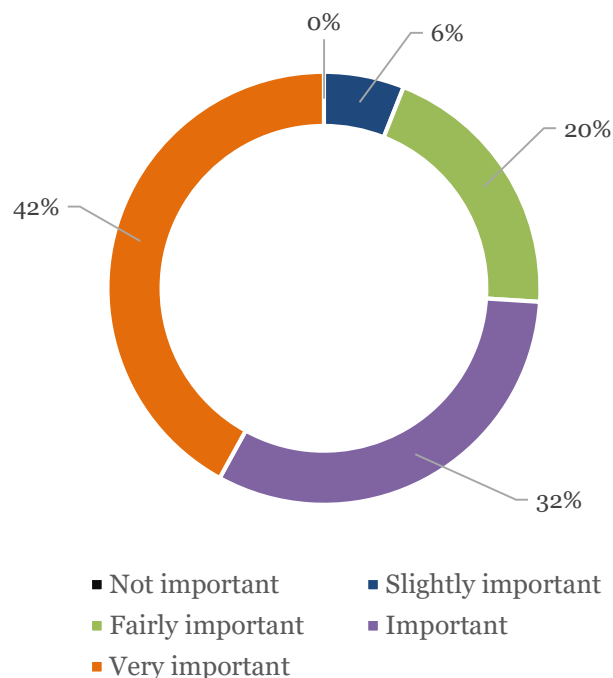


# Nearly 74% of city employees across the US say federal data is “important” or “very important” to their department’s mission

## Importance of federal data to department’s mission survey responses



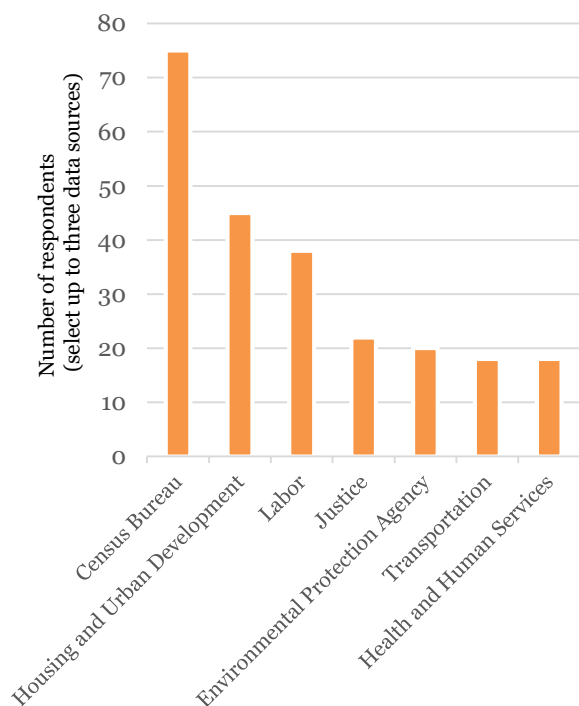
The Sunlight Foundation recently conducted a survey of staff in 63 American cities on the importance of federal government data as a resource. The study found that nearly 74% of respondents marked federal data as “important” or “very important” to their department’s mission.

Federal government data includes information on demographics, population, household incomes, public health, economic activity, transportation, environment and other kinds of data. The vast majority of this data is published and publicly available in machine-readable formats at [data.gov](https://data.gov).

Much of this openly available federal government data was updated and made public during former President Obama’s administration as a part of his open data initiatives beginning in 2009 and culminating in his executive order that made open and machine-readable data the new default for government information in 2013.

# The American Community Survey from the Census Bureau was one of the most relied-on dataset resources

## Which federal agencies are relied on most for data



Of the federal agencies providing data, respondents said they relied most on the US Census for their departments' data needs.

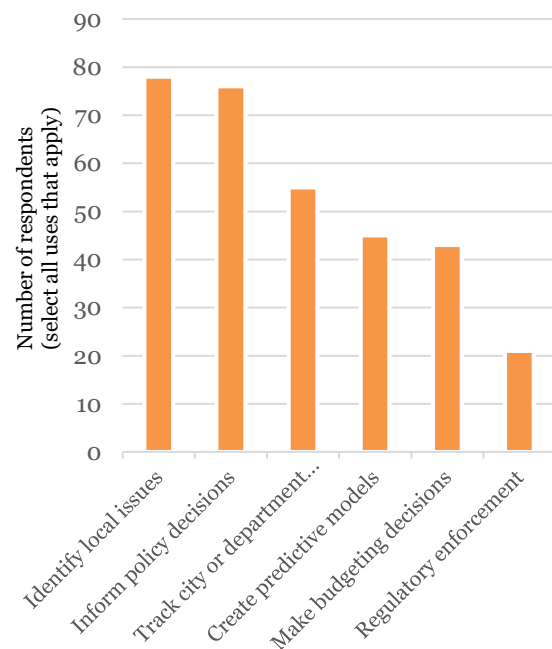
Although the Census is typically thought of as a macro-level data source, dealing with demographics, population, employment, housing and other types of data, local communities rely on the Census for its detailed local-level datasets.

The Sunlight Foundation reports that the dataset resource they heard most about from respondents was the American Community Survey (ACS), which provides localized information through its tract-level data. Tract-level data typically encompasses anywhere from 2,500- 8,000 people.

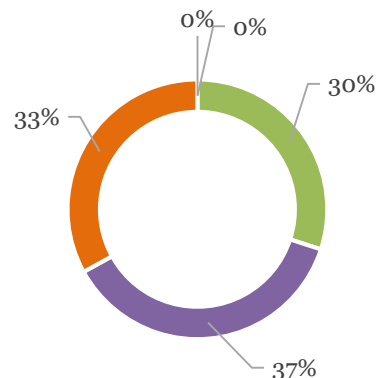
Sources: "American cities depend on federal data," October 21, 2017, Sunlight Foundation.

# 43% of respondents expect to use “a lot more” federal data in the next five years

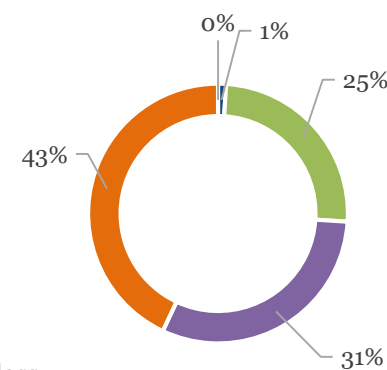
## How federal data is used by local governments



## Departmental change in use of federal data in the past five years



## Departmental change in use of federal data in the next five years



- A lot less
- Slightly less
- About the same
- Slightly more
- A lot more

The one respondent who indicated they would use federal data slightly less in the next five years said that this was due to the respondent's expectation that less federal data will be available in the next five years.

Sources: “American cities depend on federal data,” October 21, 2017, Sunlight Foundation.