

The U.S. Federal Statistical System: Why We're Here, What We Do, Who We Are, and Career Opportunities



Karin Orvis, Session Chair
Chief Statistician of the United States
U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Thursday, October 24
(Session J-4)

2024 FCSM Research
and Policy Conference

The U.S. Federal Statistical System

Dr. Karin Orvis

Chief Statistician of the United States

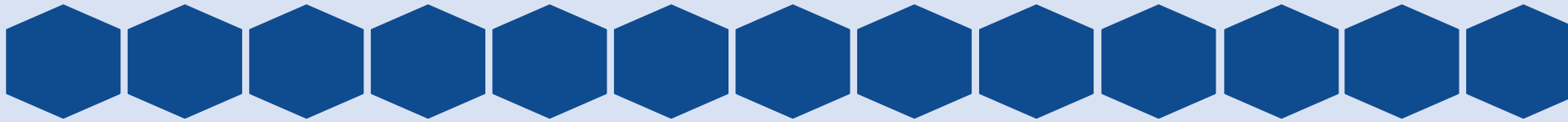


Office of the Chief Statistician
of the United States

Outline

- Where do statisticians work in the Federal government?
- About the Federal Statistical System (FSS)
- Highlighted Priorities of the FSS
- Get Involved! Opportunities Available!



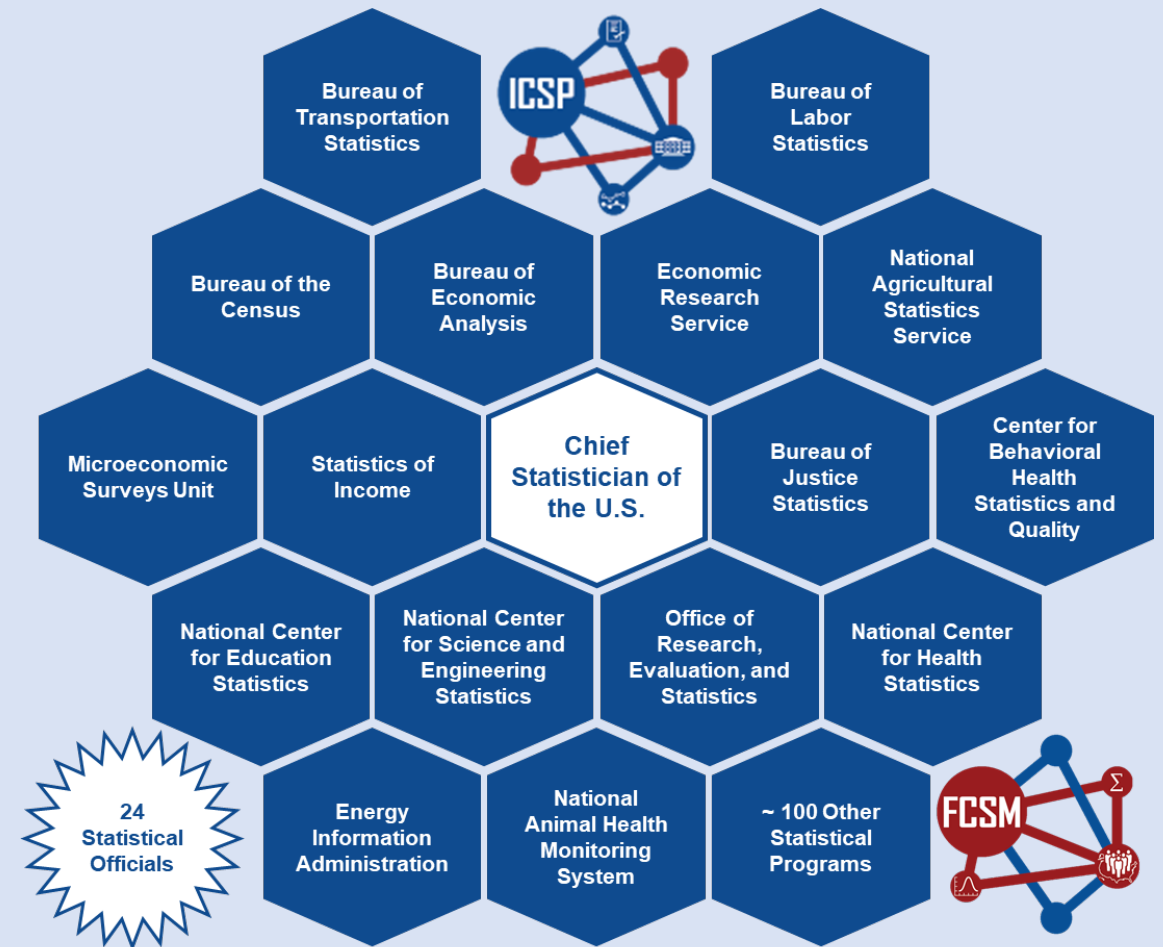


U.S. Federal Statistical System

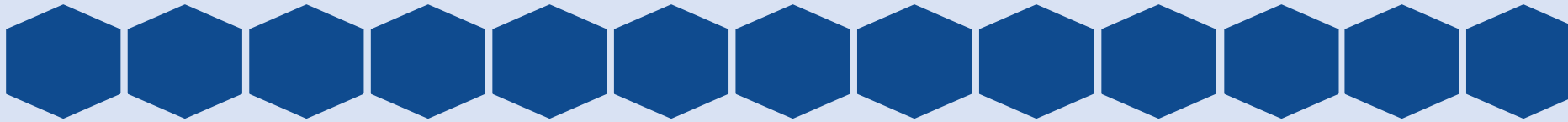
Who Are We?

Decentralized, Interconnected System

- Chief Statistician of the United States (CSOTUS)
- 16 Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units (RSAUs)
- ~ 100 Other Statistical Programs
- 24 Statistical Officials (S.O.s)
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP)
- Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM)



U.S. Federal Statistical System



U.S. Federal Statistical System

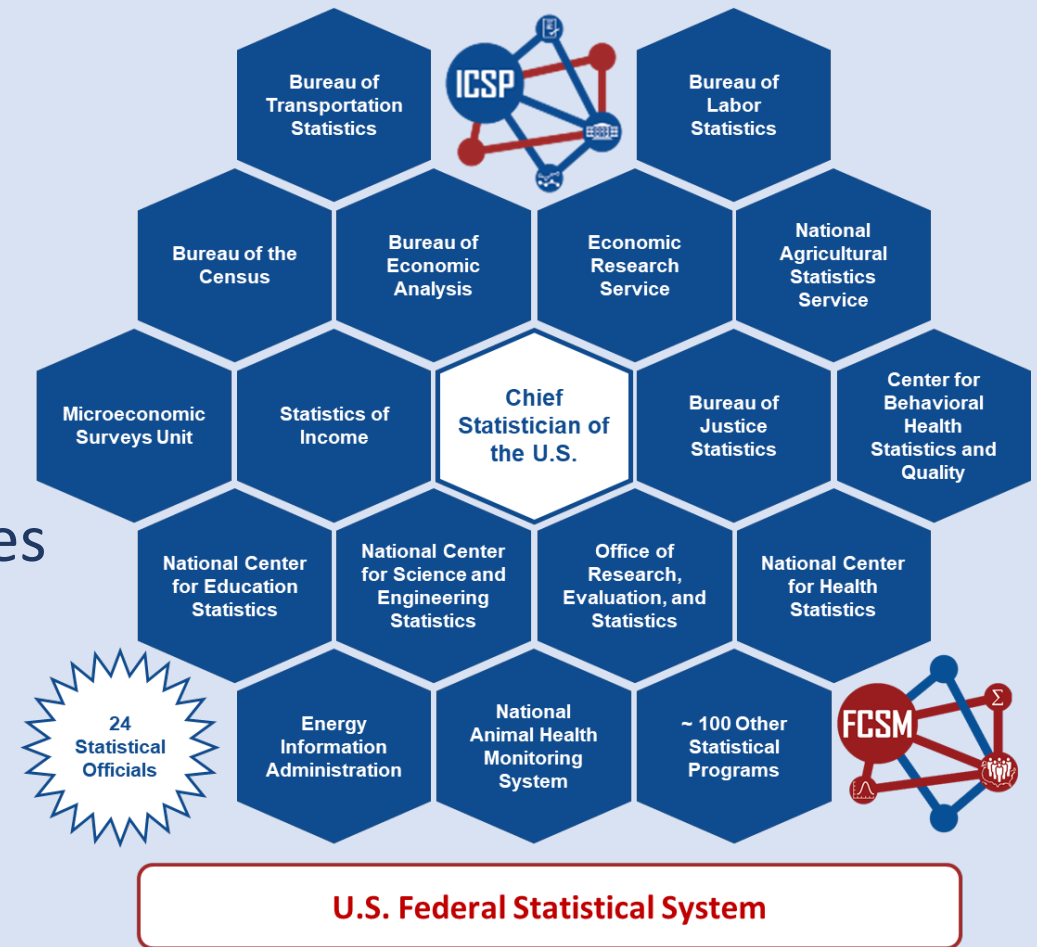
Why are We Here?

What's Our Common Purpose?

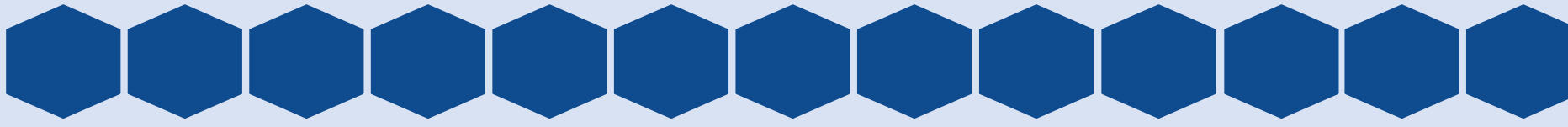
- To provide useful, objective, high quality statistical data – and meaningfully expand access to this data for evidence building purposes

What's Our Vision?

- **Operate as a seamless system,** as stewards of much of the nation's most sensitive data, enabling greater evidence building, civic engagement, and public and private sector decision-making



See: [StatsPolicy.Gov](https://statspolicy.gov)



U.S. Federal Statistical System

Opportunities and Challenges – Requires Policy and Technical Solutions



Few Highlighted FSS Priorities

What Do We Do System-Wide?

- **System-wide regulations and policies - providing common frameworks**
 - Trust regulation
 - Presumption of Access regulation
 - Expanding Secure Data Access regulation
 - Statistical Policy Directives for Common Statistical and Classification Standards
- **Shared infrastructure, services, tools, and capacities**
 - Standard Application Process (SAP)
 - Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs)
 - National Secure Data Service (NSDS) Demonstration
 - FCSM Tools – Data Quality Framework, Data Protection Toolkit, etc.



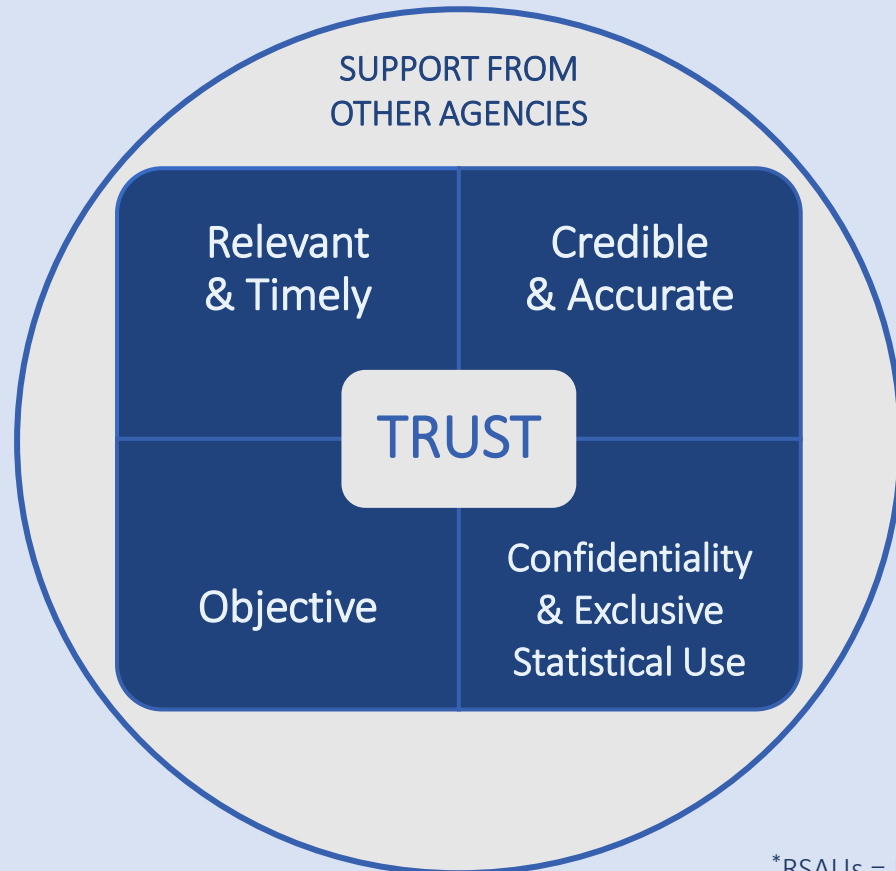
Trust Regulation

Published Oct. 11, 2024! Effective Dec. 10, 2024



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Four Responsibilities/Principles of RSAUs,* including staff



FEDERAL REGISTER
The Daily Journal of the United States Government

Archives and Records Administration

Rule

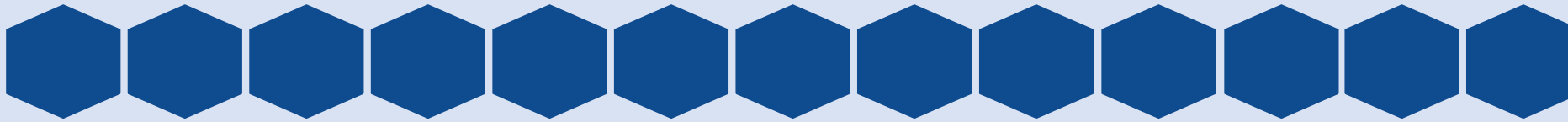
Fundamental Responsibilities of Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units

A Rule by the Management and Budget Office on 10/11/2024

Visit [StatsPolicy.gov](https://www.statspolicy.gov) > Policies

Strong alignment with United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
Visit [unece.org](https://www.unece.org) > FPOS30

*RSAUs = Recognized Statistical Agencies or Units

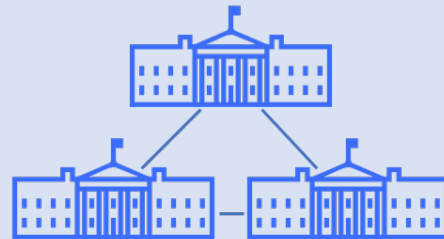


The Two Other CIPSEA 2018 Regulations

Trust



**Presumption
of Access**



**Expanding
Secure
Access**



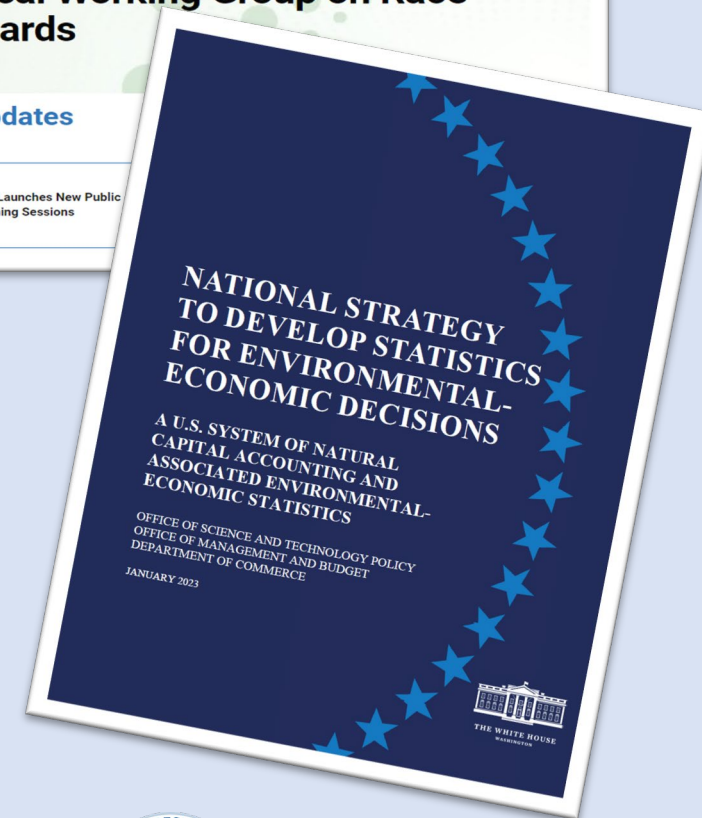
TO LEARN MORE:

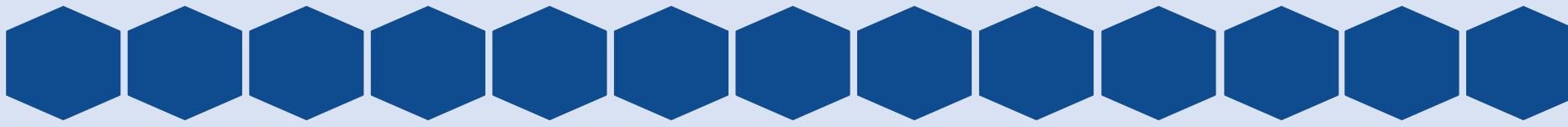
- NEXT SESSION! Th 10/24, 3:30pm, K-4. The Future of Evidence Act Implementation

Government-Wide Statistical Standards and Classification Standards

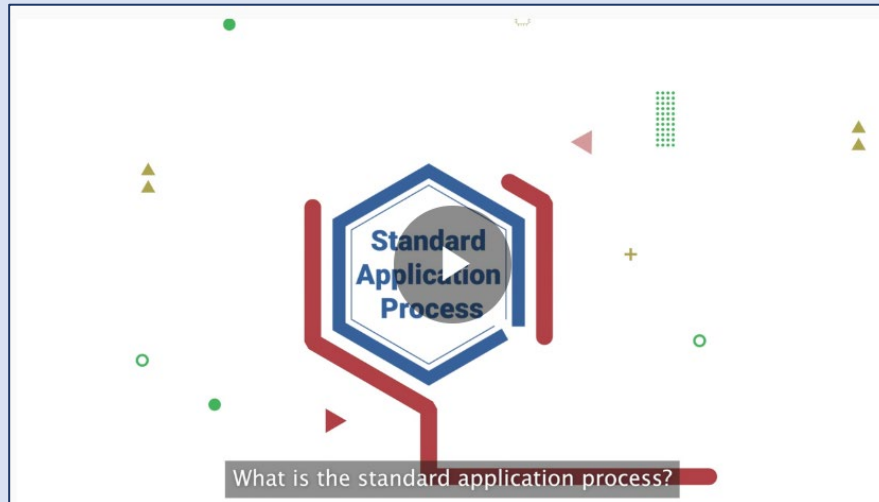
Examples with Work Underway Now:

- **Updated** - 2024 OMB Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD 15)
 - See spd15revision.gov
- North American Industry Classification System (SPD 8)
 - Also, working group on bioeconomy to produce recommendations for updating NAICS and NAPCS
- Standard Occupational Classification (SPD 10)
- Implementation of New Strategy: *National Strategy for Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions*
 - Developing new classification system, linking the environment with the economy

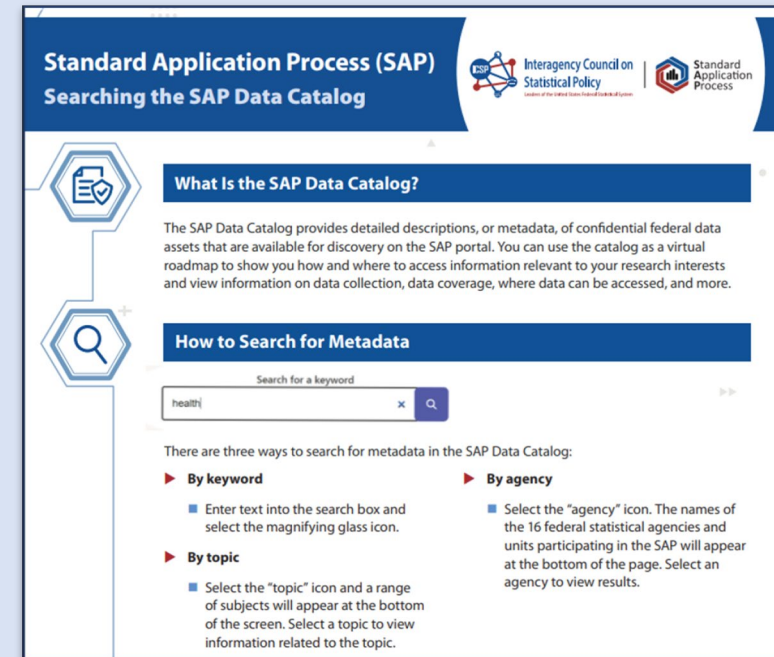




Standard Application Process (SAP)



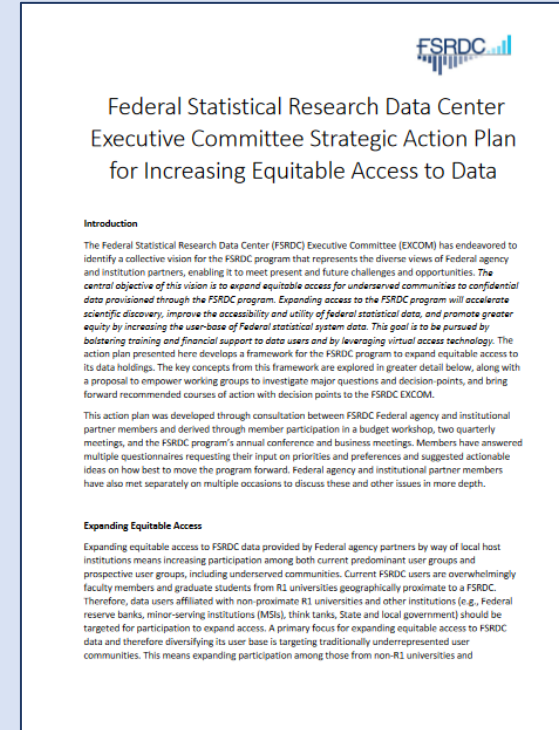
SAP Informational Video



To learn more, visit www.ncses.nsf.gov/about/standard-application-process and [OMB Memorandum Establishment of Standard Application Process Requirements on Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units \(M-23-04\)](#)

Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs)

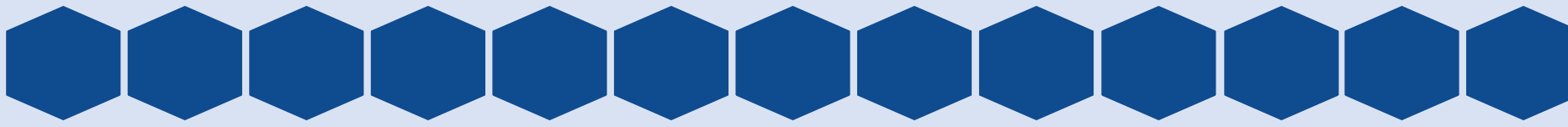
“The mission of the FSRDC program is to **support research and educate future scholars**, support a more coordinated Federal statistical system, improve the quality and utility of federal statistics, and **encourage openness and transparency in federal statistics through increased access to federal statistical micro-level data**, and promote the linkage of micro-level data from different agencies.”



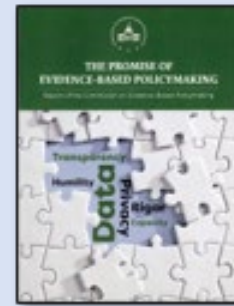
To learn more, visit: <https://www.census.gov/about/adrm/fsrdc/about/governance.html>



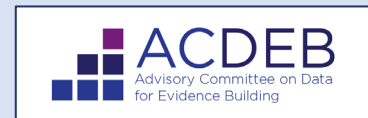
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National Secure Data Service (NSDS)



Commission on
Evidence-Based
Policymaking



We need your input and ideas!

America's Data Hub Idea Bank

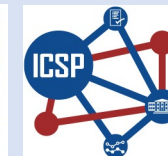


Calling all ideas!

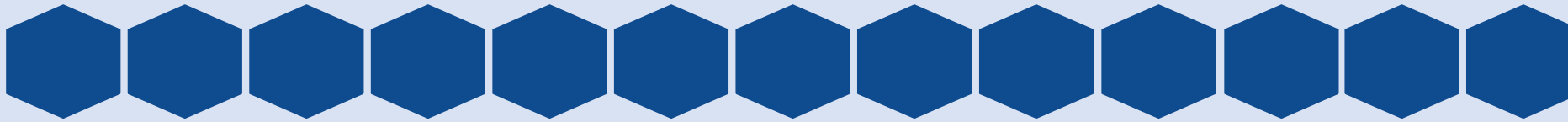
America's Data Hub Consortium (ADC) is inviting all members of the public to join us in contributing insights to our new Idea Bank. By sharing your ideas, you can directly inform future project solicitations and activities by ADC, and shape a potential NSDS.

[Submit ideas here →](#)

www.americasdatahub.org/idea-bank-form



To learn more, visit: www.ncses.nsf.gov/about/national-secure-data-service-demo



The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM)

- FCSM.gov
 - Data Protection Toolkit
 - Framework for Data Quality
 - Equitable Data Toolkit
 - Review of Nonresponse Bias Studies
 - FCSM Conference Materials
- FCSM Research & Policy Conference

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM). At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About FCSM, Resources, Events and Proceedings, and Groups Overview. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar is a large hero section with a background image of a network graph. A white box in the center of the hero section contains the text: "The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is an interagency committee **dedicated to improving the quality of Federal statistics.**" Below this text is a blue button that says "View our Mission and Charter". Below the hero section is a "Key Topics" section with a red underline. There are four topic cards arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each card has an icon, a title, and a brief description. The topics are: Data Protection (lock icon), Data Quality (bar chart icon), Nonresponse Bias (group of people icon), and Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) (gender symbol icon).

FCSM Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

Home About FCSM Resources Events and Proceedings Groups Overview

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is an interagency committee **dedicated to improving the quality of Federal statistics.**

[View our Mission and Charter](#)

Key Topics

- Data Protection**
Explores the challenges of providing access to data and aggregated statistics for research, evaluation, and evidence-based policymaking, while protecting the confidentiality of all related individuals and organizations.
- Data Quality**
Identifies and promotes best practices for assessing and communicating data quality from surveys, administrative records, sensors, and other sources that are used individually and together in statistical estimates.
- Nonresponse Bias**
Develops guidelines and best practices for nonresponse bias analyses and reporting in federal surveys.
- Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)**
Explores the best practices of the measurement of SOGI in the context of federal information collections.

StatsPolicy.gov



Office of the Chief Statistician
of the United States

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

StatsPolicy.gov

Home About Us Policies Products

Operating seamlessly, safely stewarding sensitive data resources

Fueling evidence building, civic engagement, and public and private sector decision-making

Your Federal Statistical System at work

Welcome to StatsPolicy.gov, the home of the U.S. Federal statistical system. StatsPolicy.gov brings together important information about our interwoven Federal statistical system, including our members, priorities, and activities across the Federal Government.

A Message from the Chief Statistician of the United States

"Our Nation's future, and the ability to serve our citizens equitably and effectively, requires high quality, useful, and objective information for decision-making across the public and private sectors. The Federal statistical system is key to generating this trusted information."
– Dr. Karin Orvis, Chief Statistician of the United States

Community News and Upcoming Events

- On Friday, October 11, 2024, OMB published the [Fundamental Responsibilities of Statistical Agencies and Units Final Rule](#). This final rule, known as the Trust Regulation, sets forth requirements for recognized statistical agencies and units to carry out their four fundamental responsibilities, as articulated in the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act). It also sets forth requirements for all other agencies to "enable, support, and facilitate" the recognized statistical

Describes the U.S. Federal Statistical System including leadership, top priorities, and on-going activities

- Community News and Events
- Governing Laws and Policies
- Statistical Policy Directives and Regulations
- Chapters in *Analytical Perspectives* volume of President's Budget
- Reports to Congress on *Statistical Programs of the U.S. Government*

Stay tuned for
StatsPolicy on LinkedIn!

Opportunities Inside & Outside Federal Government!

Federal Gov Jobs

- Various Hiring Paths – via USAJobs.gov
 - While in School – Click on “Students”
 - Student Pathways Program
 - E.g., Paid Internships – like in summer, and positions through the year
 - Upon Graduation
 - Recent Graduates Program (w/in 2 yrs)
 - Presidential Management Fellow Program
 - Any Time
 - Open to the Public & Direct Hire Authority for Statisticians and Data Scientists
 - Series 1530; 0110, 0180 and more!

From Outside the Gov

- Conduct Research Using Federal Data Sources (e.g., via public data and confidential data)
- Contracts and Grants
 - Federal Agencies
 - America’s DataHub Consortium (ADC) Requests for Solutions for the NSDS
- Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program (IPA)
- Scientific Advisory Groups and other Expert Consultant Roles
- Provide Input on Requests for Public Input on FSS Efforts

And More!





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Already in the Federal Government? Get Involved in FSS-wide Efforts!

Support ICSP FY25-26 Goals and Objectives by volunteering for Council Groups and their Working Groups

- Connect with your supervisor and/or agency's [ICSP member](#) to learn more!

Engage with system-wide experts via FCSM's Interest Groups and Working Groups

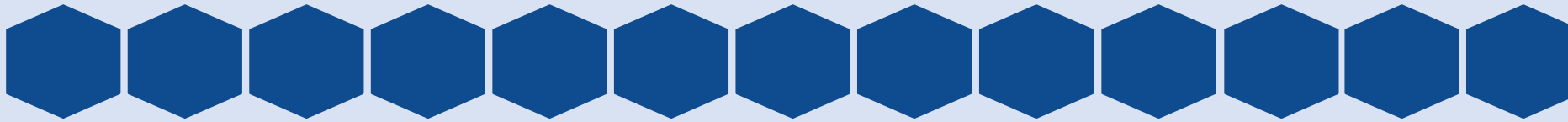
- Visit [FCSM.gov > Groups](https://www.fcsm.gov) and/or FCSM Chair/Co-Chair for more information!

Join the ICSP Mentoring Program – as a mentor or as a mentee – to facilitate interagency sharing of knowledge and skills

- Stay tuned for CY25 program kickoff information!

Alongside the U.S. Chief Statistician and Senior Statisticians, Scientists, and Policy Analysts at OMB, lead and coordinate system-wide efforts through:

- Detail opportunities
- Fellowship programs
- Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program
- Internships
- Participating in topical Interagency Technical Working Groups
- Contact Statistical_Directives@omb.eop.gov to express interest!



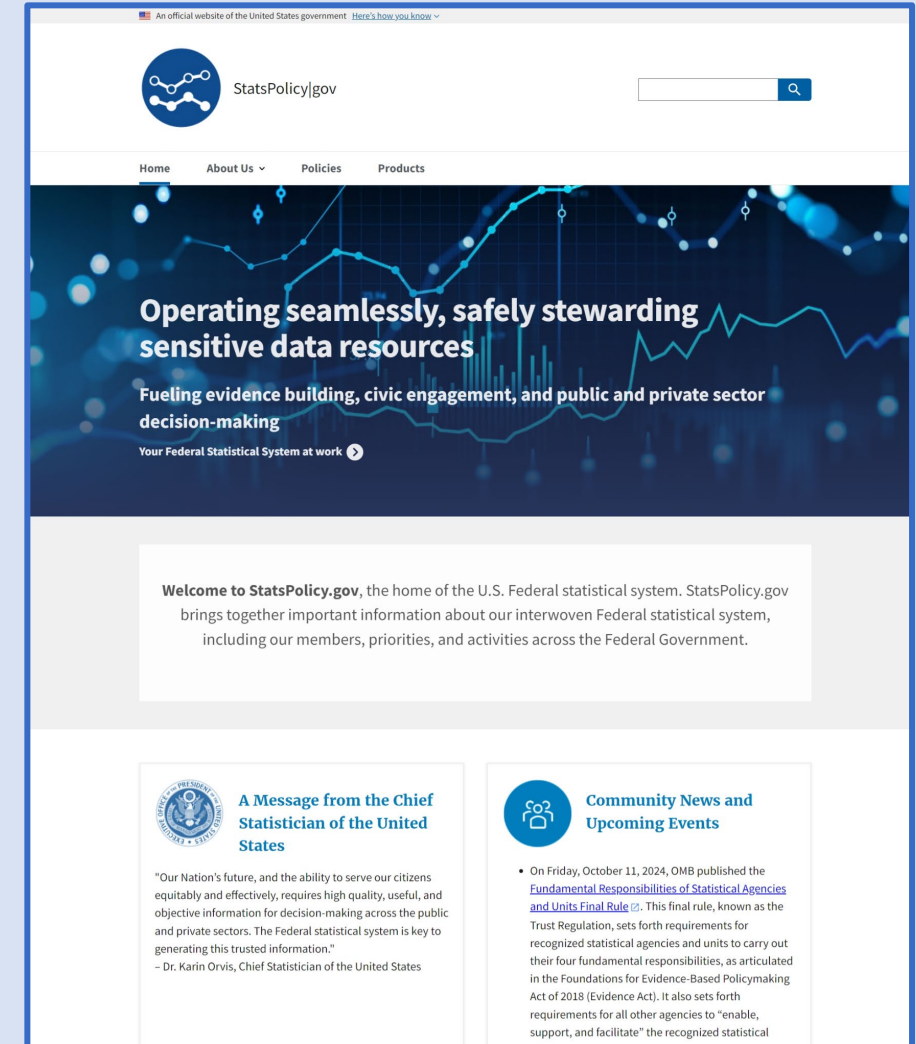
Thank You!

Connect with us!

Statistical_Directives@omb.eop.gov

FSS Website:

<https://www.statspolicy.gov/>



Panelists and Order of Events

Karin Orvis

U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Claire Bowen

Urban Institute

Sarah Forrest

National Center for Health Statistics, HHS

Michael Castro

U.S. Census Bureau, DOC

Emilda Rivers

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, NSF

Panel Discussion

- Overview: The U.S. Federal Statistical System
- Government Data of the People, by the People, for the People: Navigating Citizen Privacy Concerns
- Total Survey Error as a Framework for Data Equity
- Unlocking New Insights Through Restricted Microdata: 30 Years of Innovative Research from Federal Statistical Research Data Centers
- How the U.S. Statistical System Is Expanding Secure Access for Evidence Building
- Topics: Roles/careers in the FSS, getting involved from inside and outside of the government, and more!

Session Organizer: Bob Sivinski, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, DHS