State of the State: A Deep Dive into Postsecondary Data Systems through Strong Foundations 2023

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SHEEO
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

Agenda

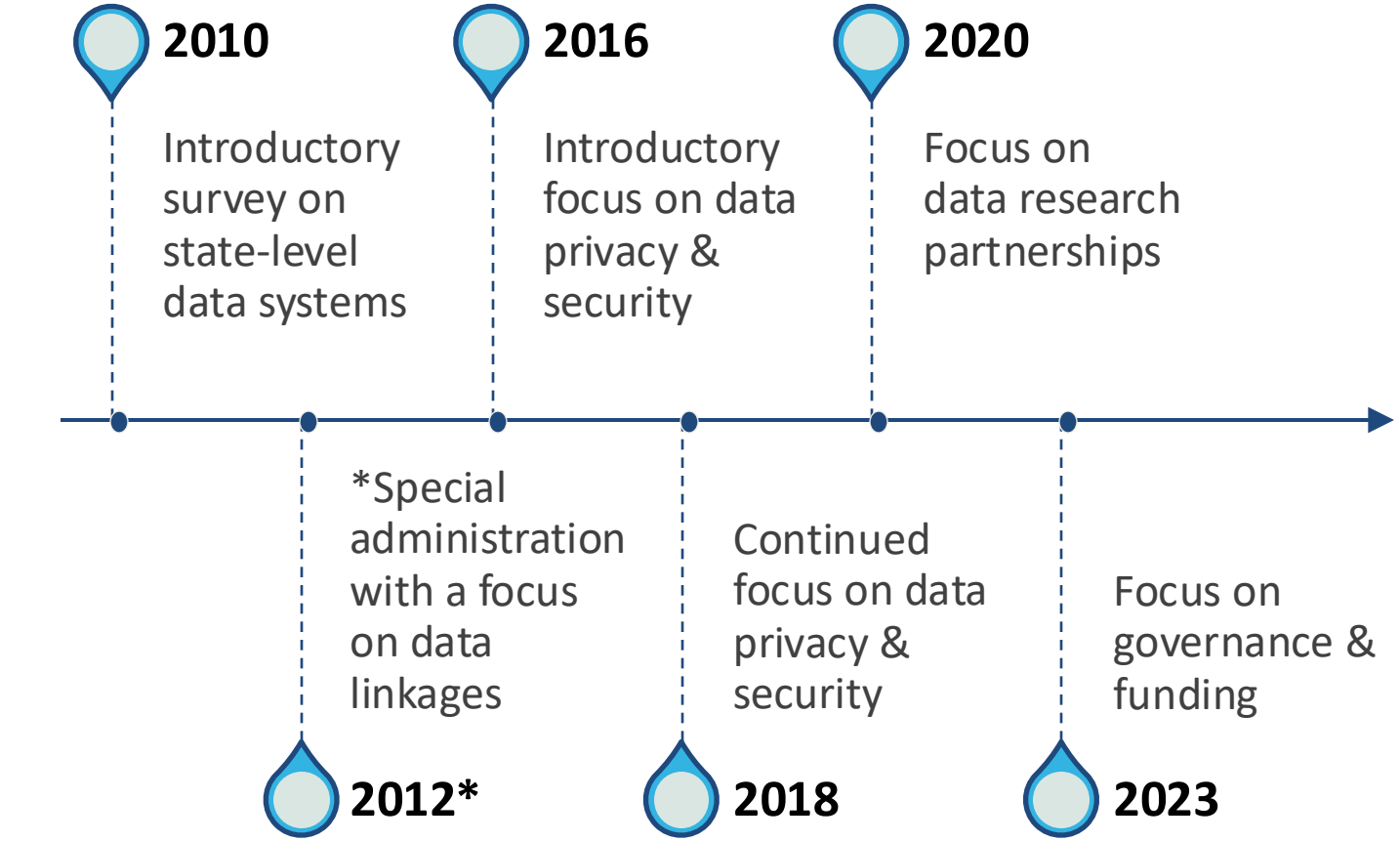
- Overview and history of Strong Foundations
- Highlights from recent reports
- Dashboard demonstrations
- What's next for Strong Foundations
- Open discussion & questions

Overview of Strong Foundations

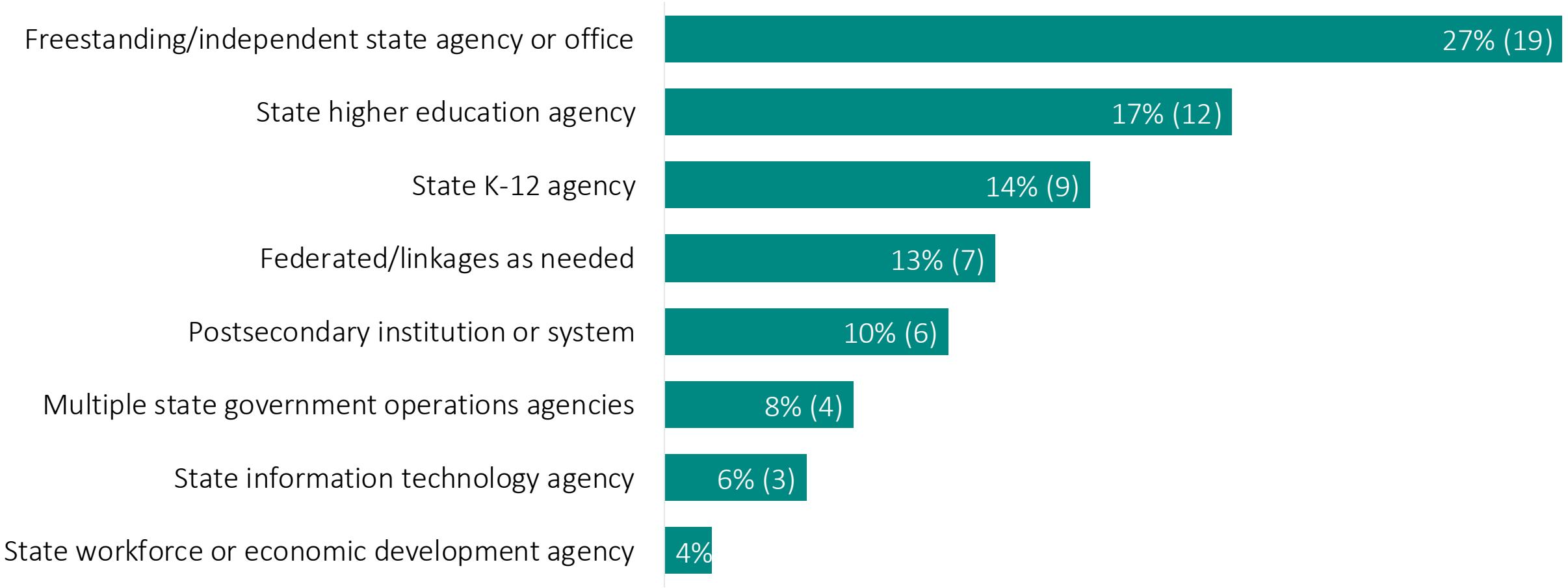
- Improves insight into the collection, value, and best practices associated with state **p**ostsecondary **s**tudent **u**nit **r**ecord **s**ystems (PSURSs)
- Surveys developed in partnership with an advisory board of state data and research practitioners, third-party partner organizations, and field experts
- New interactive dashboards and web content available at postsecondarydata.sheeo.org
- SHEEO received philanthropic support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to administer survey & produce report findings

History of Strong Foundations

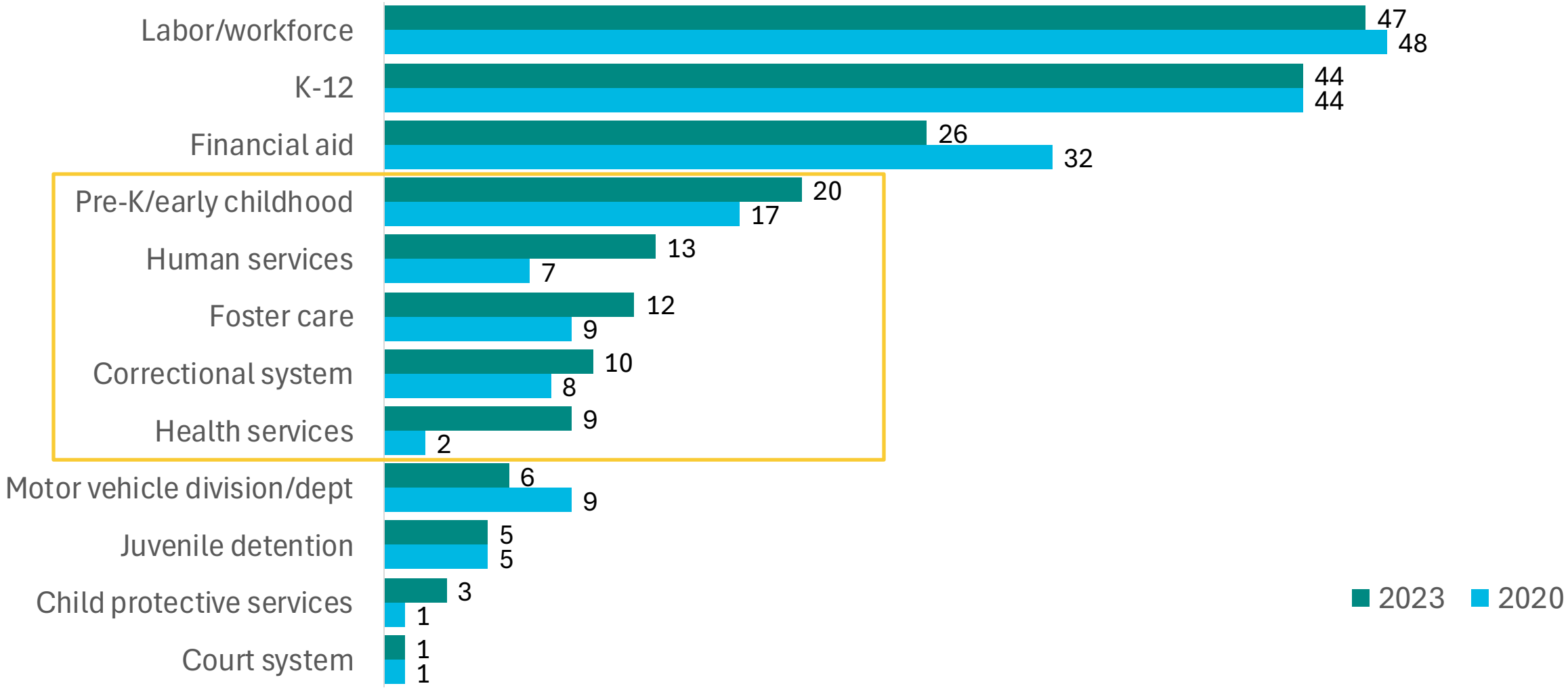
- Since 2010, six survey administrations and growing participation
  - In 2023, we collected data from 71 postsecondary agencies from 48 states and the District of Columbia
  - Our respondents include two-year public and four-year public (including technical college and community college system offices) and state longitudinal data systems (SLDS)



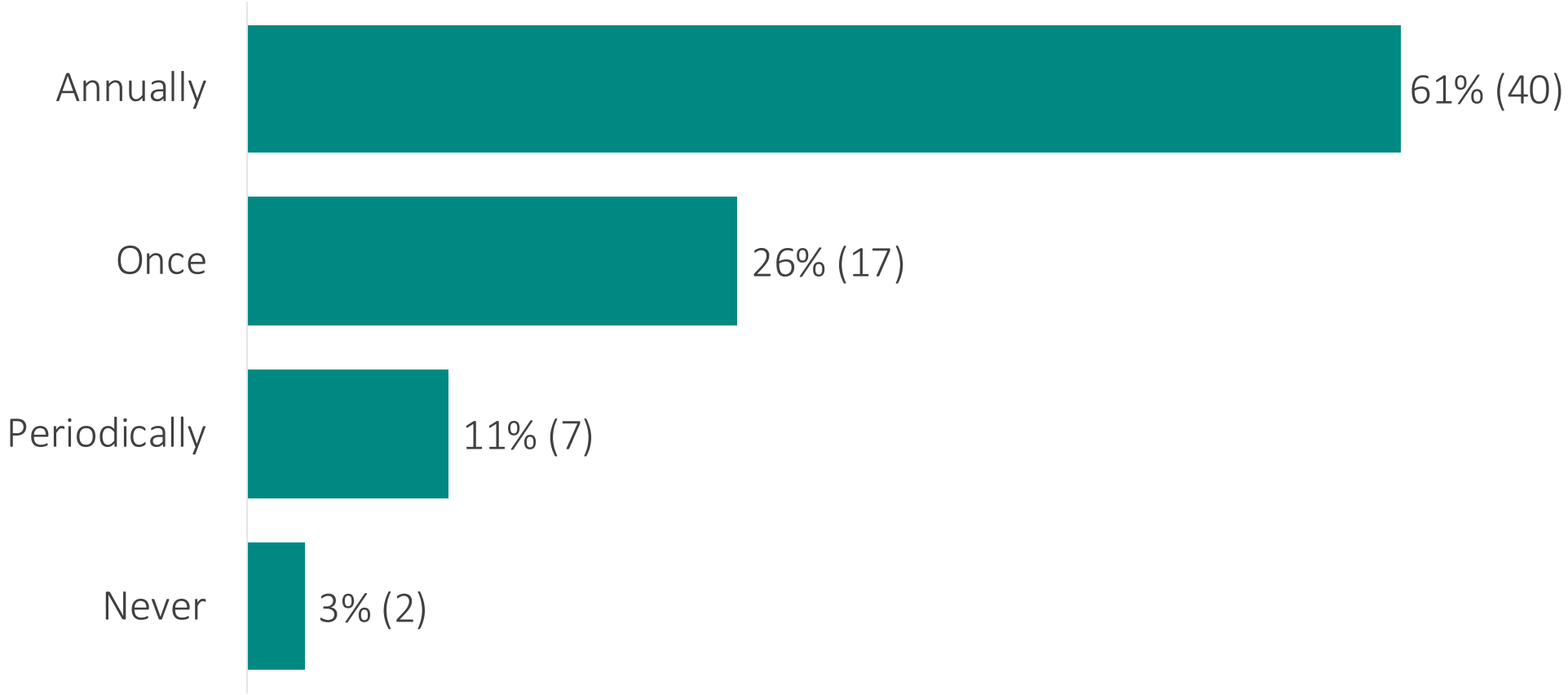
If your agency contributes to, participates in, or uses a P20W data system, where is it housed?



Which state agencies' unit record systems does your agency/PSUR system currently link to?



How often do employees in your agency receive formal training for ensuring privacy, security, and confidentiality of student-level data?



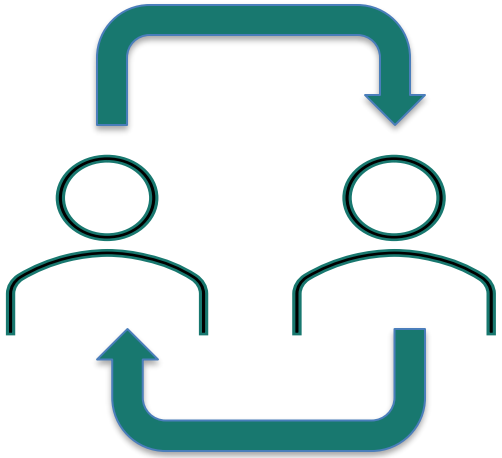
Strong Foundations 2023: Explicating the Value of PSURSs

- *"Our PSURS is **fundamental** to understanding the state's access and attainment goals." - Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*

- The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education **used its PSURS system data in concert with finance data** to create regional data roadshows, **leading to a 15% increase in funding** to support Pennsylvania higher education.

Practical Uses of Strong Foundations

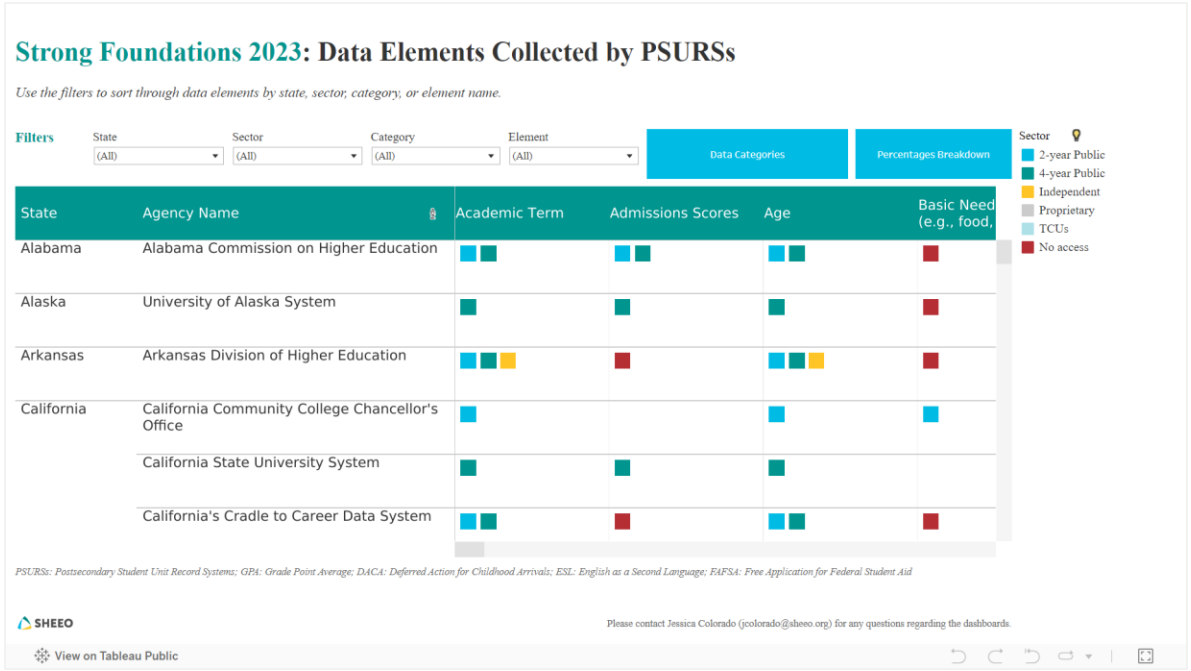
Understanding the Landscape

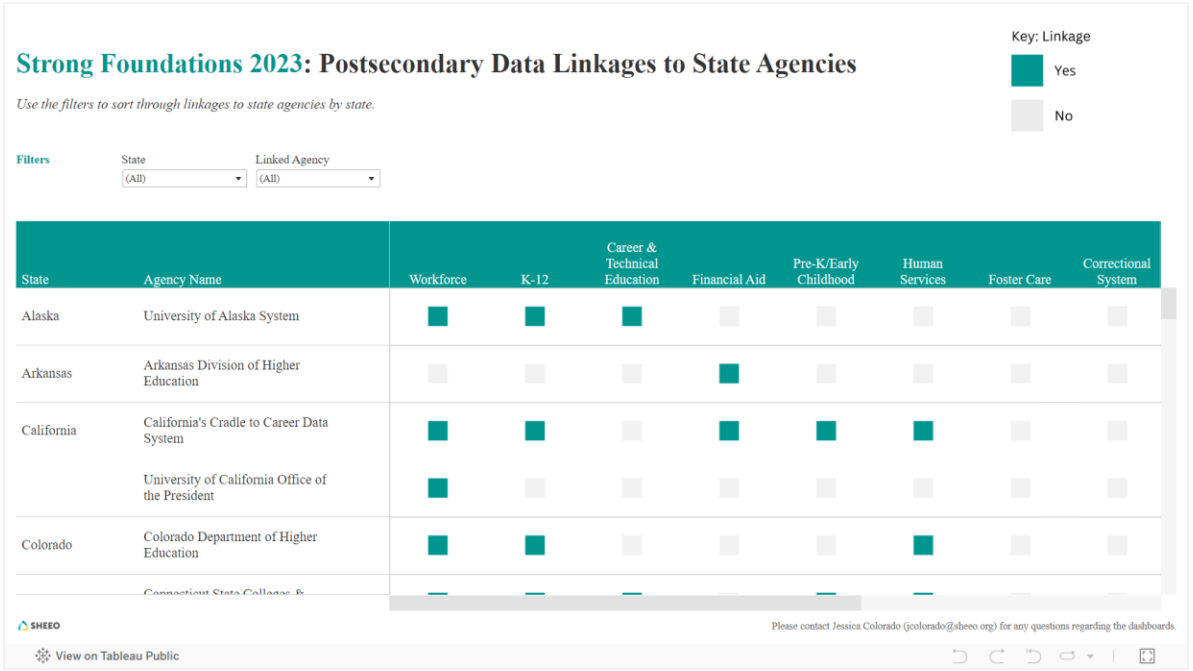


Peer Analysis

Planning & Policy Advocacy

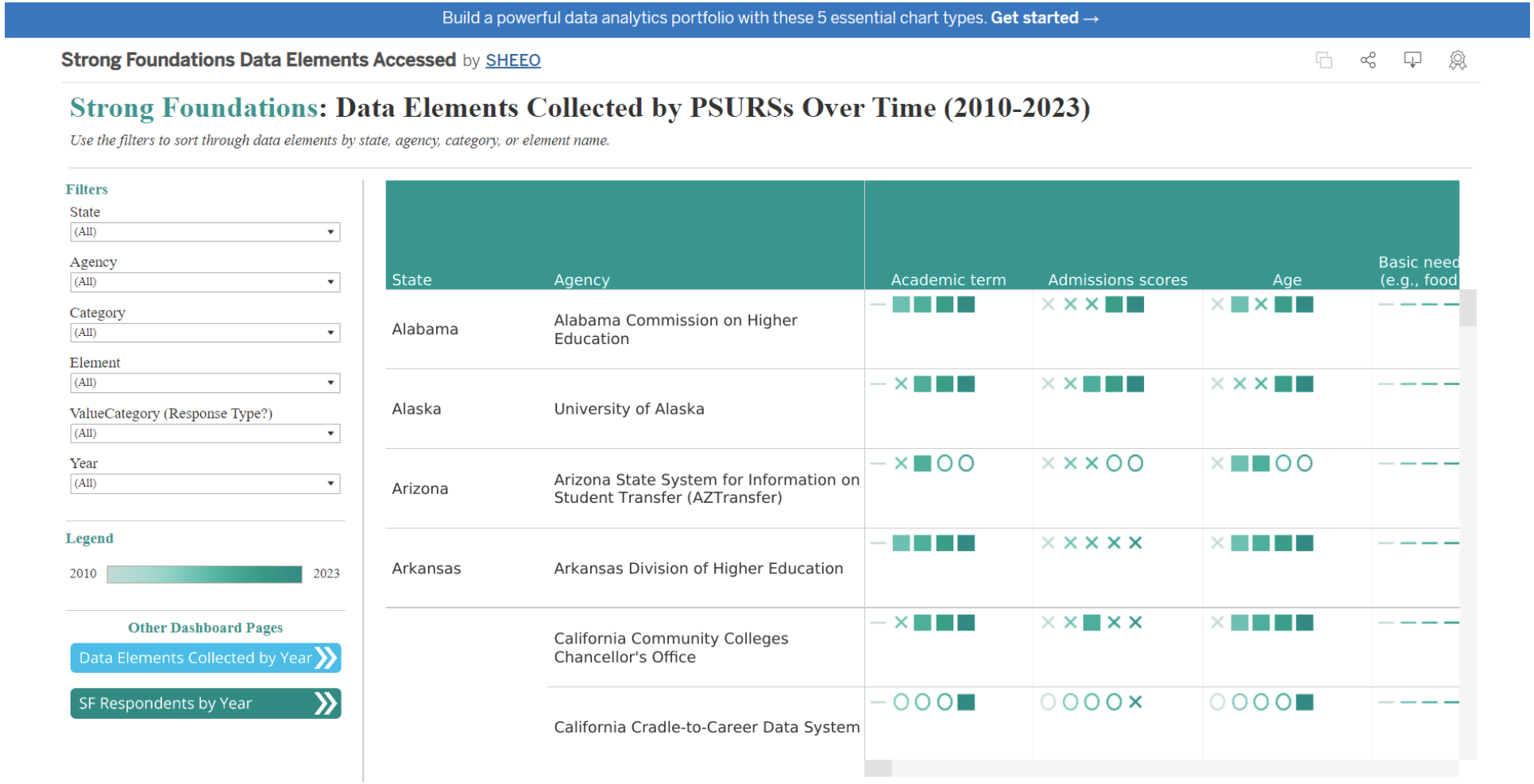
Dashboard demonstration



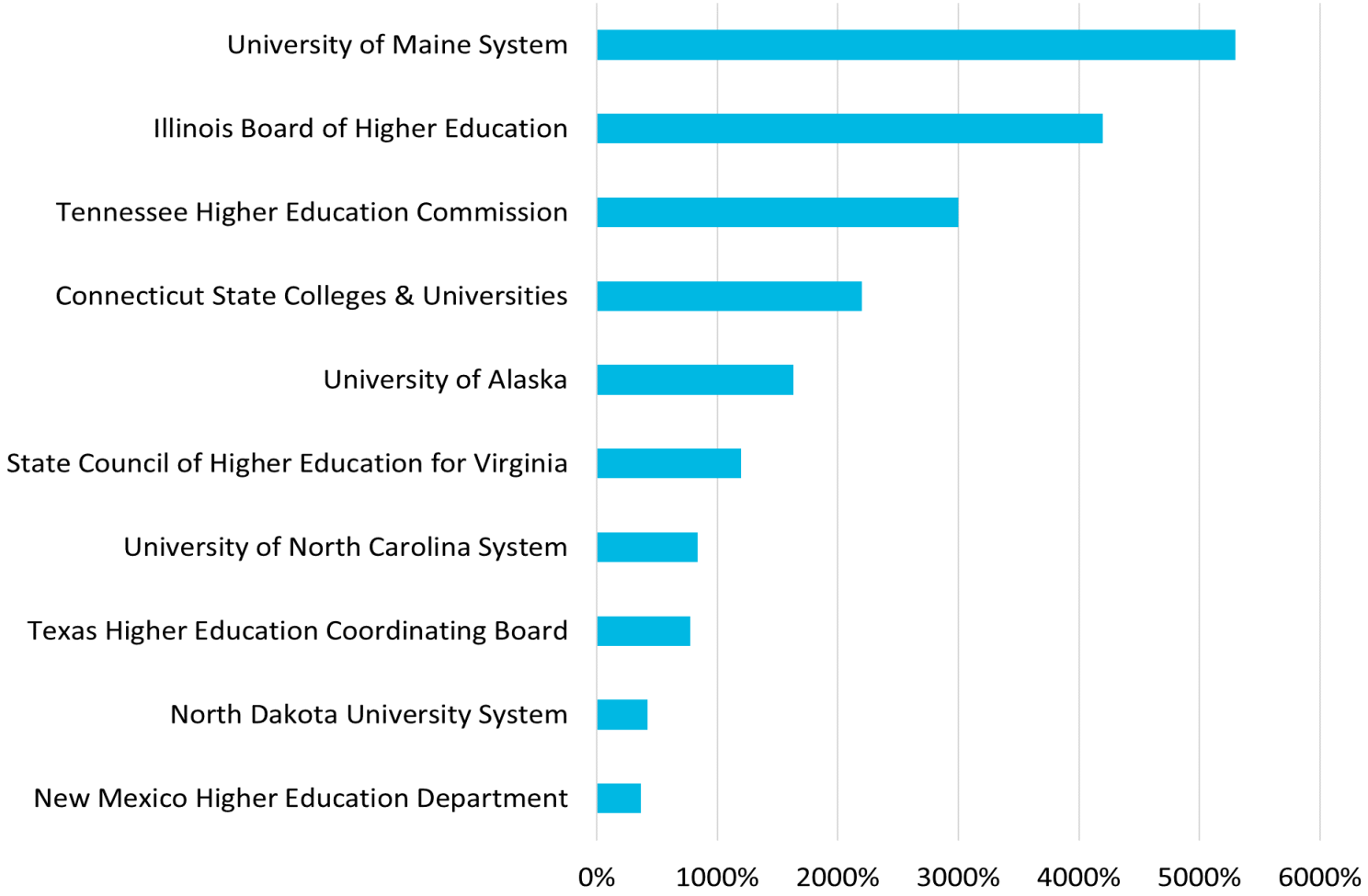


postsecondarydata.sheeo.org/data

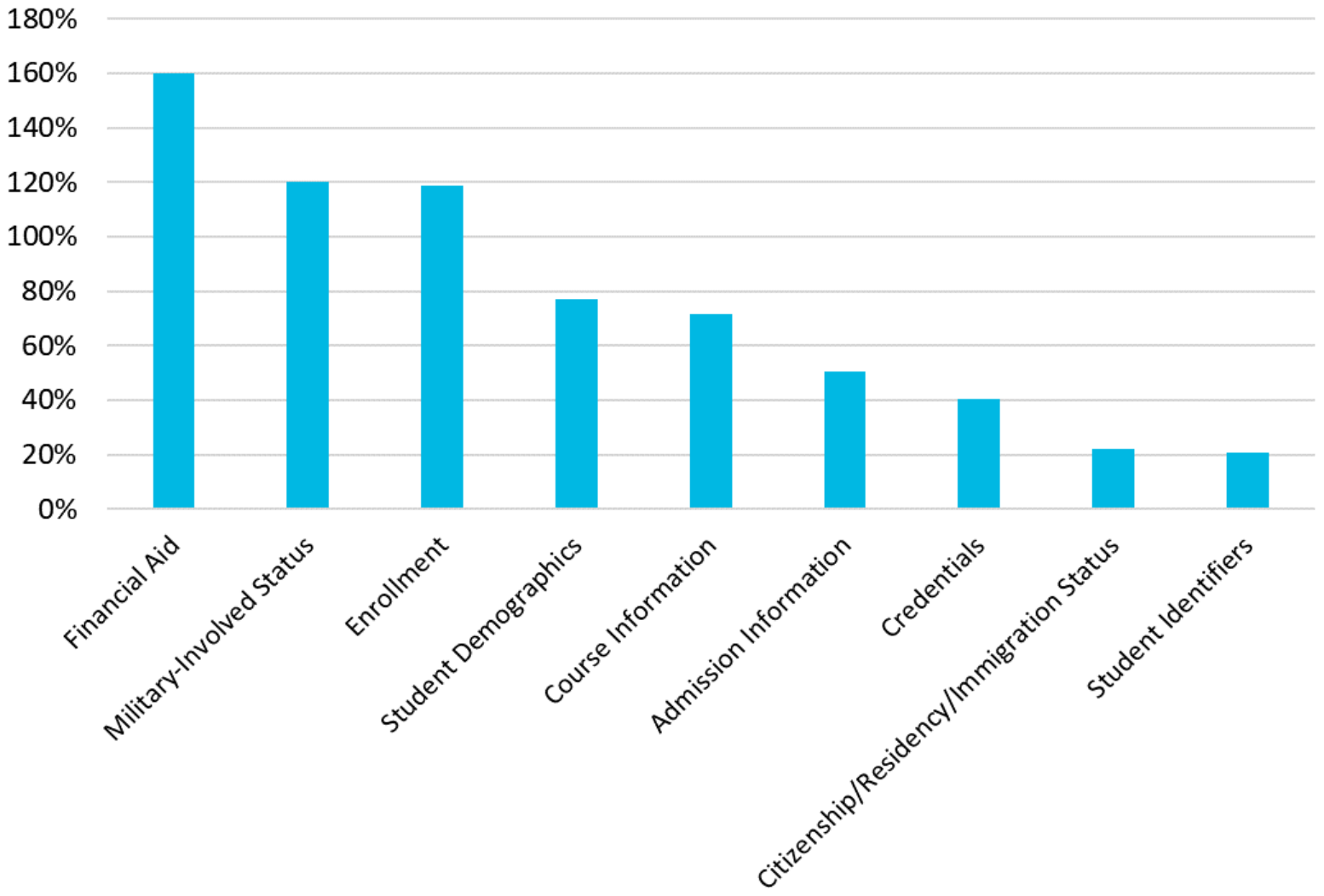
Strong Foundations: Data Elements Collected by PSURS Over Time



Takeaway 1: *What's the percentage change in the number of data elements collected by SHEEO agencies?*



Takeaway 2: *What's the percentage change in the type of data elements collected by SHEEO agencies?*



Implications & Recommendations

Promote Advocacy & Investment

Enhance Coordination & Partnerships

Advance Data Disaggregation

Strengthen Data Privacy & Standards

What's Next?

Longitudinal Analysis

- Creation of one dataset with response data from 2010
- Data will show the changes over time for questions like:
  - With which of the following agencies within your state does your agency currently link?
  - Which K-12 data elements does your agency have access to?
  - Which labor/workforce data elements does your agency have access to?

2010 → 2016 → 2018 → 2020 → 2023

What's Next?

Future Data Collection

- Strong Foundations 2025
  - Increase the scope of the survey to understand state postsecondary data nuances in various state contexts
    - SLDS within postsecondary agencies versus free-standing SLDS
    - Data sharing agreements and MOUs impact on collection
    - Continued privacy and security measurements

…and expanded data visualizations!

Discussion

- How is your state using state postsecondary data to improve policymaking?

- What questions about state postsecondary data systems do you still have?

Thank you!

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Discussion

- How are you going about these PSURS data elements at your institution? How do you use the data and what do you find most effective?

- How could SHEEOs/state agencies support their institutions? What is your relationship with your SHEEO agency?