

The Use of Data Linkages to Support Home Visiting Research and Evaluation Efforts



Linking data can provide more opportunities for organizations to evaluate outcomes and inform program and policy decisions. This infographic provides a snapshot of data linkage adoption, common data sources, and the top challenges organizations encounter when implementing linkage efforts.

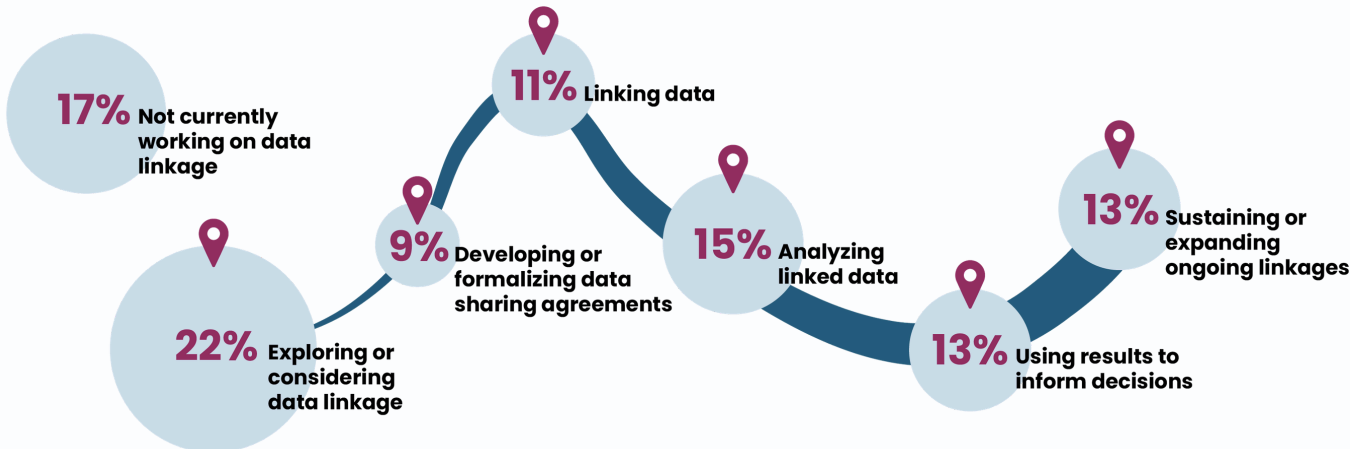
HARC Survey Respondents

- 47 respondents, including:
- 23 states (1-5 per state)
 - 3 models (1-2 per model)
- Type of respondents:
- Researchers or evaluators (53%)
 - State home visiting administrators or leaders (19%)
 - State home visiting data or evaluation staff (17%)

Respondents’ primary purpose for linking data is to evaluate outcomes (70%). and guide decision-making about programs and policy (57%).

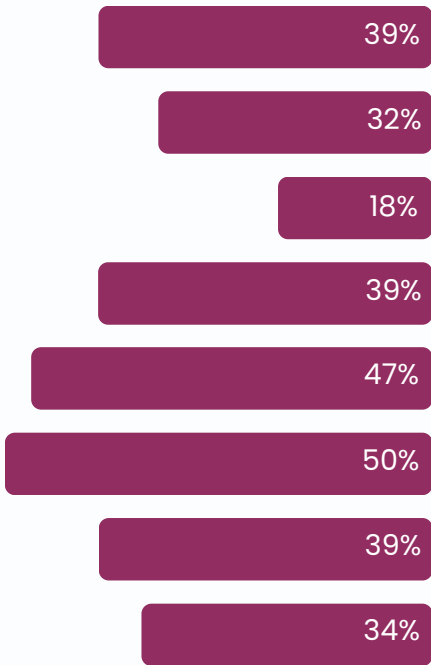
- Other purposes included:
- Improve service coordination (35%)
 - Support continuous quality improvement (35%)
 - Strengthen grant or funding applications (28%)
 - Provide unduplicated program participant counts (26%)

Organizations are at different stages of data linkage adoption, from exploring the idea to actively using linked data to inform decisions.

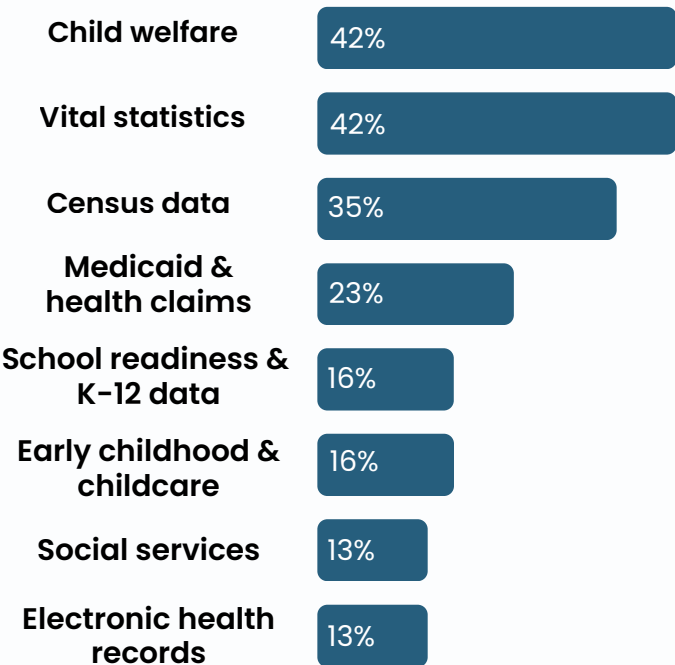


Plans or interest in future linkages most commonly focus on early childhood & K-12 data, while completed linkages most commonly involve child welfare and vital statistics data.

Plan or interest in linkage (n = 38)

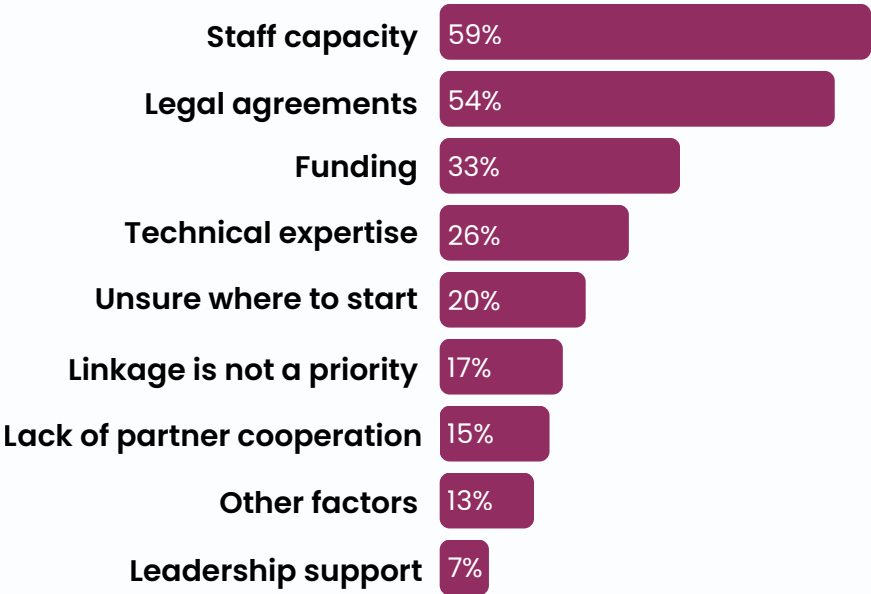


Completed linkage (n = 31)



The most common challenges to data linkage are staff capacity and legal agreements.

Respondents identified the following barriers:



Helpful resources for data linkage projects:

- HARC Brief on Lessons in Data Linkage: Key lessons and practical tips
- HARC Resource List for Collaborative Home Visiting Research: A curated set of resources for data linkage
- Join the Data Sharing Special Interest Group for peer sharing and learning
- Request assistance through HARC’s Find an Expert