Evaluating Fitness for Use

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This presentation represents only the opinions of the presenter, and does not represent official OMB positions or Guidance.
Fitness for Use Policies

There’s a longstanding framework for ensuring fitness for purpose in federal information dissemination:

- Administrative Procedures Act
- Executive Order 12866
- Information Quality Act
- Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act
- Paperwork Reduction Act
Fitness Framework

Fitness for Intended Use
- Cost
- Burden
- Professionalism
- Design Constraints

Comparability
Coherence
Relevance
Accuracy
Timeliness
Accessibility
Interpretability

Total Survey Error
- Construct Validity
- Measurement Error
- Processing Error
- Coverage Error
- Sampling Error
- Nonresponse Error
- Adjustment Error

Fitness Framework

Evaluating Fitness: Tools

FCSM – Data Quality Assessment Tool for Admin Data

1. Discovery
2. Initial Acquisition
3. Repeated Acquisition
Use Framework

Highly Influential

Official Statistic (Disseminated)

Internal Use
Paperwork Reduction Act

“ensure the greatest possible public benefit from and maximize the utility of information created, collected, maintained, used, shared and disseminated by or for the Federal Government”
Communication

External review of plans and methods

Documentation: methodology/data/metadata

Post-dissemination review, errata, quality improvement
Communication Examples

UK Statistics Authority – Types of Official Statistics

• National Statistics
• Experimental Statistics
• Not assessed or de-designated

US Census Bureau – Experimental Data Products

• Provide value in absence of official products
• Allow feedback on quality and usefulness
• Path towards new official products
• Always identify them and include methodology with their release
The Fitness Feedback Loop

Use -> Fitness
Fitness -> Use