



*Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics*

**ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN FEDERAL STATISTICS**

## Federal Statistics Face Critical Challenges

Accurate, timely, and relevant data is necessary if society is to make decisions at any level—for governments (federal, state, or local), businesses, communities, or individuals.

As new demands for data proliferate and the costs of conventional data collection skyrocket, statistical agencies can no longer conduct business as usual. They are now moving to take advantage of modern technologies and methods for both traditional sources like surveys and newly available data sources. To produce official statistics, the future plan is to integrate data from surveys, administrative and program records, and private data sources.

This new approach has many benefits. An enhanced approach to official statistics will bring about program evaluations and decisions that are truly evidence-based.

The goal is to reduce both costs and onerous survey contacts while providing timely and granular data. And of course, to continue to produce these statistics to the same gold stand level of quality and reliability.

This new way of doing business will strain statistical agencies in several ways. They will still be required to produce their current products—even as they work to re-engineer their methods and systems. Sadly, flat budgets (which have not kept up with inflationary costs) do not provide flexibility for investments in innovative research; constantly changing technologies; and staff possessing skills different from those previously sought.

COPAFS supports our federal statistical agencies to advance excellence statistics.

## How COPAFS Supports Federal Statistics

- Provides decision-makers with information that demonstrates the value of federal statistics and augments the imperative to strengthen the federal statistical system.
- Organizes forums in which federal statisticians and agency representatives interact with the users of their work-product.
- Holds seminars, workshops, and webinars on the challenges and opportunities facing groups that rely on federal statistics (so also those who produce these statistics).
- Partners with the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology to facilitate meetings of agency staff, academics, and contractors (touching on both research and policy) at which cross-fertilization relating to cutting-edge techniques and findings can occur.

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## About COPAFS

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics was founded in 1981 to coordinate activities of a number of associations, organizations, and businesses that rely on federal statistics with the goal of advancing excellence in Federal Statistics.

**COPAFS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization.**

## Benefits of Membership

- Assurance that the unique needs of your organization as a statistical data user are communicated to the agencies that produce the work-product upon which you rely.
- Monthly Stakeholder Update: A newsletter provides you with information about policy developments touching on the federal statistical agencies that are relevant to you.
- A standing invitation to COPAFS quarterly meetings, where news from federal statistical agencies is relayed—and substantive issues are discussed by work-product users and producers.
- Management and facilitation of both
  - substantive workshops and
  - conferences meant to provide third-party evaluation of statistical issues affecting your members.

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA)  
American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)  
American Economic Association (AEA)  
American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
American Psychological Association (APA)  
American Sociological Association (AMSOCA)  
American Statistical Association (ASA)  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)  
Association for University Business & Economic Research (AUBER)  
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)  
International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology  
National Association for Business Economics (NABE)  
National Association for Forensic Economics (NAFE)  
National Association for Public Health Statistics & Information Systems (NAPHSIS)  
Population Association of America (PAA)  
Rural Sociology Society (RSS)

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

American Institutes for Research  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
The Conference Board  
Claritas  
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER)  
Decision Demographics  
Election Data Services, Inc.  
Esri  
Georgetown University  
ICF, Inc  
Institute for Social Research  
Joint Program in Survey Methodology  
Justice, Research and Statistics Association  
Mathematica Policy Research  
National Association of Realtors - Research and Statistics  
National Opinion Research Center  
Nielsen  
Population Reference Bureau  
Princeton University Library Data and Statistical Services  
ProximityOne  
PSB  
Research Triangle Institute  
Sage Publications, Inc.  
Social & Decision Analytics Division (SDAD)  
Biocomplexity Institute & Initiative (BII),  
University of Virginia  
The Urban Institute  
Westat, Inc.



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