distributions without privacy violations. This method aids in identifying disparities within neighborhoods and facilitates more targeted social interventions. It's particularly valuable for regions lacking granularity in traditional poverty analysis, offering opportunities for precise targeting and analysis of consumption patterns.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

15. Evidence at Work for the American People

Mathematica convened experts on Capitol Hill to discuss evidence building and use in Congress and in government agencies, data sharing, and progress in evidence-based policy making since the enactment of the Evidence Act of 2018.

Click [here](#) to view.

16. The College-To-Jobs Maps

The College-To-Jobs Map, spearheaded by the Project on Workforce (Harvard Kennedy School, David Deming & team), is part of a comprehensive research initiative aimed at enhancing the links between higher education and the job market. The project uses Lightcast data (documentation is available).

[A must see.](#)

17. The American Opportunity Index: A Corporate Scorecard of Worker Advancement

The American Opportunity Index: A Corporate Scorecard of Worker Advancement is a new effort to give companies and other stakeholders a set of robust tools that measure how well major employers are doing in fostering economic mobility for workers and how they could do better. The Index is a joint project of the Burning Glass Institute, Harvard Business School's Project on Managing the Future of Work, and the Schultz Family Foundation.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

18. Advancing Educational Equity: Tools for Evidence Building

Mathematica's suite of measurement and evaluation (M&E) tools provides a road map for generating timely and actionable evidence about what works for whom, and in what context.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

19. Non-degree Credentials Research Network (NCRN)

The Non-Degree Credentials Research Network (NCRN) is a project funded through a grant from Lumina Foundation and managed by researchers at the George Washington Institute of Public Policy (GWIPP). The NCRN is a multi-disciplinary community of scholars, practitioners and policymakers that focuses on the little-understood role of certificates, certifications, and other non-degree credentials in the labor market. Interested in joining the network?

Click [here](#) to learn more.

20. Accelerating Foundation Models Research – Call for Proposals (Due 9/12)

Accelerate Foundation Models Research (AFMR) is a research grant program to make leading foundation models hosted by Microsoft Azure more accessible to the academic research community via Microsoft Azure AI services. Friends on Twitter (X) put out a specific call for workforce teams.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

21. Education and Workforce Data Systems Should Answer Our Questions, Not Shape What We Ask

Mathematica introduces its Education-to-Workforce Indicator Framework, which offers 20 essential questions every state longitudinal data system should be able to answer to provide actionable insights on how people are progressing on their educational and career journeys, and what they need to thrive.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

22. U.S. workforce data is behind the times. It's time to measure what matters most to the American people.

In this Forbes commentary, Rachel Korberg and Jenny Weissbourd (Families and Workers Fund) introduce the Reimagining Job Quality Measurement report and explain why improvements in measurement are needed to create a full picture of the labor market and to help workers find the information most important to them as they navigate the labor market.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

23. Using Labor Market Information to Improve Program and Credential Quality

How do people and institutions use labor market information? What information helps workers make decisions most effectively? The Education & Employment Research Center at Rutgers University explores these and other questions in a recently released collection of briefs on the topic.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

24. How Design is Governance

At a fundamental level, all design is governance. Kristin is excited to share this one as the author was her tutor (and remains a mentor) in so many ways.

A [must read](#).