

The Standard Application Process

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Overview

- Background – Legislation and History
- The Portal
- Governance Structure
- Working Groups
- Future of the SAP

Legislation and History

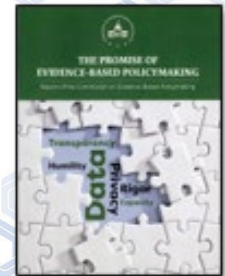


SAP: Evidence Commission

The Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking recommended a single process to apply for government data

*The Office of Management and Budget should promulgate a **single, streamlined process for researchers external to the government to apply, become qualified, and gain approval to access government data that are not publicly available.***

Source: [The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking](#), Rec. 2-8, p. 46.



**Commission on
Evidence-Based
Policymaking**

SAP and the Evidence Act

The [Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018](#) ([§ 3583](#)) requires OMB establish a process through which agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, researchers, and individuals may apply to access confidential federal data



Standardized process
across statistical
agencies



Common
application
form



Standard review
criteria for access
determination



Timeframes for
prompt
determinations



Standards for
transparency



An appeals process
for adverse decisions

A Little History

Evidence Act Passed

Section 3583 calls for single application and process.

New PMO

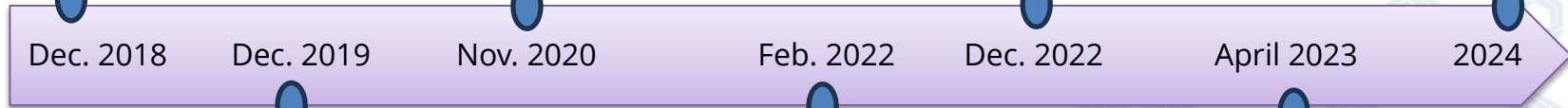
NCSES Designated as PMO, Executive Committee and working groups established.

SAP Policy Issued and Full Application Goes Live

OMB issues M-23-04 with the application roll-out.

Future of SAP

Welcome new agencies, enhancements, community building.



Dec. 2018

Dec. 2019

Nov. 2020

Feb. 2022

Dec. 2022

April 2023

2024

Pilot Portal Goes Live

Developed by Census Bureau. Included FSRDC Agencies.

Full Metadata Catalog Goes Live

Includes full production data catalog.

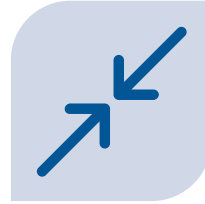
New Governance

SAP Governance Board established with refresh of working groups.

Impact of the Evidence Act



For the first time, **all statistical agencies are using a standardized process** for accepting and reviewing applications for confidential data



The SAP adds value through the **streamlining of data discovery, standardization, and increased coordination**



Individual data providers remain the trusted intermediary to access confidential data

Participating Agencies

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Bureau Transportation Statistics

Census Bureau

Economic Research Service, Department of Agriculture

Energy Information Administration

Federal Reserve Board, Microeconomics Survey Unit

Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Division

National Agricultural Statistics Service

National Center for Animal Health Monitoring

National Center for Education Statistics

National Center for Health and Statistics

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Social Security Administration, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



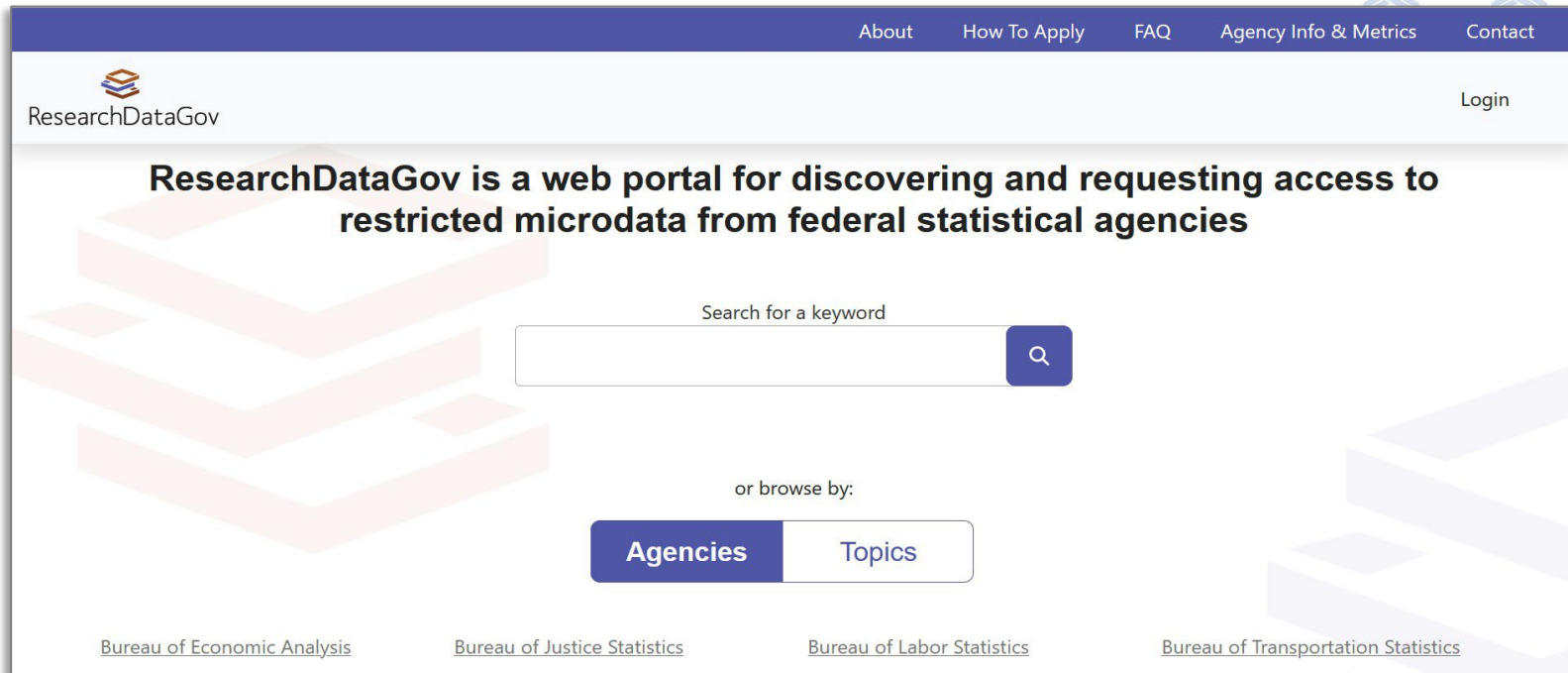
The Portal

What is the SAP?

A common application that allows researchers and data users to apply for restricted use data, also called confidential data, from federal statistical agencies.

SAP Portal

SAP Portal: www.researchdatagov.org

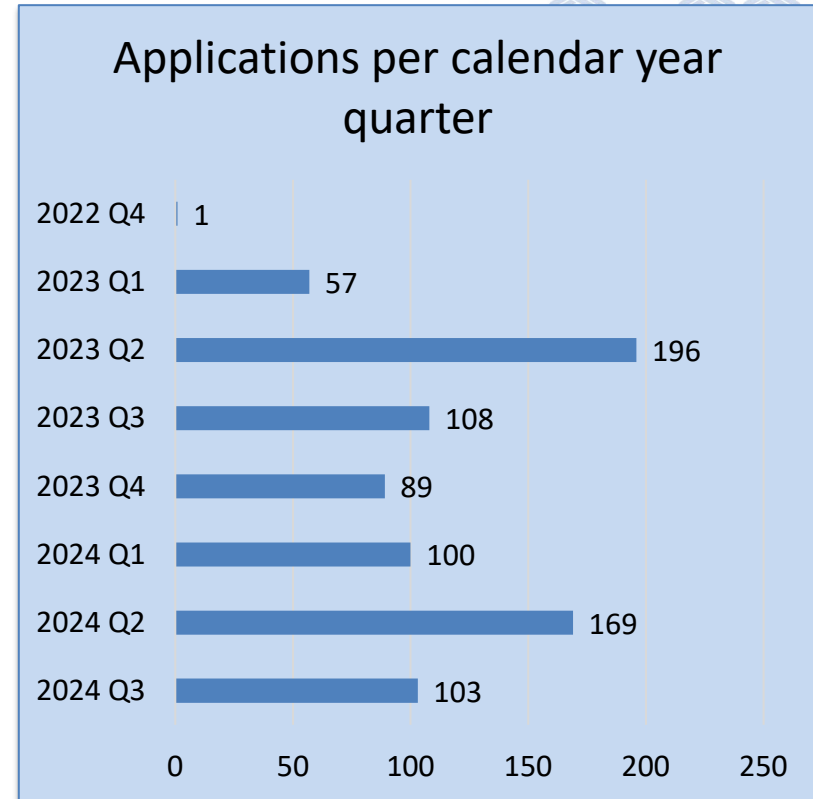
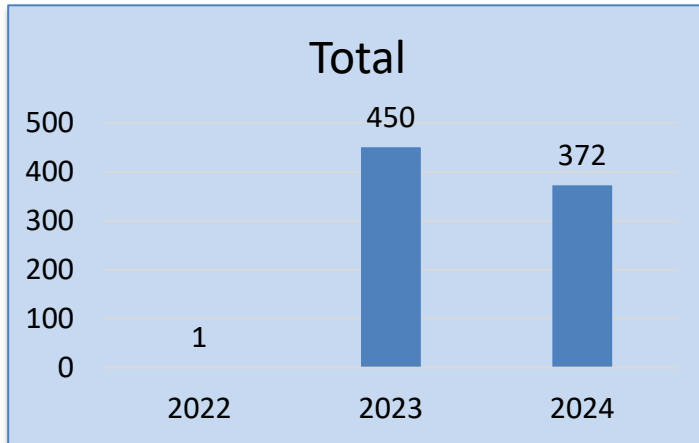


The screenshot shows the ResearchDataGov website homepage. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with links for "About", "How To Apply", "FAQ", "Agency Info & Metrics", and "Contact". Below this, the ResearchDataGov logo is on the left and a "Login" link is on the right. The main heading reads: "ResearchDataGov is a web portal for discovering and requesting access to restricted microdata from federal statistical agencies". Below the heading is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search for a keyword" and a magnifying glass icon. Underneath the search bar, it says "or browse by:" followed by two buttons: "Agencies" (which is highlighted in dark blue) and "Topics". At the bottom of the page, there are four links: "Bureau of Economic Analysis", "Bureau of Justice Statistics", "Bureau of Labor Statistics", and "Bureau of Transportation Statistics".

Overall Application Metrics

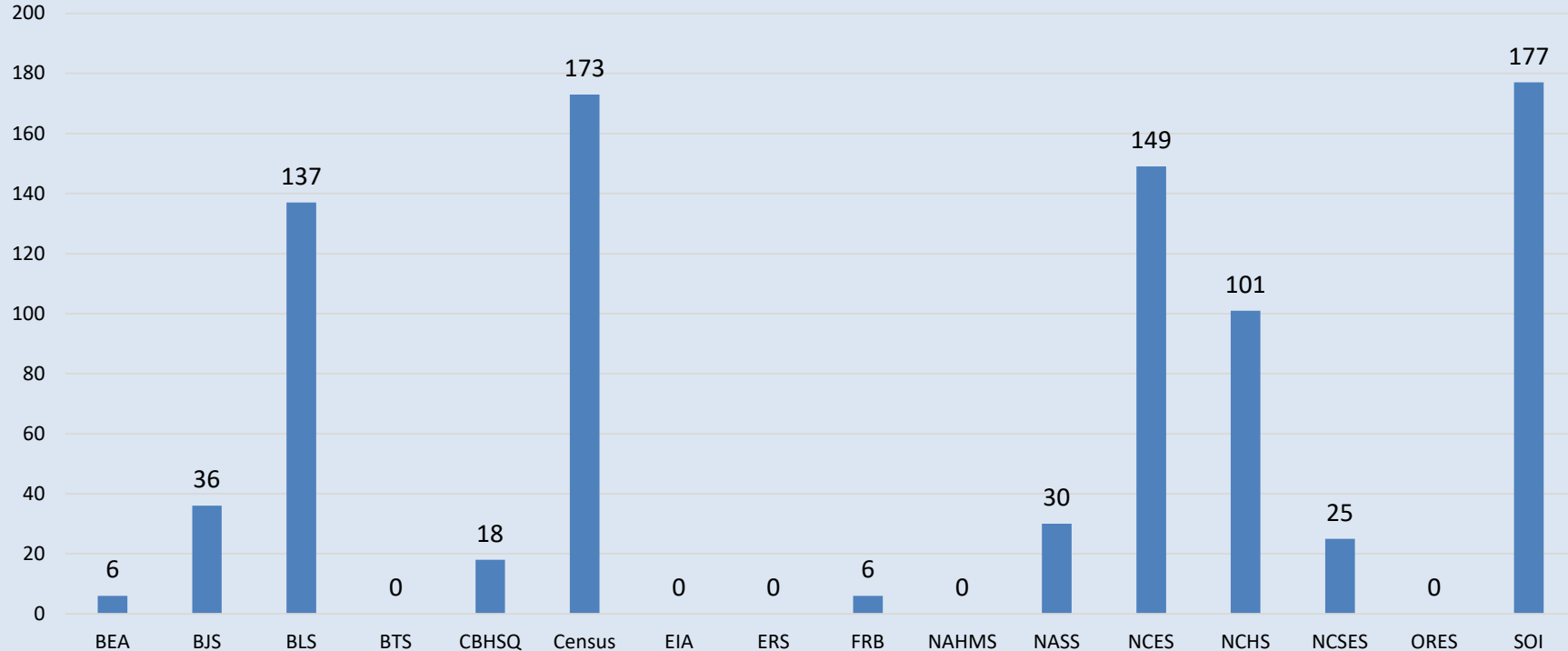
823

Total applications*



Applications by Agency

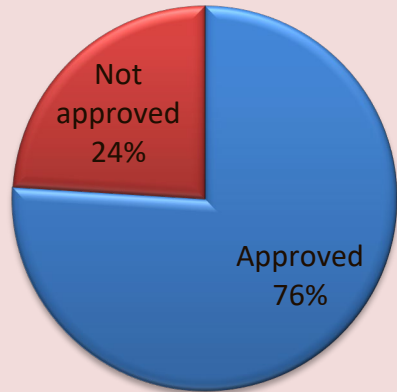
Total Applications Received per Agency



Reflects total numbers from launch (12/08/2022) to 9/24/2024

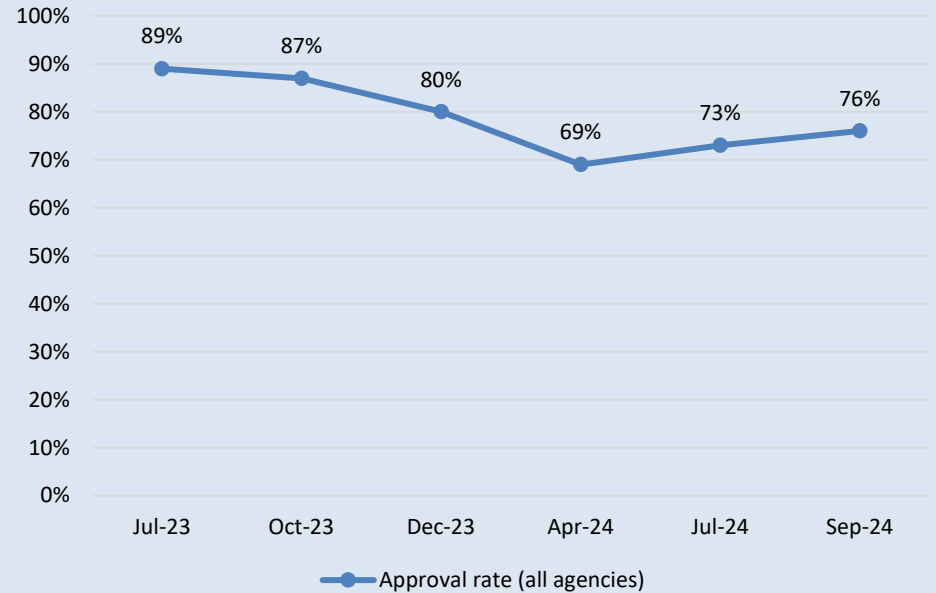
Aggregate Approval Rates

Current Approval Rate



■ Approved ■ Not approved

Approval Rate by Quarter



Metadata Fields

Administrative

- Data Source
- Data Authorizers
- *Data Sponsors*
- Access Modalities
- Whether Non-Citizens can Apply

Data Details

- Description
- Years Available
- Levels of Geography
- Universe and Sample
- Method of Data Collection
- *Data Collection Frequency*
- *Data Collection Notes*
- *Variables Used to Link to Other Datasets*

Documentation

- Availability of Public-Use Microdata
- *Data Dictionaries*
- *Other Technical Documentation*
- *URLs to Websites*

Italics denotes optional fields

Application Fields

Research Team

- Principal Investigator
- Co-Principal Investigator
- Researchers
- Email
- Affiliation
- Role on the Project
- Residency
- Grad Student or not
- Citizenship for Some Agencies

Research Details

- Research Description
- Methodology
- Planned Output
- Need for Confidential Data
- Benefits to the Agency
- Project Duration and Timeline
- *Variables Requested*
- *Years of Data Requested*

Additional Info

- Funding
- Work Location
- Software Needed
- User-Provided Data
- Citations



Governance



SAP Governance



Governed by the **Interagency Council on Statistical Policy**
(ICSP)

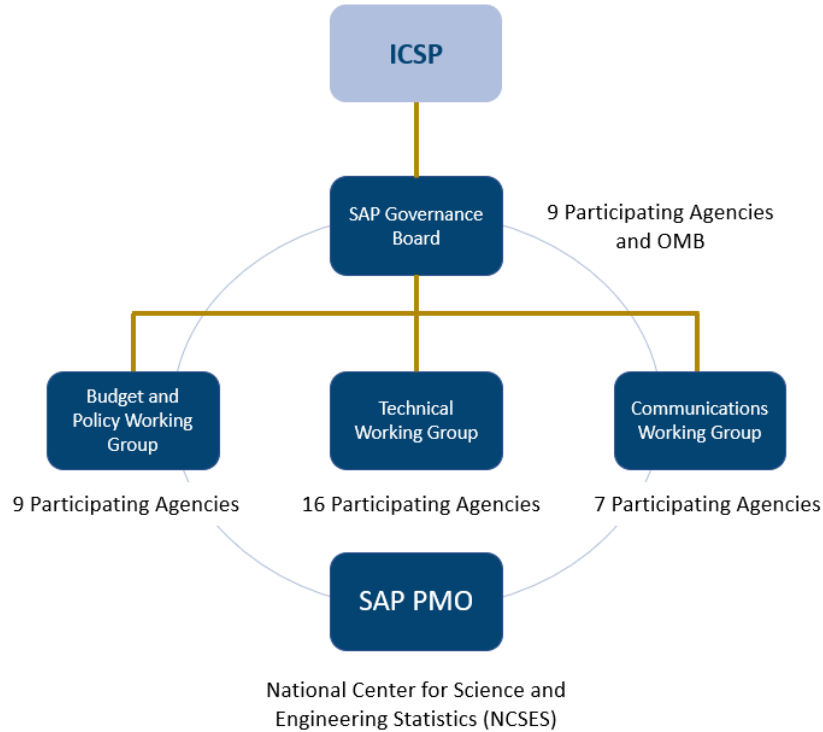


OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) serves the President of the United States in overseeing the implementation of his or her vision across the Executive Branch. OMB's mission is to assist the President in meeting policy, budget, management, and regulatory objectives and to fulfill the agency's statutory responsibilities

M-23-04, Establishment of Standard Application Process Requirements on Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units

SAP Governance Framework



- **Interagency collaboration**
- **SAP Governance Board provides oversight**
- **Working Groups focus on specific project areas**
- **SAP PMO provides integration and support**

SAP Governance Board



- SAP Policy required the establishment of an ICSP subcommittee to serve as the Governance Board for SAP activities
 - Serve as the executive steering committee to oversee the SAP
 - Coordinate the statistical agencies and units accepting applications
- SAP Governance Charter approved Dec 2022
- Meetings held quarterly
- SAP Governance Board is composed of members who have broad knowledge of the federal statistical system
 - ICSP members
 - Representatives from the Evaluation, Privacy, and Chief Data Officer communities

Note: ICSP = Interagency Council on Statistical Policy



Working Groups

SAP Working Groups

- SAP Governance Board Charter required the creation of three standing working groups
 - Budget and Policy
 - Communication
 - Technical
- Multiple subcommittees including user materials, push-pull communications, newsletter, agency membership, budget initiatives.

Working Group Tasks

- **Budget and Policy: Policy Issues and Budget Needs**
 - Recommendations for Streamlining Credentialing
 - Developing Membership Application and Process
 - Address Agency Budget Needs
- **Communications: Stakeholder Engagement and User Needs**
 - Conduct Listening and Feedback Sessions
 - Develop User Materials, e.g. one-pagers and videos
 - Develop and disseminate quarterly newsletter
- **Technical: Develop technical requirements for the portal**
 - Develop requirements for appeals functionality for not approved applications
 - User enhancements such as easier ability to edit fields during revise and resubmits

Working Group Composition

- Working groups have participation from various agencies

Working Group	Members	Agencies Represented
Budget and Policy	11	9
Communication	12	9
Technical	30	16



Future of the SAP

Portal Enhancements



Better search functionality



Continued build-out of features required under the SAP Policy



Enhanced metrics available on NCSES website

Expanding Membership



- Required under SAP Policy to allow additional agencies to apply for membership in the SAP
- Membership application with supporting materials under review by the SAP Governance Board
- Goal is to be accepting applications early next year
- SAP Governance Board determines which agencies are eligible to join

Building Community

- Holding listening sessions and webinars to educate and get feedback from user community
- Exploring creation of a community of practice website to help users connect
- Planning for a research symposium and/or networking event with virtual option to reduce burden for attendance

Questions?

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