

Accessing National and State Level Data on Community Colleges: Resources Available from NCES

*Presented at RP Group Conference in Pomona
April 23rd, 2010*

KC Greaney

*Director of Institutional Research, Santa Rosa Junior College
Fellow, NCES Cooperative System Fellow's Program*

Patrick Perry

*Vice Chancellor of Technology, Research and
Information Systems, CCCCCO*

*Member, National Postsecondary Education Cooperative, and
the IPEDS Technical Review Panel*

KC Greaney goes to Washington...

...what I learned:

- NCES regularly conducts scores of surveys, from birth through K-16 and adult literacy
- NCES collects data and expects others to analyze it
- Extensive website provides information that is all public domain

KC Greaney goes to Washington...

...what I learned:

- NCES contracts out a LOT
- Goal = generalizability at national level
 - Stratified random sampling
 - high participation rate
- Data integrity (“quality control”) and confidentiality taken VERY seriously
 - Data perturbation

KC Greaney goes to Washington...

...what I learned:

- 1135 public 2-year institutions nation-wide
- 6.7 million students enrolled at 2-year institutions in 2007
- California is represented:
 - Vice Chancellor Patrick Perry is a panel member of the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (and the IPEDS Technical Review Panel)

NCES Products

- “Flagship” publications:
 - Digest of Education Statistics
 - Condition of Education
 - Projections of Education Statistics
- Alphabet soup studies: ECLS, HSLS, BTLS, TFS, SSOCS, SCS/NCVS, NELLS, HS&B, SASS, IPEDS, NPSAS, BPS, B&B, CCD, PSS, SDDS, NAEP, NAAL, TCS, FRSS, PEQIS, EDFIN, SLDS, PISA, TIMSS, PIRLS, etc.
- Various reports, including “Issue Briefs”

NCES Including More on Community Colleges

- Condition of Education will include 8-year college completion rates (currently 4 and 6)
- Community College students were included to a greater extent in most recent BPS (NPSAS:04-BPS:06,09)
- More recent publications on community colleges and our students

Specific NCES Resources for Community College Researchers

- IPEDS

(Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System)

- Universe, annual data collection
- Data accessible via College Navigator, Data Center/Peer Analysis System

Specific NCES Resources for Community College Researchers

■ NPSAS

(National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey)

- Cross-sectional, sample
- A comprehensive nationwide study of students enrolled in postsecondary institutions
- Includes a nationally representative sample of 2-year colleges
- NPSAS:04 included ~100,000 students from ~1,600 institutions
- Includes institutional records (local, national) and student and parent interviews

Specific NCES Resources for Community College Researchers

- BPS

(Beginning Postsecondary Student Survey)

- Longitudinal, follow-up sample from NPSAS
- Focuses on persistence, progress and attainment of college students
- Includes a nationally representative sample of 2-year colleges
- BPS:04/06 included ~22,000 students, who were surveyed again in 2009
- Includes transcript analysis

Specific NCES Resources for Community College Researchers

■ B&B

(Baccalaureate and Beyond)

- Longitudinal, follow-up sample from NPSAS
- Tracks degree recipients into graduate school and the workforce
- Includes a question on whether a student began studies at a community college
- Can include 1, 4, and 10-year follow-ups
- B&B:93/94/97/03 included ~11,000 students

Specific NCES Resources for Community College Researchers

- Training opportunities
- Published surveys are public domain; researchers are encouraged to replicate locally
- Restricted Use Data License

Explore the NCES Website:

www.nces.ed.gov