



# Insights from the Congressional Watchdog on Equity in Evaluation Design

Organizer: Sirin Yaemsiri, Government Accountability Office

Chair: Jared Smith, Government Accountability Office

Discussant: Frances Tirado, Government Accountability Office



# Who We Are: The Government Watchdog

- The Government Accountability Office (GAO), is an **independent, nonpartisan agency** that advises Congress and Agency Heads about ways to make government more efficient, effective, ethical, equitable, and responsive.



# When we talk, others listen

- We work at the request of Congressional committees or as statutorily required
- We usually testify around 100 times per year at Congressional hearings and make hundreds of recommendations a year.
- In FY 2021, our work yielded \$66.2 billion in financial benefits



# Our work takes us everywhere



- Fraud
- International Affairs
- Financial Issues
- Health Care
- Defense and Security
- Environment
- Infrastructure
- Future Technology



# Applied Research and Methods (ARM)

We design and execute methodologies to help GAO's mission and operations teams investigate and improve federal government operations. We also routinely assess emerging issues and evaluate federal programs and policies.

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Center for Statistics and Data Analysis

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Center for Actuarial Sciences

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Center for Design, Methods, and  
Analysis

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Center for Library Services

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Center for Economics

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Center for Evaluation Methods and  
Issues



# Yellow Book: Framework for GAO Engagement Work

- The Yellow Book outlines how GAO uses evidence in our work
- In 2021, the Government Auditing Standards “Yellow Book” was updated to include evaluating whether government services are provided equitably, setting a new direction for GAO’s work.

# GAO Presenters

- Sonya Vartivarian, *Geospatial Analysis and Regression Modeling to Assess Social and Demographic Disparities in Locations of Lead Water Pipes and Pavement Conditions of the National Highway System*
- Lijia Guo, *Assessing Disparities in FEMA Flood Map Investments using Multivariate Analysis*
- Moon Parks, *Survival Analysis Modeling of Promotions in the State Department's Workforce*
- Jeff Tessin, *Imputing Race and Ethnicity in Federal Administrative Data: Two Applications of Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG)*
- Frances Tirado, *Discussant*

# Audience Reminder

- Please mute your cell phone ringers.
- Hold questions for the Q&A time after all of the presentations have been presented.