

Role of the Statistical Official in Advancing Evidence Building

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Overview

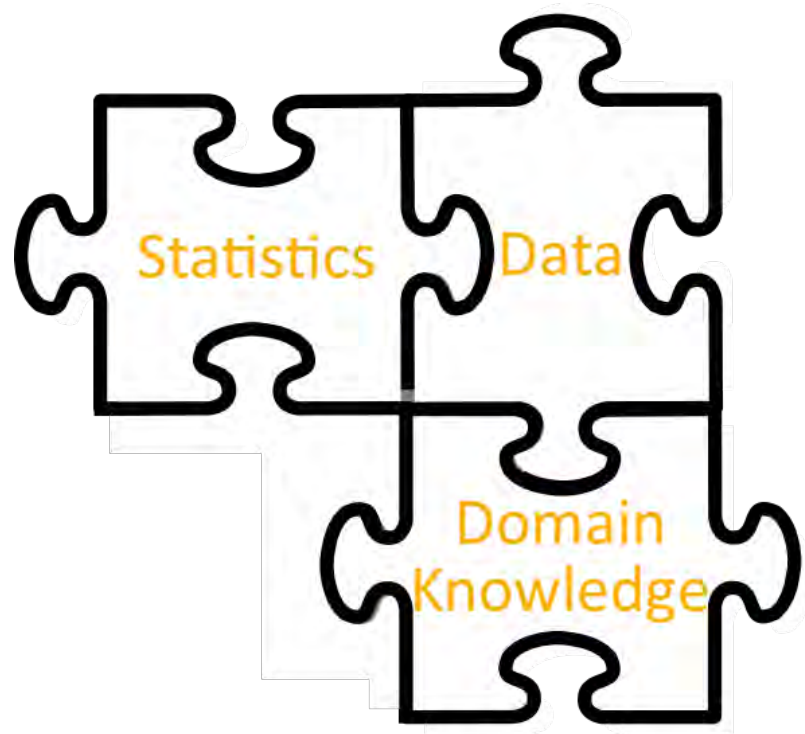
What is a Statistical Official?

Who is an Agency's Statistical Official?

Why does the position matter?

How is the position being implemented?

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Evidence Act

“The head of each agency shall designate ... a **statistical official to advise on statistical policy, techniques, and procedures**. Agency officials engaged in statistical activities may consult with any such statistical official as necessary.”

Additional Responsibilities (M-19-23)



Champion data quality, confidentiality protection, and appropriate data access



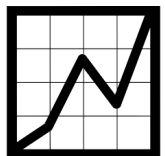
Oversee agency data quality standards for statistical products



Establish policies to enable production and dissemination of relevant and timely statistics



Oversee policies and standards to safeguard sensitive information and protect trust of information providers

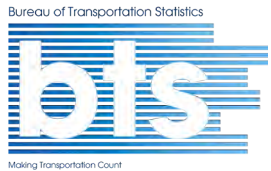


Establish policies to promote credible, accurate, and objective statistical activities



Engage on Agency-wide data governance and serve on the Data Governance Body and ICSP

Principal Statistical Agencies



Principal Statistical Agencies



Statistical Agency heads
serve as
Statistical Official
for their
11 Parent Agencies





Other 13 CFO Act Agencies must appoint a senior career official with requisite experience as their Statistical Official

24 Statistical Officials in total

Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

1989

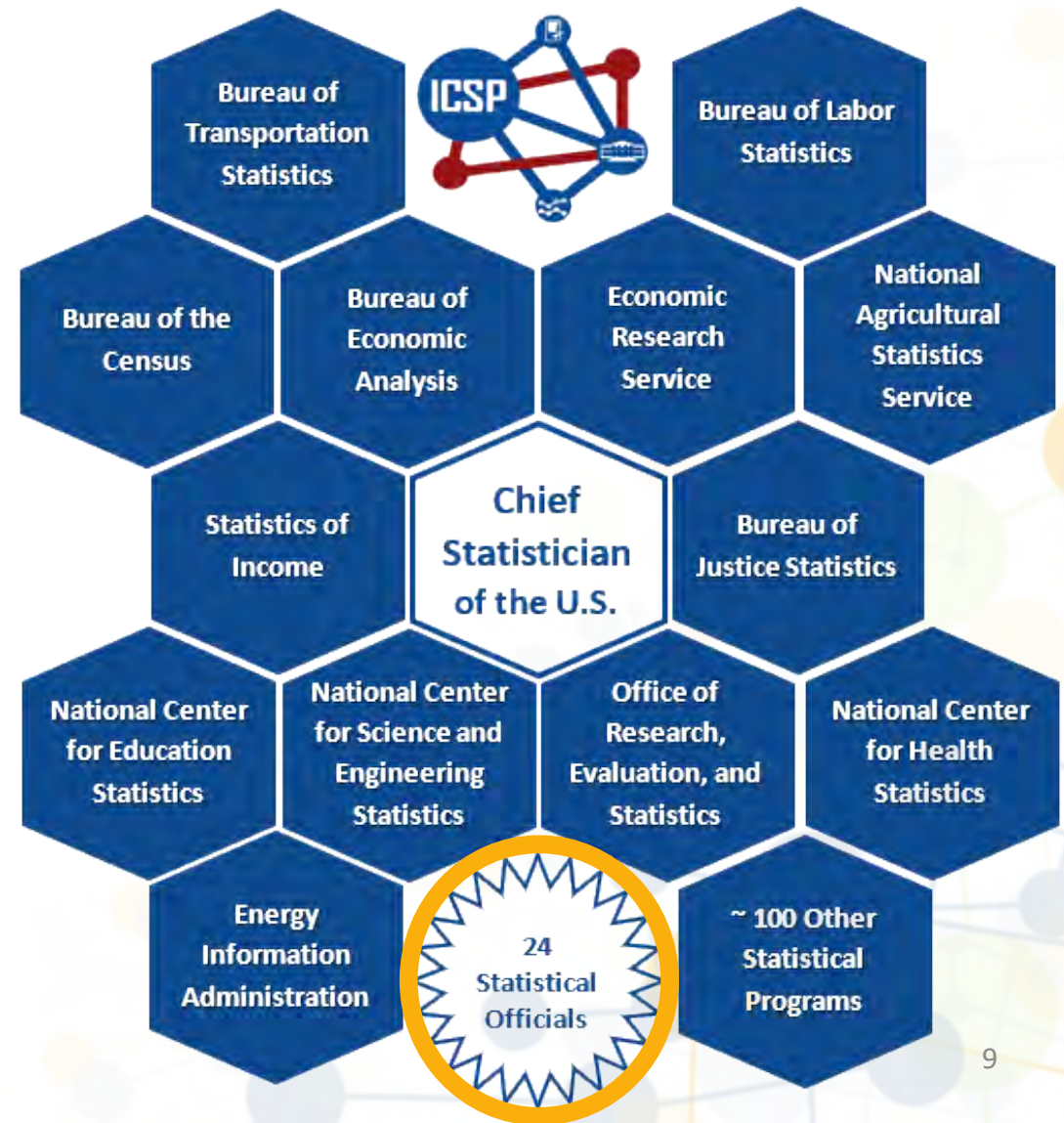
Created to improve communication across heads of principal statistical agencies

1995

Codified in statute to advise the Chief Statistician

2019

Membership expanded to all CFO Act agencies



Benefits of Interagency Connections



Learn from shared experiences and expertise in the Federal Statistical System



Standard Application Process to apply for access to confidential data assets

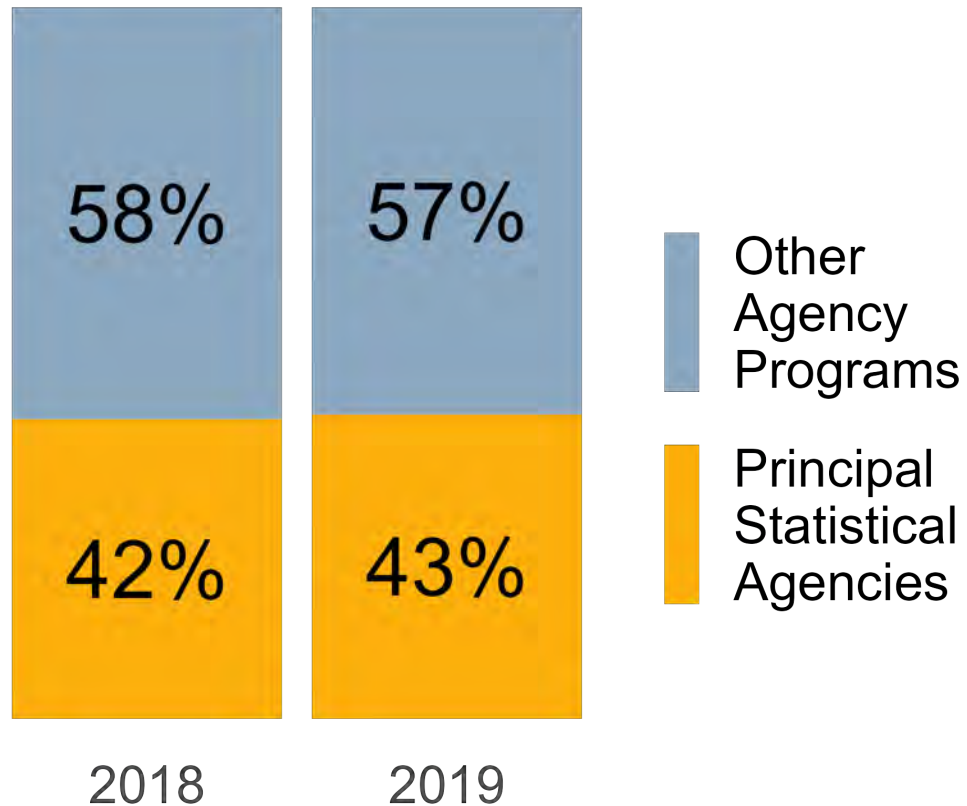


CIPSEA 2018 implementation impacts evidence building and statistics across all agencies



Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology best practices and tools to support federal statistics

Federal Statistical System Appropriations



(Excluding Decennial Census)

- Federal Statistical System:
 - 13 principal statistical agencies
 - 3 recognized statistical units
 - Around 100 other statistical programs
- Statistical expertise and support also needed by senior officials using statistical evidence for decision making
- Availability and quality of statistical information is important across an Agency

Data Governance Body

- Each agency must establish a Data Governance Body (M-19-23)
- Charged with setting/enforcing priorities for managing data as a strategic asset
- Chaired by Chief Data Officer, who shall consult with the Statistical Official in the management of Agency data assets
 - Delegated authority for Statistical Agencies
- Statistical Official is a member of the Data Governance Council

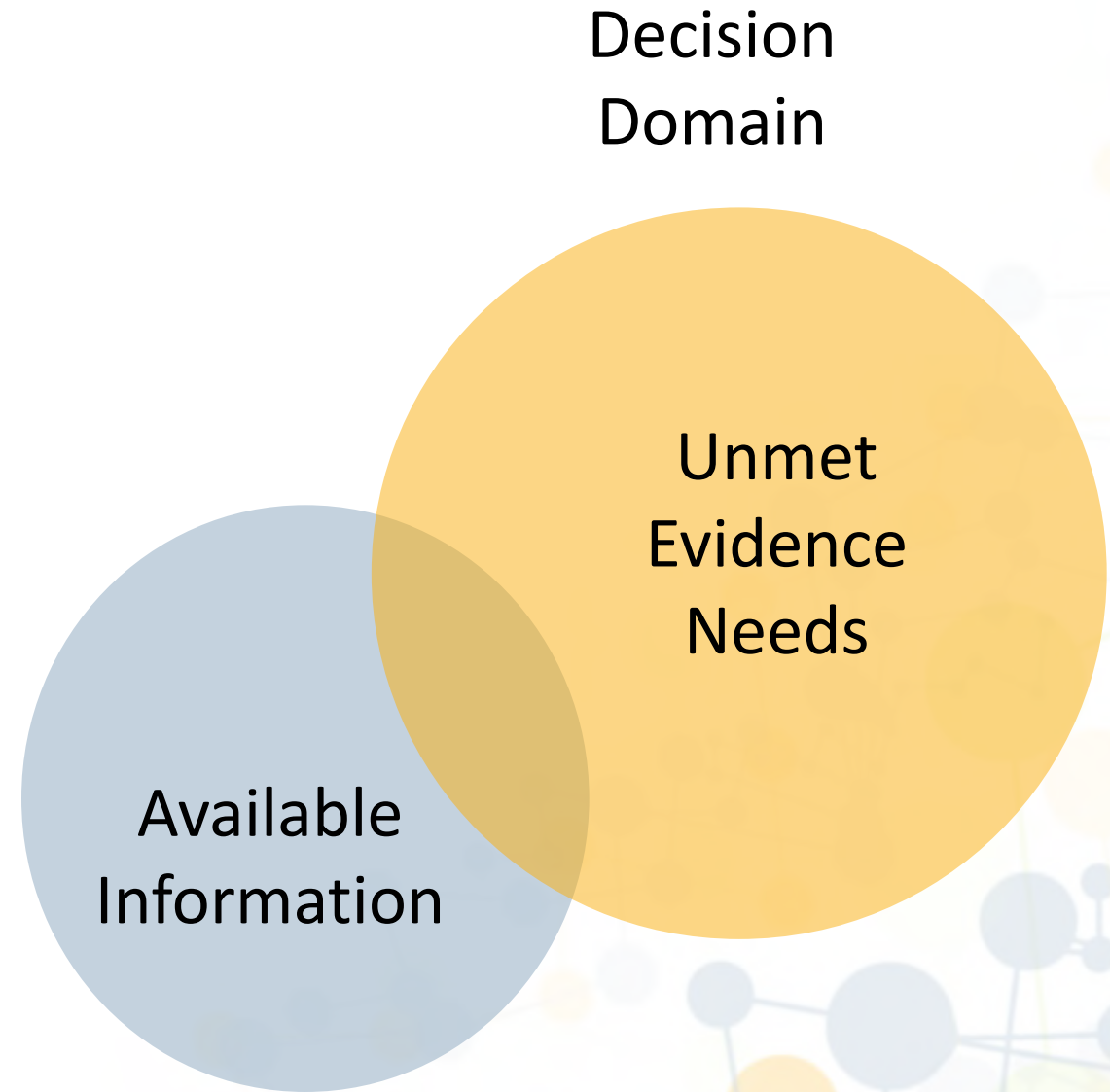


Coordination with Evaluation Officers

- The Evaluation Officer (EO) has authority and responsibility for providing leadership over the agency's evaluation and learning agenda activities and conducting a capacity assessment
- Statistical Official shall consult with the EO on statistical methodology and data access, acquisition, protection, and linkage (M-19-23)
- Statistical Official shall consult on the learning agenda (M-19-23)

Opportunity

- Significant opportunity to enhance a culture of evidence
- Evidence Act provides opportunities to identify gaps in evidence and capacity
- Opportunity to leverage the Statistical Official role to address gaps



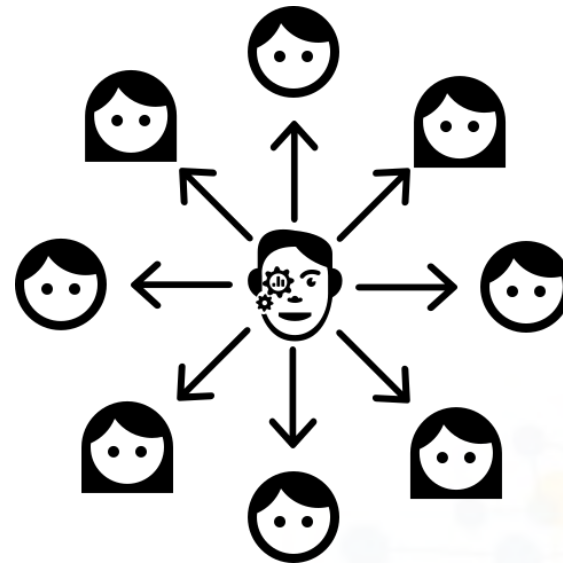
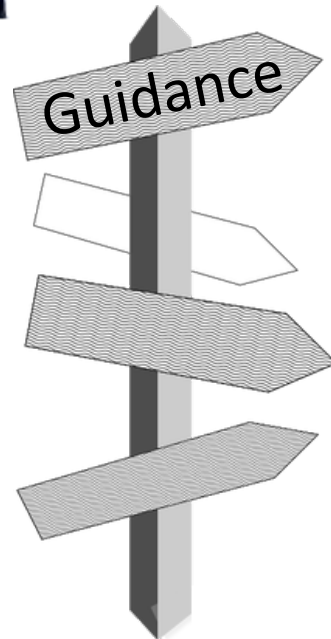
Capacity Assessment

- Evidence Act requires “an assessment of the coverage, quality, methods, effectiveness, and independence of the statistics ... of the agency”
- Opening to identify:
 - Centers of excellence / key stakeholders
 - Gaps in policy relevant statistical information
 - Opportunities for skill development
 - Unmet demands for expertise (intra and extramural)
 - Guidance and policy needs

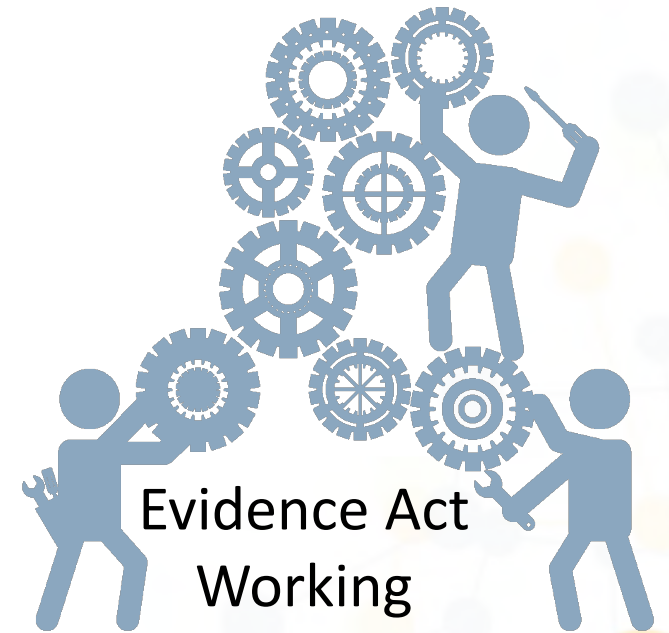
Providing Statistical Support



Community of Practice



Direct Support



Evidence Act Working Group



Tools

Agency “Evaluation” Policy

- “The Evaluation Officer of each agency shall ... establish and implement an agency evaluation policy”
- OMB released M-20-12 with guidance for evaluation policies
 - Recommended policies to ensure relevant, rigorous, independent, objective, transparent, and ethical evidence building
 - Informed by OMB’s Statistical Directives
- Expanding an Agency’s policy to cover statistical activities provides an opportunity for strengthening a broader universe of Federal statistics
- Compliment to Agency science integrity policies

Recap

- “envision a future in which rigorous evidence is created efficiently, as a routine part of government operations, and used to construct effective public policy” (Comm. on Evidence Based Policy Making)
- Statistical Officials have an important role in achieving that vision with support for relevant, timely, credible, accurate, and objective statistics
- Through Statistical Officials, leadership of the Federal Statistical System is now inclusive of all Federal statistical programs
- Tremendous opportunity if appropriately supported and resourced

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