

FAQ for Data Collection Survey

Washington OneNet / Washington State University
on behalf of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)
June 22, 2015



What is the background for this survey?

FirstNet is a federal agency, created by Congress in 2012, funded with \$7 billion and given the mission of creating a nationwide, wireless, 4G, LTE, data network to serve first responders and – really – any agency with a public safety mission to respond to daily incidents and disasters. FirstNet will support devices such as smart phones, tablet computers, mobile data computers and other devices which responders use in the field during their daily work and especially during disasters. Unlike commercial wireless networks, responders – especially First Responders – will have priority and exclusive use of this network. Each state has a program office (Washington OneNet) responsible to work with responder stakeholders within the State, as well as the FirstNet agency, to build a state plan for FirstNet.

Why are we conducting this survey?

FirstNet has asked each state to collect information about the use of wireless data by responders in the state. This data will be used to develop the state plan, including pricing and coverage, for the state. Washington OneNet has engaged Washington State University to conduct this survey of potential responder agencies.

Who are we asking to respond?

Washington OneNet and FirstNet are asking any potential using entity to respond to the survey. Such entities clearly include first responders – police and fire departments, Sheriff's offices, and agencies which provide emergency medical services. These include both government-based and non-government entities (e.g. Boeing and oil refineries have firefighting departments). These explicitly include volunteer fire departments and state agencies such as the State Patrol and Department of Natural Resources. Other potential using agencies with a public safety mission are transportation, public works, transit, utilities (water, electricity, wastewater, gas), pipeline and railroad companies – really any entity supporting infrastructure and services required in daily public safety incidents and during disaster response.

How will the data be used?

FirstNet will use the data to build a “state plan” for its network in Washington. Elements of the state plan include:

- Areas of the state which will be covered by the network
- Costs and pricing of the network for using agencies
- The phased deployment plan – which areas will be built out first
- Devices, apps and applications which will be offered by FirstNet for use on the network

- And many other elements of the state plan

Is the data confidential?

WSU is managing the data collection and maintenance process under standards common to university research projects after review by the WSU Institutional Review Board. As such, access to the raw data, and any data set that reveals individual respondent/agency level data will be limited to WSU researchers and the OneNet team. Only aggregate results will be publicly reported.

Will the data be updated over time?

Because this project and the planned implementation of the FirstNet network will span several years, it is likely that WSU and OneNet will initiate another data collection process to allow agencies to update information in the dataset, and to provide an opportunity for agencies which did not respond to the initial data collection effort to provide information for the first time.

Can multiple people in an organization add information to the survey?

A password will be sent to one primary contact in each agency or entity. That contact is welcome to share the password with others in the agency who have data to answer some of the survey questions.

Who is Washington OneNet?

See <http://onenet.wa.gov> for more details on this State of Washington program office for FirstNet in Washington. Contact us via email onenet@onenet.wa.gov.