Challenges and Opportunities for Federal Statistics in the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century

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- 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
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
- Energy Information Administration
- COPAFS 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
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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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

1990 Census undercount

2010 Census undercount

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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
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
  – www.aera.net/Research-Policy-Advocacy/Friends-of-IES
- Friends of Agriculture Statistics
  – http://agriculturalstatis.wixsite.com/fasa
- Friends of Bureau of Labor Statistic

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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

Recent BLS Budget History

- 2009 appropriation in 2017$
- Appropriation in current $

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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
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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