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National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences  
National Science Foundation



# What does the Evidence Act mean to Federal Statistical Agencies?

...A platform for communicating value



# The Foundation of Federal Statistical Agencies

116 STAT. 2962

PUBLIC LAW 107-347—DEC. 17 2002

44 USC 3541  
note.

(b) TITLES III AND IV.—Title III and this title shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

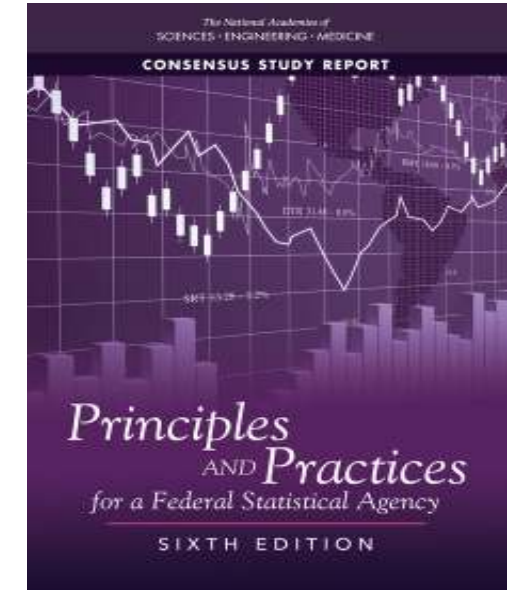
Confidential  
Information  
Protection and  
Statistical  
Efficiency Act of  
2002.

## TITLE V—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND STATISTICAL EFFI- CIENCY

44 USC 3501  
note.

### SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002”.



**FEDERAL REGISTER**

The Daily Journal of the United States Government

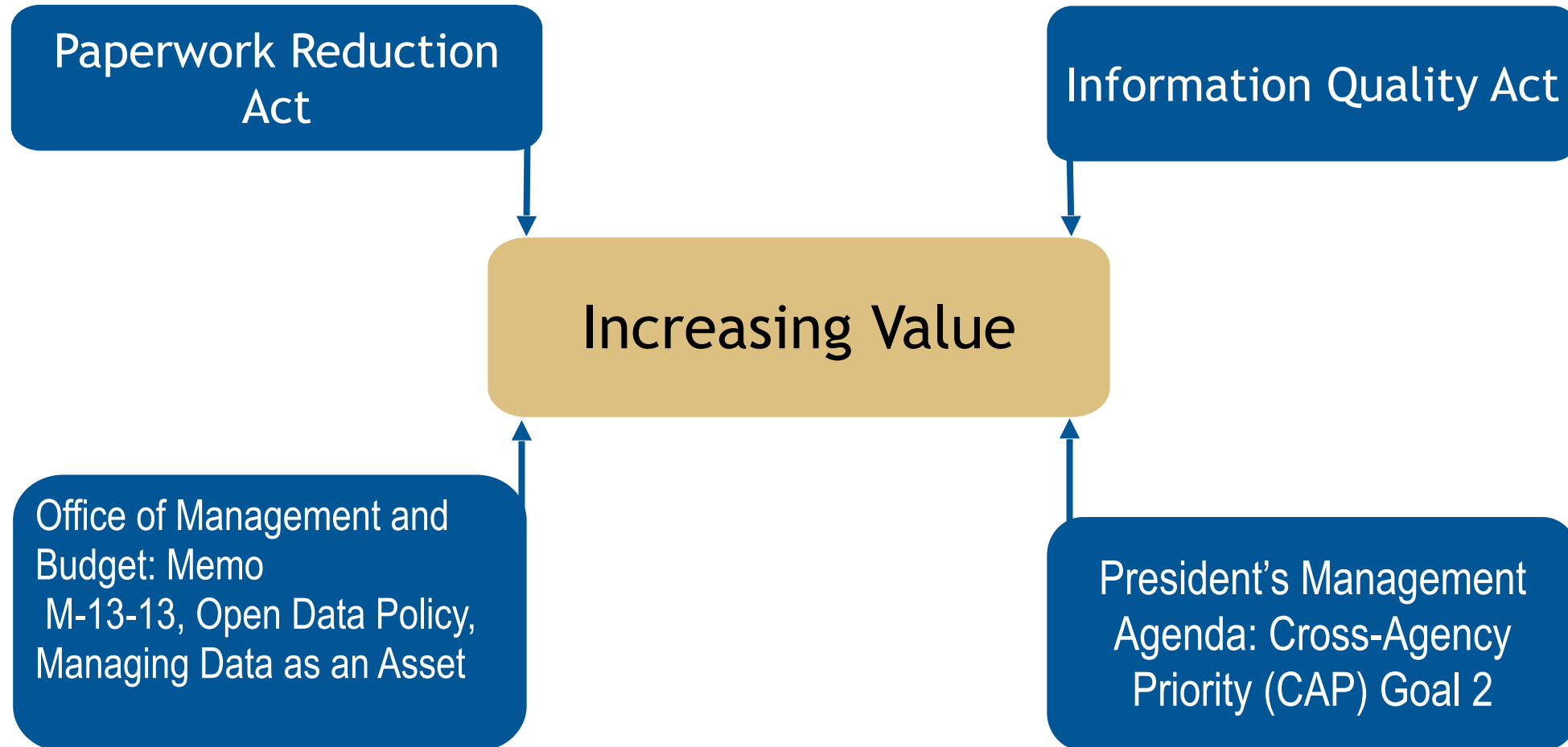


## Statistical Policy Directive No. 1: Fundamental Responsibilities of Federal Statistical Agencies and Recognized Statistical Units

A Notice by the Management and Budget Office on 12/02/2014

# The Evidence Act embodies governing laws and principles to signal the importance of agency collaborations around data

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# The Federal Statistical System aligns with The Evidence Act

- Strengthens statistical policy directives
- Presumption of access to data for statistical purposes

The term ‘evidence’ means information produced as a result of statistical activities conducted for a statistical purpose (Section 3561 of title 44)

- Evidence includes foundational fact finding, performance measurement, policy analysis, and program evaluation

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress  
of the  
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Began and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and eighteen*

## An Act

To amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018”.

# The Federal Statistical System aligns with The Evidence Act

A collaborative, gradual, tailored, strategic approach to leverage existing resources and enhance federal government capabilities to:

- build and use evidence
- collect, protect, and release data

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# The Federal Statistical System is a champion of the Evidence Act

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- Supporting data privacy and confidentiality protection activities
- Serving as Statistical Official
- Identifying data that can be used for evidence-building activities
- Increasing use of data linkages while maintaining protections
- Playing leading role in ensuring data access across secure platforms



# Highlights of key Evidence Act requirements

Evaluation officer (EO)  
Title I

Chief Data Officer (CDO, chair)  
Title II

Statistical Officer (SO)  
Title III

Participate in interagency councils

Useful  
Evidence

Evidence-building plan or  
learning agenda

Robust Data  
Infrastructure

Capacity assessment

Specialized  
Workforce

Evaluation plan

Agency data inventory

NSF data available on open  
data platform (data.gov)

Data access and use within  
and across agencies

Regulations for federal  
agencies to access data

Data quality standards for  
statistical products

Expanded availability of  
CIPSEA data sets



# *The Evidence Act 101*

- Shifts to a paradigm of open access to data
- Provides a framework for communicating value
- Builds community around using high-quality data to inform policies

