

Ensuring Scientific Integrity (SI) in the Federal Statistical System: Implementing the New Guidelines at the Census Bureau

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Agenda

- Department of Commerce (Commerce) SI Policy Status
- Census Bureau SI Policy Status
- Census Bureau SI Policy Key Points
- Updates to Other Census Bureau Policies

Commerce SI Policy Status

- [Presidential Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking](#) (January 27, 2021) requires agencies to develop an SI Policy.
- National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) provided further guidance in their report, [A Framework for Federal Scientific Integrity Policy and Practice](#) (January 2023), including a model policy
- Commerce is in the final review and approval process for a Department Administrative Order (DAO) on Scientific Integrity
- The DAO was drafted by a cross-bureau working group with members from NOAA, NIST, BEA, Census Bureau, & the Commerce Chief Evaluation Officer who utilized the model and feedback from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
- OSTP will compile and make public all agency policies including designated Chief Science Officers and Scientific Integrity Officers on a Federal webpage

Census Bureau SI Policy Status

- Commerce's draft policy allows scientific integrity concerns to be addressed by applicable bureau-level policy unless:
 - A bureau does not have a scientific integrity policy, or
 - The scientific integrity concern is at the Department level in which case it will be addressed by the DOC policy
- Census Bureau's SI policy will align with the NSTC model policy and Commerce's policy

Census Bureau SI Policy Key Points

- Preserve existing processes
 - Monitoring for and investigating allegations of interviewer falsification
 - Data breaches
- Define a formal process for other SI allegations

Updates to Other Census Bureau Policies

Statistical Quality Standards

- Census Bureau's information quality guidelines

Data Stewardship Policy on Transparency in Secondary Research

- Establishes the Census Bureau's commitment to being transparent in the conduct of its mission, specifically regarding secondary research using survey and administrative or third-party data, while meeting its statutory and ethical obligations to protect respondent privacy, confidentiality, and information and systems security

Clearance and Release of Public Information Materials

- Needs updates to explicitly forbid censorship, unreasonable delay, and suppression of objective communication of data and results without scientific justification as recommended by the model SI policy

Thank You!

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