



**Federal Committee on  
Statistical Methodology**



Office of the Chief Statistician  
of the United States

# Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Karin Orvis, Chief Statistician of the United States

*2023 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology  
Research and Policy Conference*

Oct 24, 2023



# Welcome to the 2023 FCSM Conference!



**Federal Committee on  
Statistical Methodology**

## **2023 Research and Policy Conference**

*Building Toward the Future: Strengthening and Expanding  
the Capacity of the Federal Statistical Ecosystem*

**October 24-26, 2023**

**College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center  
Hyattsville, MD**

### **Final Program**

**Hosted By:**



## **Program Committee**

### **Chair/Co-Chairs**

- Jeffrey Gonzalez, BLS
- Jessica Graber, NCHS
- Jessica Holzberg, Census Bureau
- David Kashihara, AHRQ
- Darius Singpurwalla, NCSES
- Paul Schroeder, COPAFS

### **Members**

- Maura Bardos, EIA
- Alisha Coleman-Jensen, ERS
- Alexia Cooper, BJS
- Gavin Corral, NASS
- Brian Cramer, NCES
- Kyle Hood, BEA
- Diba Khan, NCHS
- Tamara Lee, VA
- Richard Levy, Census Bureau
- Justin D. Nguyen, Census Bureau
- Jennifer Rhorer, NASS
- Sharon M. Stern, Census Bureau
- Ed Strocko, BTS
- Suzanne Strong, BJS
- Valerie Testa, SOI
- Julie Weeks, NCHS
- Doug Williams, BLS



Federal Committee on  
Statistical Methodology

2023 FCSM Conference Theme:

*Building Toward the Future:  
Strengthening and Expanding the Capacity  
of the Federal Statistical Ecosystem*



# Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

**FCSM.gov**

Great resources like Data Protection Toolkit and Framework for Data Quality

The screenshot shows the FCSM.gov website. At the top left is the FCSM logo and the text "Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology". Below this is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About FCSM", "Resources", "Events and Proceedings", and "Groups Overview". A search bar is located to the right of the navigation menu. The main content area features a large banner with the text: "The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is an interagency committee dedicated to improving the quality of Federal statistics." Below this banner is a button that says "View our Mission and Charter". Underneath the banner is a section titled "Key Topics" with four sub-sections: "Data Protection" (with a padlock icon), "Data Quality" (with a bar chart icon), "Nonresponse Bias" (with a group of people icon), and "Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)" (with a gender symbol icon). Each sub-section has a brief description of its focus.

The graphic features the NISS logo (National Institute of Statistical Sciences) and the FCSM logo. The main text reads "AI in Federal Government Uses, Potential Applications, and Issues". Below this, a dark blue button contains the text "Tuesday, Oct 31, 2023 | 3 pm - 4:30 pm ET". To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a human head profile filled with circuitry, with lines extending from the top right corner.

[Link to Register for Free Virtual Training: Visit FCSM.gov](https://www.fcsm.gov)



Chief Statistician of the United States

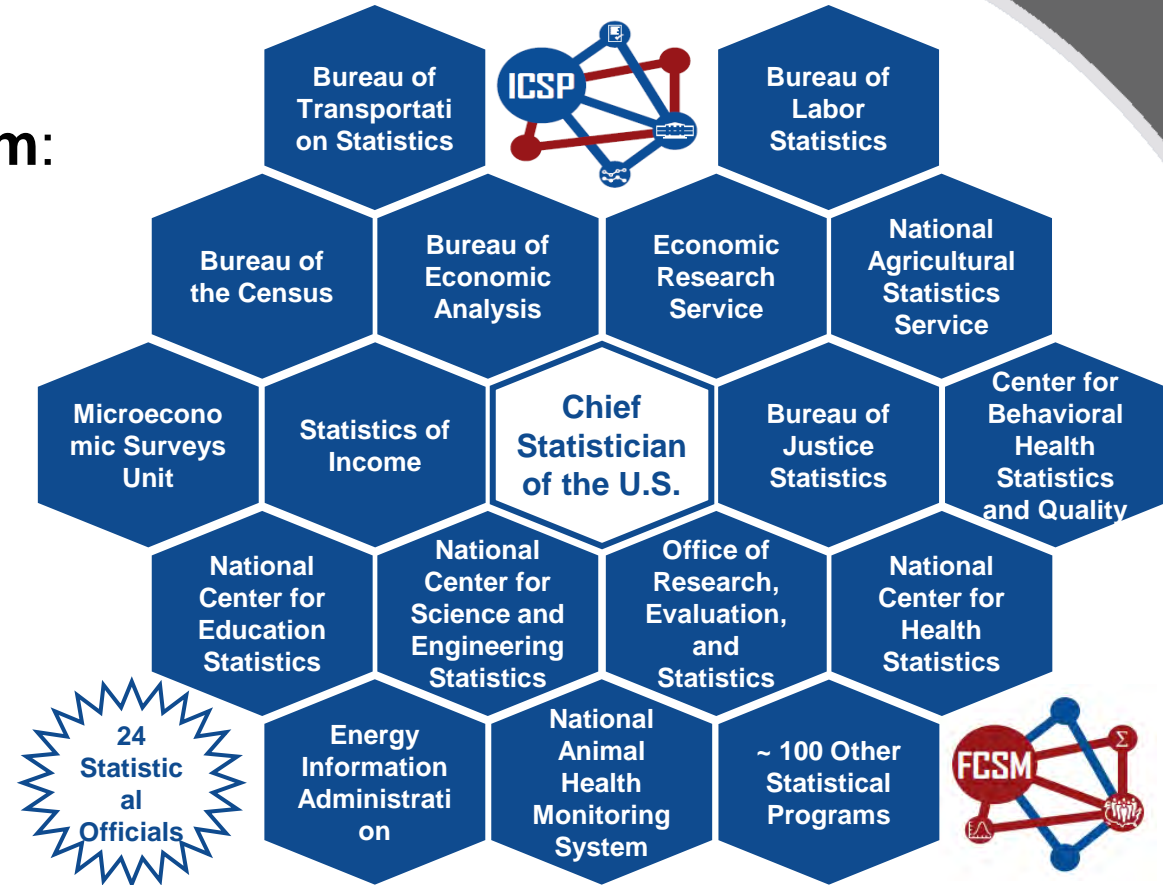
# The Federal Statistical System

#CSOTUS

## Who Are We?

### Decentralized, Interconnected System:

- Chief Statistician of the United States (CSOTUS)
- 16 Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units (RSAUs)
- ~ 100 Other Statistical Programs
- 24 Statistical Officials (S.O.s)
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP)
- Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM)



See: [StatsPolicy.Gov](https://www.statspolicy.gov)

# U.S. Federal Statistical System (FSS)

## • What's Our Common Purpose?

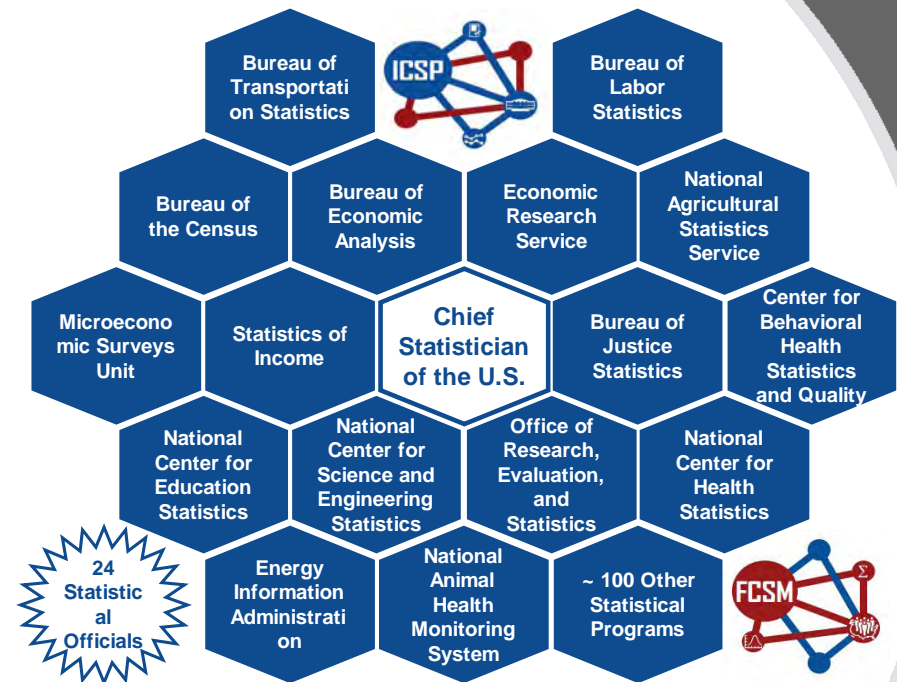
- To provide useful, objective, high quality statistical data – and meaningfully expand access to this data for evidence building purposes

## • Our Vision:

*“Operates as a seamless system, as stewards of much of the nation’s most sensitive data, enabling greater evidence building, civic engagement, and public and private sector decision-making”*

## • Seamless? → Example Definitions:

- Smooth and continuous – with no apparent gaps or spaces between one part and next
- Happening without changes, interruptions, or difficulty
- Without noticeable change from one part to the next



See: [StatsPolicy.Gov](https://statspolicy.gov)

# What does a 'Seamless' FSS Look Like?

- **Efficiency and effectiveness in working together** to address challenges
  - **Cross collaboration and coordination**
  - **Integrating data** across agencies and missions
  - **No unnecessary duplication of effort** within/across agencies in data life cycle
  - **Use of common frameworks, guidelines, techniques, and best practices**
  - **Shared infrastructure, services and capacities**, when feasible
- **Seamless, common "experience"** for data users
- **Shared decision-making**
- **Shared communication and messaging** – Speaking in one voice to strengthen FSS brand recognition and trust in Federal statistics broadly

\*Operating as a seamless system requires active engagement from all of us!\*



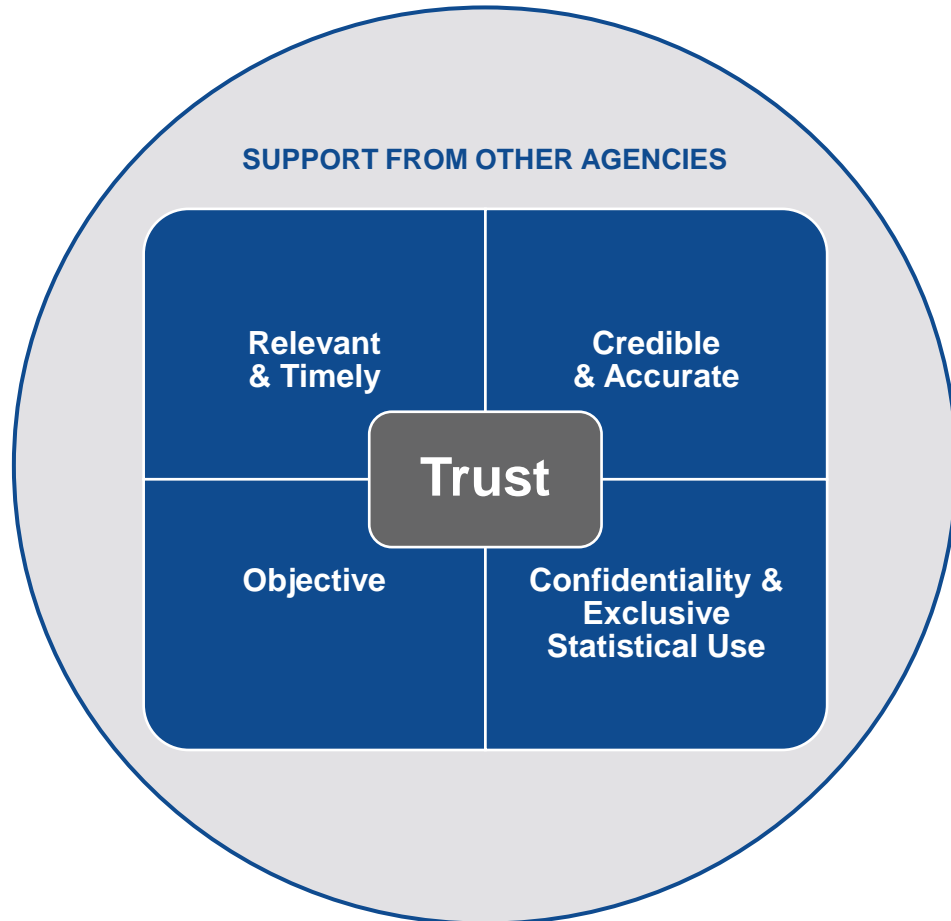
- **Shared governance, decision-making, and communications**
  - ICSP, FCSM, agency data governance
- **System-wide regulations and policies - providing common frameworks**
  - Three Evidence Act regulations!
  - Statistical Policy Directives for Common Statistical and Classification Standards
- **Shared infrastructure, services, tools, and capacities**
  - The Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs)
  - The Standard Application Process (SAP)
  - A potential National Secure Data Service (NSDS)
  - FCSM Tools – Data Quality Framework, Data Protection Toolkit, etc.
- **Seamless, common "experience" for data users**
  - Many of the above!

**\*These Are Reflective of my Priorities, and of the ICSP, for the FSS.\***

# Few Highlighted FSS Priorities

- Advancing the “Trust” regulation
- Presumption of Access regulation
- Expanding Secure Data Access regulation
- Standard Application Process (SAP)
- National Secure Data Service (NSDS) demonstration

## The Four Responsibilities / Principles of Statistical Agencies (and their Staff)



See also, strong alignment with the United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) – Celebrating 30 years of the FPOS!



# Few Highlighted FSS Priorities

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- **Presumption of Access regulation**
- **Expanding Secure Data Access regulation**
- Standard Application Process (SAP)
- National Secure Data Service (NSDS) demonstration

# Few Highlighted FSS Priorities

- Advancing the “Trust” regulation
- Presumption of Access regulation
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- **Standard Application Process (SAP)**
- **National Secure Data Service (NSDS) demonstration**

# Standard Application Process (SAP)

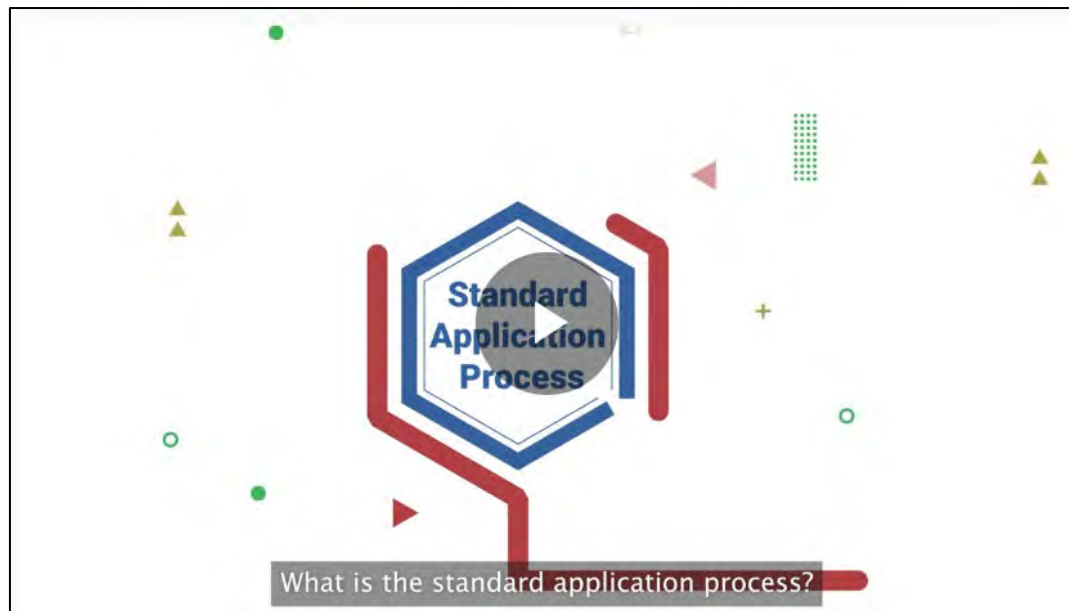


**Interagency Council on  
Statistical Policy**

Leaders of the United States Federal Statistical System



**Standard  
Application  
Process**



What is the standard application process?

SAP Informational Video

**Standard Application Process (SAP)**  
Searching the SAP Data Catalog

Interagency Council on  
Statistical Policy

Standard  
Application  
Process

### What Is the SAP Data Catalog?

The SAP Data Catalog provides detailed descriptions, or metadata, of confidential federal data assets that are available for discovery on the SAP portal. You can use the catalog as a virtual roadmap to show you how and where to access information relevant to your research interests and view information on data collection, data coverage, where data can be accessed, and more.

### How to Search for Metadata

Search for a keyword

x
🔍

There are three ways to search for metadata in the SAP Data Catalog:

**▶ By keyword**

- Enter text into the search box and select the magnifying glass icon.

**▶ By topic**

- Select the "topic" icon and a range of subjects will appear at the bottom of the screen. Select a topic to view information related to the topic.

**▶ By agency**

- Select the "agency" icon. The names of the 16 federal statistical agencies and units participating in the SAP will appear at the bottom of the page. Select an agency to view results.

For more see: <https://nces.nsf.gov/about/standard-application-process>

# National Secure Data Service (NSDS)



Commission on  
Evidence-Based  
Policymaking



**The CHIPS and  
Science Act**

**We need your input and ideas!**

## America's Data Hub Idea Bank



### Calling all ideas!

America's Data Hub Consortium (ADC) is inviting all members of the public to join us in contributing insights to our new Idea Bank. By sharing your ideas, you can directly inform future project solicitations and activities by ADC, and shape a potential NSDS.

Submit ideas here →

<https://www.americasdatahub.org/idea-bank-form>

For more information:  
Stop by the Booth at FCSM  
and Sessions G-4 or G-6!

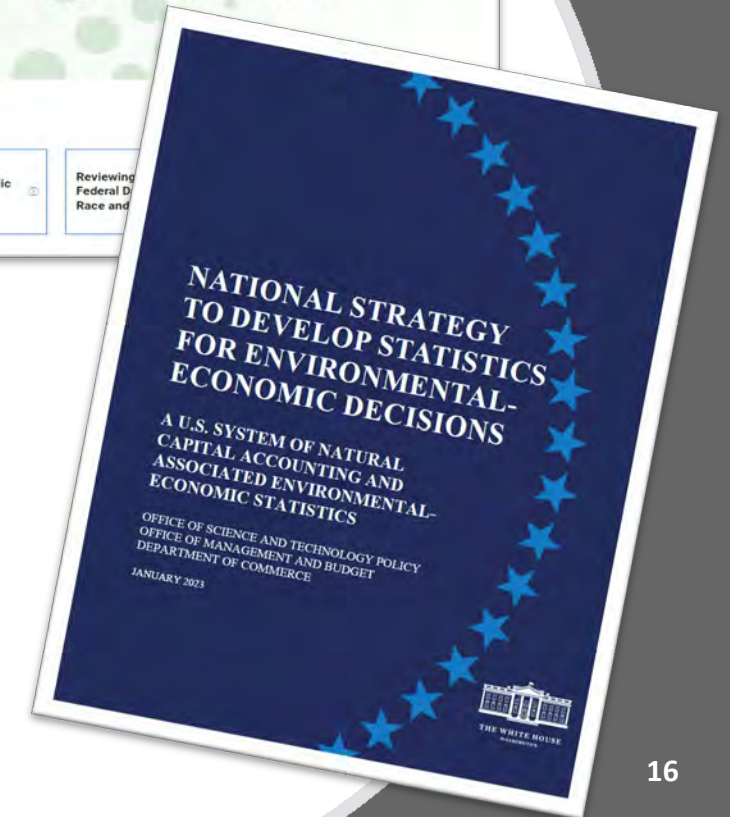
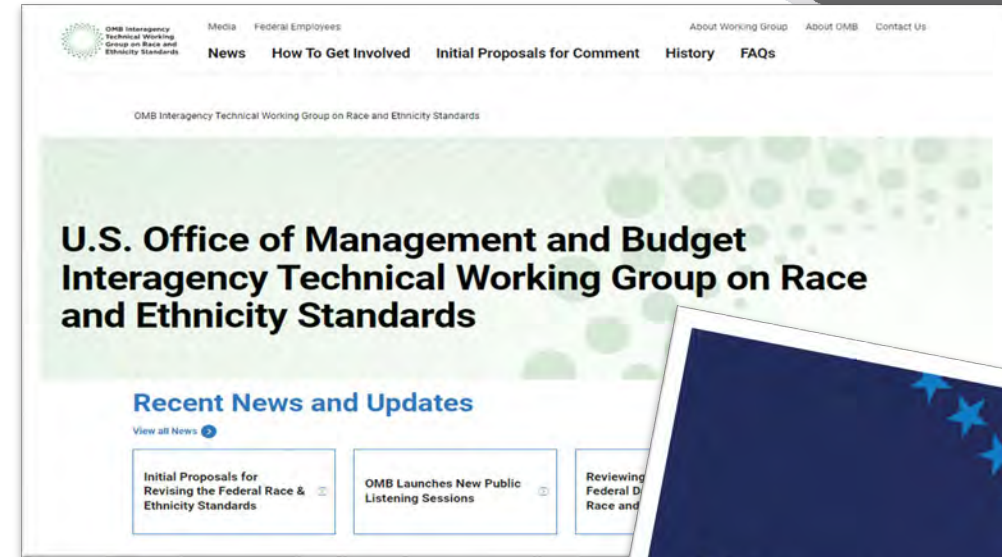
<https://nces.nsf.gov/about/national-secure-data-service-demo>



- **Government-wide Statistical Standards and Classification Standards**

Examples:

- Review & revision of OMB's Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity
  - See [spd15revision.gov](https://spd15revision.gov)
- Implementation of New Strategy: *National Strategy for Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions*
  - ITWG to develop new classification system
- Executive Order on Bioeconomy
  - ITWG on bioeconomy to produce recommendations for updating Industry and Product Classification Systems (NAICS & NAPCS)





## StatsPolicy.gov - launched!

Includes many resources:

- Information about the U.S. FSS, including about its leadership, and top priorities and activities
- Community News and Events
- Governing Laws and Policies
- Statistical Policy Directives
- Chapters in the Analytical Perspectives volume of the President's Budget
- Reports to Congress on the Statistical Programs of the U.S. Government
- and more!

The screenshot shows the StatsPolicy.gov website. At the top left is the StatsPolicy.gov logo, a blue circle with a white network diagram. To its right is the text "StatsPolicy.gov" and a search bar. Below the logo are navigation links: "Home", "About Us", "Policies", and "Products". The main banner features a dark blue background with a glowing line graph and the text: "Operating seamlessly, safely stewarding sensitive data resources" and "Fueling evidence building, civic engagement, and public and private sector decision-making". Below the banner is a white box with the text: "Welcome to StatsPolicy.gov, the home of the U.S. Federal statistical system. StatsPolicy.gov brings together important information about our interwoven Federal statistical system, including our members, priorities, and activities across the Federal Government." At the bottom, there are two columns of content. The left column has a header "A Message from the Chief Statistician of the United States" with a quote from Dr. Karin Orvis, Chief Statistician of the United States. The right column has a header "Community News and Upcoming Events" with a list of two bullet points: "On September 27, 2023, OMB published the 2024 schedule of release dates for Principal Federal Economic Indicators. For more information on this and OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 3, see the Policies page." and "On August 25, 2023, OMB issued a Federal Register Notice of Solicitation of Comments on a proposal to modify one provision of OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 3 to allow Executive Branch employees..."

# FSS-Wide Engagement Opportunities!

## Get Involved!

- FCSM Groups [FCSM.gov/groups/](https://www.fcsml.gov/groups/)  
Engage with experts on topics/  
methodologies; produce products
  - Interest Groups
  - Working Groups
- ICSP Mentoring Program
  - Annual program
  - Next kickoff in early 2024
  - Structured mentor/mentee relationships for professional development
- Office of the CSOTUS
  - Come on a Detail with us!
    - Support FSS-wide priorities through leading projects, developing statistical policies, and/or supporting implementation
  - Participate in topical ITWGs
    - Engage with experts to review and analyze an FSS issue/challenge and develop recommendations to the CSOTUS

**Connect with us!** [Statistical\\_Directives@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Statistical_Directives@omb.eop.gov)

**FSS Website:** <https://www.statspolicy.gov/>



Federal Committee on  
Statistical Methodology

# *New Challenges and New Opportunities for the Federal Statistical System*

**Dr. Katharine Abraham**

Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland

Chair, Committee on National Statistics,  
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine