

Introducing the Trust Directive

Statistical Policy Directive No. 1: Fundamental Responsibilities of Federal Statistical Agencies and Recognized Statistical Units

Statistical and Science Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
U. S. Office of Management and Budget



Legislative and Executive Initiatives to Maintain Confidence in System

- The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)
- Title V of the E-Government Act of 2002,
the Confidential Information Protection and
Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA)
- The Information Quality Act (IQA)
- President's Memorandum on the
Preservation and Promotion of Scientific
Integrity

Chief Statistician's Office

- Provide oversight and coordination for Federal statistical activities.
- Identify priorities for improving programs.
- Review Budgets
- Establish statistical policies and standards.
- Evaluate statistical programs for compliance w/ OMB guidance.
- Approve Information Collections.
- International Role.

OMB Role in Establishment and Enforcement of Standards

- Core standards for statistical surveys.
- Guidelines on protecting confidential information.
- Classification standards.
- Data release standards.

Examples of OMB Statistical Policy Standards

- Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys.
- Directive No. 3: Compilation, Release, and Evaluation of Principal Federal Economic Indicators.
- Directive No. 4: Release and Dissemination of Statistical Products Produced by Federal Statistical Agencies.
- Various other standards including, race/ethnicity, industrial classification, statistical areas.

So Why Such a Fundamental Directive Now?

- NAS' Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agencies have long characterized the operations of the 13 Principal Stat agencies and Recognized Units.
- The UN GA approved the “Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics” last year, giving both “political” as well as scientific/technical validation and endorsement.
- Culture inherent in these principles is not always well understood in parent organizations or aspiring statistical programs.

High-level Articulation of Principles

- Timing ripe for an explicit statement by Executive Office of the President of expectations for the core values of agencies producing official statistics.
- Actual implementation of these principles and policies can involve a wide range of challenges.

To Whom Does the Directive Apply?

- Written from the perspective of the 13 Federal principal statistical agencies and 3 recognized statistical units.
- Over 100 Federal programs engaged in statistical activities, including managing, or analyzing data for policymaking
- For these other Federal programs, Directive provides an important (if aspirational) point of reference.

Responsibilities of Principal Federal Statistical Agencies

- Responsibility 1: Produce and disseminate relevant and timely information.
 - must be knowledgeable about the issues and requirements of programs and policies
 - innovative in applying new technologies in their methods

Responsibilities of Principal Federal Statistical Agencies

- Responsibility 2: Conduct credible and accurate statistical activities.
 - regularly evaluate the data and information products they publicly release
 - provide information about how the data were collected and any known or potential data limitations or sources of error
 - ensure that all users have equitable access

Responsibilities of Principal Federal Statistical Agencies

- Responsibility 3: Conduct objective statistical activities.
 - Pertains to actual and perceived autonomy regarding
 - information collection and process,
 - information systems security for confidential data
 - estimation procedures and data analysis
 - store and disseminate statistical products
 - staff to select to join their agencies

Responsibilities of Principal Federal Statistical Agencies

- Responsibility 4: Protect the trust of information providers by ensuring the confidentiality and exclusive statistical use of their responses
 - maintain safeguards to protect the integrity and confidentiality of data

120 Day Reporting Requirement

- Each Department and Agency hosting a Federal statistical agency or unit is required to *report to OMB* actions it currently takes, is in the process of taking, or is considering to support achievement of the responsibilities identified in this Directive.

Report Purpose

- Indicate if the basis for actions is found in statute, Departmental policy, or established Departmental practice.
- If obstacles to fully implementing this Directive are identified, the report should describe the issues and any proposed solutions

Ongoing Implementation

- Directive 1 framework recognizes the essential role of parent Departments in supporting Federal statistical agencies and recognized statistical units as they implement these responsibilities.
- Department role includes incorporating recognition and support for these responsibilities in Departmental written policies

Questions or Thoughts?

- Statistical Policy home page

www.whitehouse.gov/omg/inforeg_statpolicy

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg_statpolicy

- Directive 1:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-02/pdf/2014-28326.pdf>

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