

# *one year* **one hundred** *use cases*



*what we've learned from  
protecting federal datasets*

# You don't know what you've got till it's gone



Updated: JAN 17, 2026 7:33 AM ET

TIME

## The Women Saving America's Climate Data

CLIMATE

POLICY



ADD TIME ON GOOGLE

Most people are unaware of just how much information the government collects and how it touches their lives, whether monitoring a fleet of ocean buoys that help guide safe shipping routes to tracking how vulnerable communities are to disaster.

# Some infrastructure is invisible

Data touches lives in unseen ways, like the Consumer Product Safety Commission API that allows grocery stores to automatically email customers about salmonella recalls so your PB&J doesn't poison you.



## Former U.S. Chief Data Scientist on Public Data Under Siege

A recording from Jeremy Ney's live video with Denice Ross

JEREMY NEY AND DENICE ROSS

JAN 14, 2026



American Inequality

# We won't know the repercussions until they hit us

When we lose the biologists who track bat populations, we can't protect vulnerable species. When bat populations dwindle, insects proliferate. More bugs means more pesticides, which can do significant prenatal harm.

*By then it's too late.*

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a blue jacket, safety glasses, and a headlamp, is holding a bat in her gloved hands. The bat is held in front of her, and she is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

THE PURGED

*The Atlantic*

don't try this  
at home!

# Democracy dies in darkness

Surveys that monitor food security, police misconduct and how schools are supporting post-pandemic learning recovery have been canceled.

Emerging substance abuse trends, popular inflation index measurements, even information about maternal and infant mortality.



*There's no way of knowing if these databases will ever come back.*

**Bloomberg**

## **America's Statistical System Is Breaking Down**

Canceled surveys, missing datasets and staffing cuts are leaving the US with growing blind spots – and weakening trust in official numbers.

# The truth is no longer out there

Without trusted data and trusted data collectors, we lose a shared language to understand problems faced by our neighbors. Dropped surveys mean losing wage information from farms, losing hospital data on substance abuse, and losing scope of how many households face hunger.



**The Washington Post**  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

## Government's historic role as trusted information source is under threat

The U.S. government for decades has been the world's leading provider of reliable data. Many researchers wonder if that is still the case.

Updated December 20, 2025



# Federal data is everywhere



# until it isn't



The federal data ecosystem is vast – the bat survey we love so much is just one of hundreds of thousands of datasets that keep this country running.

## Federal Data Are Disappearing

*The erosion—and deliberate erasure—of government data by the Trump Administration threaten both public safety and the US economy, says former US chief data scientist Denice Ross.*

by Anne Kim  
November 26, 2025

Washington  
MONTHLY

# Everything the light touches runs on data

A few months back, DHS canceled its HIFLD dataset. So what? Well, that data supported 300 critical geospatial datasets across federal agencies working on emergency planning. Nursing homes, childcare centers, schools, hospitals – their emergency protocols run on that data.



**When government data vanishes, communities pay the price**



It doesn't matter if you're hosting the Super Bowl or the Eras Tour: ***data keep things moving.***

# the bad news

all of these datasets are at risk.

# the good news

resources like EssentialData.us help make  
the case for how federal datasets benefit  
American lives and livelihoods.

*learn more @*  
**EssentialData.us**

