

Challenges and Opportunities for Federal Statistics in the 21st Century

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Executive Director

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

- COPAFS was founded in 1981 to coordinate activities of a number of Associations, Organizations, and Businesses that rely on federal statistics
- Our membership today both produces and consumes federal statistics in most government departments and scientific disciplines
- Our goal: Advancing Excellence in Federal Statistics

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Overview Federal Statistics

Office of the Chief Statistician of the United States

- Established in the Paperwork Reduction Act 1994
- Coordinates the activities of the federal statistical system
- Chairs the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

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Overview Federal Statistics Primary Statistical Agencies

- US Census Bureau
 - Bureau of Economic Analysis
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics
 - National Center for Health Statistics
 - National Center for Education Statistics
 - Bureau of Transportation Statistics
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service
 - Economic Research Service
 - IRS Statistics of Income Division
 - Office of Research Evaluation and Statistics SSA
 - Bureau of Justice Statistics
 - National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
 - Energy Information Administration
- OPAFS Advancing Excellence in Federal Statistics**

Overview Federal Statistics Essential Resource

- Reapportionment and Redistricting
- Principal Key Economic Indicators
- American Community Survey
- Unemployment and Labor Force Statistics
- GDP and CPI
- Economic Census
- Income and Poverty
- Health Insurance
- Health Standards
- Opioid Addiction

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Overview Federal Statistics Essential Resource

- Food Security
- Farm Productivity
- Obesity
- Crime Victimization
- Corrections and Recidivism
- Energy Usage and Fuel Reserves
- Education Progress
- Science and Engineering Workforce Statistics
- Veterans Statistics
- Highway Infrastructure

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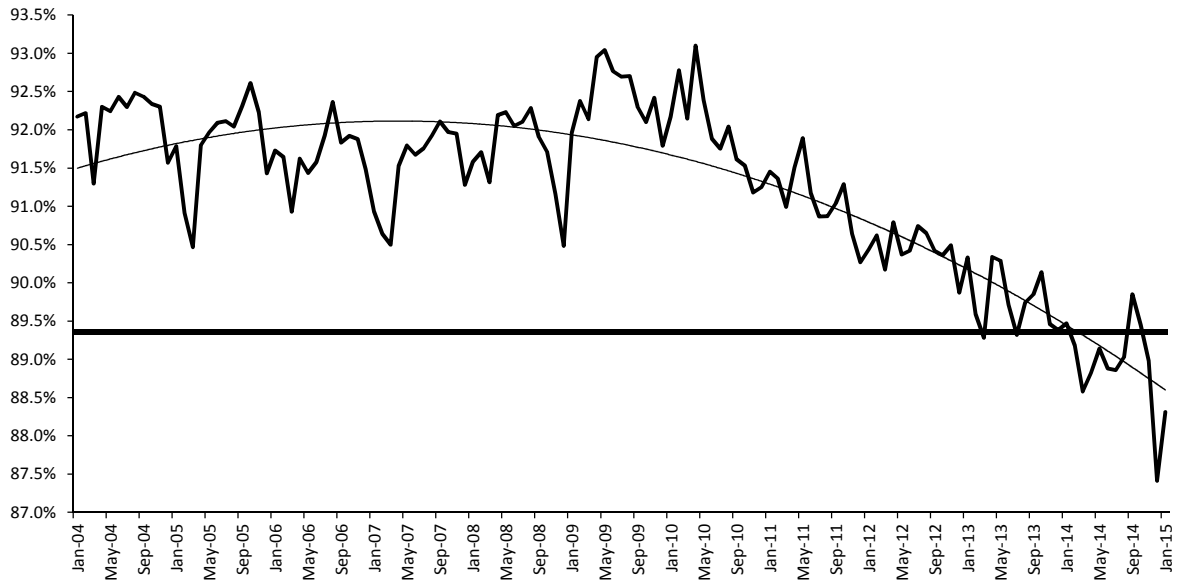
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Challenges for Federal Statistics

- Declining Survey Response Rates
- Funding Constraints – Do More With Less
- Expanding Demands for Data
- Protecting Privacy
- Concerns Regarding Federal Data Collection

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Response Rate Challenges Current Population Survey



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2020 Census Readiness

Census Process 1970 through 2010

- Prepare address list
- Mail paper questionnaire
- Capture Information from mail returns
- Conduct in-person enumeration of non-responders using paper and pencil

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2020 Census Readiness

2020 Census Modernization and Efficiency

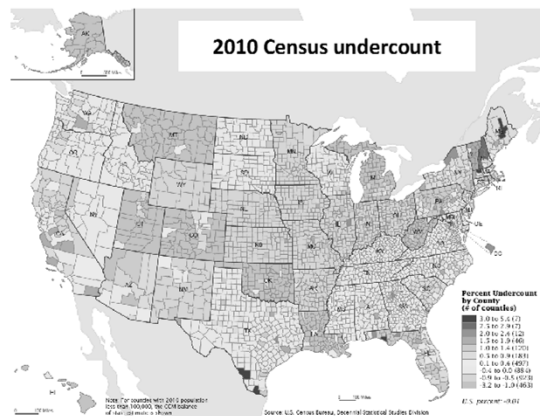
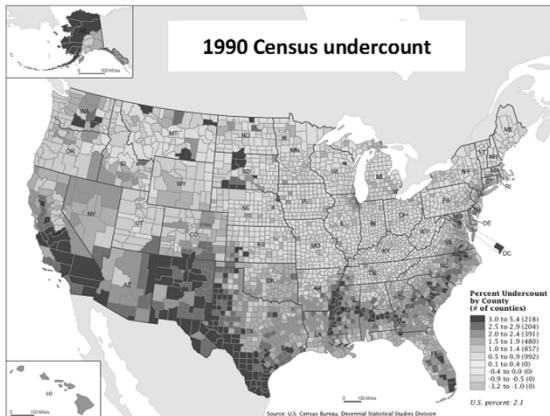
- Reengineer Address List Development
- Optimize Self Response
- Use Administrative Records and Third Party Data
- Reengineer Field Operations
- Integrated Communications and Partnership

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Importance of Community Support

2020 CENSUS INNOVATION

Integrated communications & partnerships program



United States
Census
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

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2020 Census Challenges

- Census appropriations \$200 million below request FY 2012 through FY 2017
- Has forced prioritization of activities to core systems development to achieve cost saving
- Reduction in field testing
- Deferral of complete modernization
 - Increased in-person address listing
 - Return to paper-based methods for selected areas
- Deferral of Communications and Partnership

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2020 Census Challenges

- Increased Funding Critical for an Accurate Census in 2020
- If not in Fiscal Year 2018, then Fiscal Year 2019 is essential

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Outside Support for Statistical Agencies

- Census Project
 - <https://thecensusproject.org/>
- Friends of National Center for Health Statistics
 - www.friendsofnchs.org
- Friends of Institute for Education Science
 - ww.aera.net/Research-Policy-Advocacy/Friends-of-IES
- Friends of Agriculture Statistics
 - <http://agriculturalstatis.wixsite.com/fasa>
- Friends of Bureau of Labor Statistic
 - <http://www.copafs.org/projects/blsfriends.aspx>

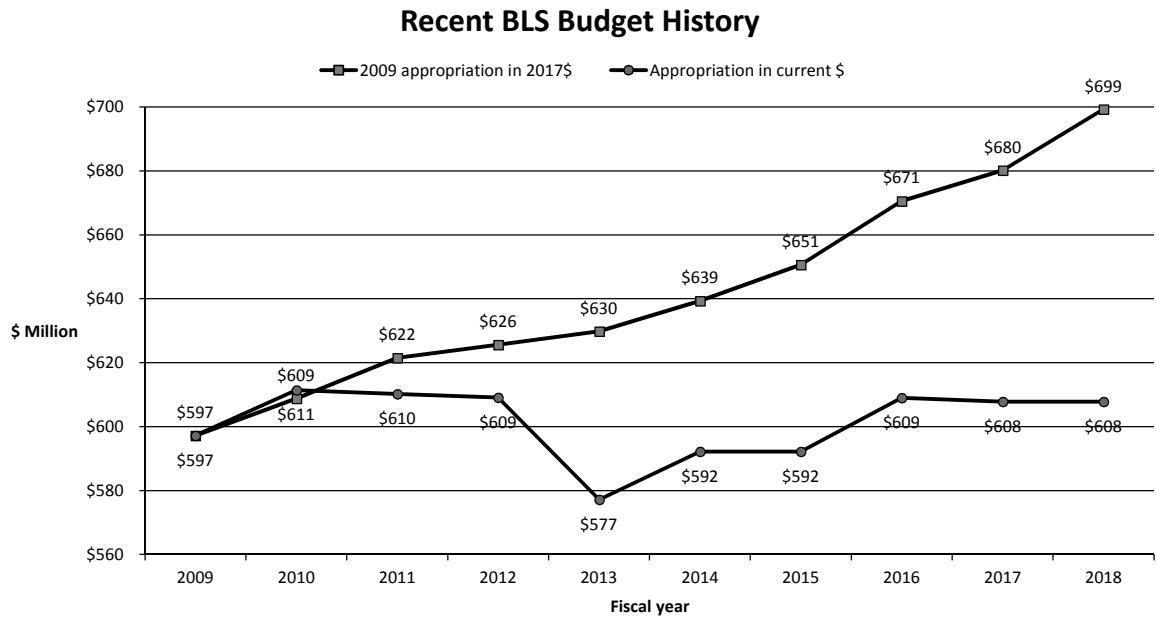
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Bureau of Labor Statistics Situation

- Vital information on our economy and workforce
 - Consumer Price Index (CPI)
 - Producer Price Index (PPI)
 - Employment Cost Index (ECI)
 - U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes (MXP)
 - American Time-Use Survey
 - National Longitudinal Surveys

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Bureau of Labor Statistics Situation



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Support for BLS

- Friends of BLS
- Erica Groshen Chair
- John Thompson Co-Chair
- See Importance of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Critical Issues it Faces
- COPAFS website www.copafs.org

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Opportunities

- Integrated statistical data from surveys
administrative records and commercial data
- Accessible, high quality, public data to help
businesses and communities grow the economy,
create jobs, address socio-economic issues,
improve quality of life, and offer better services.
- Chief Statistician of the United States
modernization initiatives
- Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking
– www.cep.gov

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Chief Statistician Modernization Initiatives

- **Quality:** Develop standards and methods for combined statistical data
- **Research access:** Continue to grow and improve Federal Statistical Research Data Centers
- **Public access:** Increase & improve access and creating value-added products
- **Human capital:** Invest in employees and competencies
- **State and federal program data:** Improve intergovernmental and interagency relationships, in order to acquire & use data
- **Respondent burden:** Develop strategies to counter falling response rates

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Commission on Evidence-Based Policy Making

- Three Categories of Recommendations
 - Access
 - Capacity building
 - Privacy
- National Secure Data Service
- Legislation to advance recommendations
 - HR 4174 passed House of Representatives
 - Chief Evaluation Officer
 - Federal Advisory Committee

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Evolution of the Role of Data in Good Government

- Public-Private Data Partnerships
 - The Opportunity Project (opportunity.census.gov)
- Census Bureau Local Update of Census Addresses
- Access tools
 - Census Bureau City SDK, Business Builder, and On the Map
- Greater use of local data to make informed decisions on allocation of resources and services

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Thank You

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