

Session Topic:



A New Era in Transparency and Reproducibility of Research



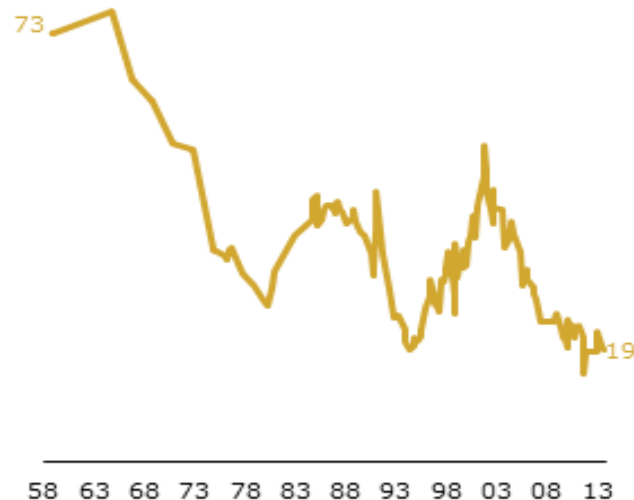
**View important changes that are
moving federal statistics to a new era.**

Reduced trust in government:



Trust in Government Again Near All-Time Low

% saying they trust federal gov't to do what is right just about always/most of the time



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct 9-13, 2013. Line represents a three-poll average. Data from Pew, Gallup, CNN, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and National Election Survey.

More concern about privacy & confidentiality



➤ Privacy Baseline, 1945-1960

- High public trust in government, business, and the non-profit sector, and therefore general public comfort with the information collection and use activities of those organizations.

➤ First Era of Contemporary Privacy Development, 1961-1979

- Turbulent era. Early alarms to the initiation of government commissions and private-sector empirical studies, looking to define and apply new privacy balances.

➤ Second Era of Privacy Development, 1980-1989

- New ground was not broken. Privacy remained a second-tier social policy issue in this period, often in play but not a compelling political cause.

➤ Third Era of Privacy Development, 1990-2002

- Period when privacy became a first-level social and political issue in the United States, assumed global proportions, and was impacted by 9/11 and its aftermath.

Alan Westin. 2003. "Social and Political Dimensions of Privacy." *Journal of Social Issues*. Vol. 59, No. 2, pp. 431-453

LESS concern about privacy & confidentiality



At the same time that Americans express these broad sensitivities toward various kinds of information, they are actively engaged in negotiating the benefits and risks of sharing these data in their daily interactions with friends, family, co-workers, businesses and government.

- Mary Madden, 2014, Public Perceptions of Privacy and Security in the Post-Snowden Era. Pew Research Internet Project

“People have really gotten comfortable not only sharing more information and different kinds, but more openly and with more people. The social norm is just something that has evolved over time.”

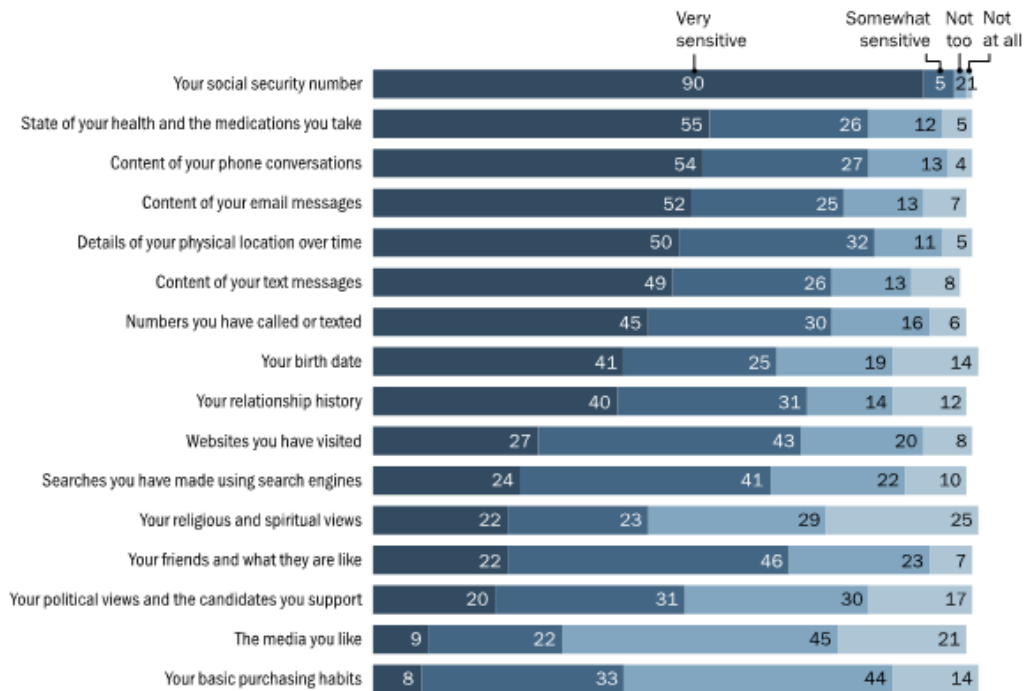
- Mark Zuckerberg, January 2010

The type of information matters.



Social security numbers, health info and phone conversations among the most sensitive data

% of adults who report varying levels of sensitivity about the following kinds of info



Source: Pew Research Privacy Panel Survey, January 2014. N=607 adults, ages 18 and older.

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This Presentation:



More Transparency?

It's Not Clear!



View what's clear and what's not.

Clear!



A commitment to quality

- both in the ***production*** and ***use*** of statistics -
requires transparency.

Clear!



From the producer perspective, transparency has multiple components:

- Transparency regarding the processes and methods used
- Sharing of data
- Communication of limitations

Clear!



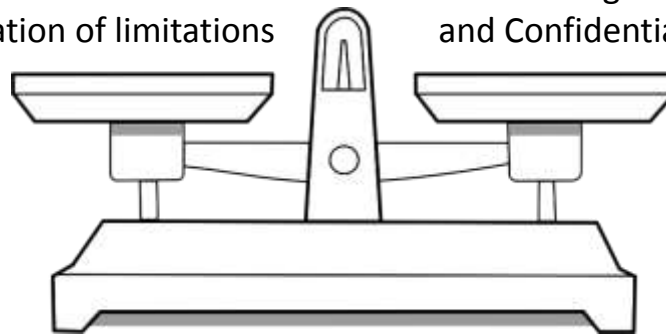
Transparency must be balanced with maintaining privacy and confidentiality.

Transparency regarding the processes and methods used

Sharing of data

Communication of limitations

Maintaining Privacy and Confidentiality



Clear!



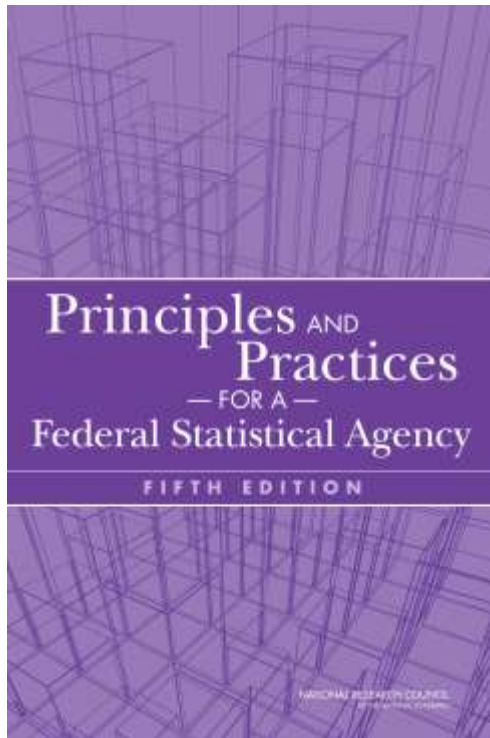
General guidance and expectations for Federal statistical agencies currently exist regarding these components of transparency.

Clear!



Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency

Committee on National Statistics



Principles

- Relevance to Policy Issues
- Credibility Among Data Users
- Trust Among Data Providers
- Independence from Political and Other Undue External Influence

Clear!



Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency

Committee on National Statistics

- Practice 4 – Openness about sources and limitations on the data provided
- Practice 5 – Wide dissemination of data
- Practice 6 – Cooperation with data users
- Practice 7 – Respect for the privacy and autonomy of data providers
- Practice 8 – Protection of the confidentiality of data providers' information
- Practice 9 – Commitment to quality and professional standards of practice

Clear!



Office of Management and Budget

Statistical Policy Directive No. 1:

Fundamental Responsibilities of Federal Statistical Agencies and Recognized Statistical Units

Signed final recently.

Federal register notice.

Federal statistical agencies required to report actions currently taken, in the process of taking, or are considering to support achievement of the responsibilities identified in this Directive.

Clear!



Statistical Policy Directive No. 1 - Fundamental Responsibilities :

- 1 Produce and disseminate relevant and timely information
- 2 **Conduct credible and accurate statistical activities**
- 3 **Conduct objective statistical activities**
- 4 **Protect the trust of information providers by ensuring the confidentiality and exclusive statistical use of their responses.**

Clear!



Legal Mandates

- **Paperwork Reduction Act**
- **Information Quality Act**
- **Title V of the E-Government Act of 2002 (CIPSEA)**
- **Privacy Act of 1974**

Clear!



International Guidance

- **European Statistics Code of Practice (2011)**
- **United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics** (adopted 2014 by General Assembly)

Not so Clear!



What priority do Federal statistical agencies put on transparency?

Highest

Maintaining privacy and confidentiality

Also fairly high

Data sharing

Lower

Documentation! Describing the processes and methods used – accessible and understandable by *public*

Lowest

Communication of limitations

Not so Clear!



Why the lower priority?

It is **probably not** because:

- The agency does not know they should be transparent.
- The agency has been waiting for Statistical Policy Directive No. 1 before taking more action.

Not so Clear!



Why the lower priority?

- ***It takes resources*** – which are generally “front-loaded” on the information lifecycle continuum.
- ***It is hard*** – broad audience; communication of technical issues to the public; management of information so that it can be easily found
- ***It is boring*** – who wants to spend their time documenting!

Not so Clear!



Is more direction needed?

Possibly, but one “size” may not fit all agencies and situations.

Clearing!



What is needed?

- Communication between agencies on best practices
- Collaboration between agencies on:
 - Language
 - Structures, including those for dissemination, searching, micro-data usage
- Internal “credit” for doing the dirty work
- Ideas like those discussed in this session.



Thank you for your time!