Good Data for Good Government in the 21st Century

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• COPAFS was founded in 1981 to coordinate activities of a number of Associations, Organizations, and Businesses that rely on federal statistics

• Our membership today both produces and consumes federal statistics in most government departments and scientific disciplines

• Our goal: Advancing Excellence in Federal Statistics
Overview Federal Statistics

Office of the Chief Statistician of the United States

• Established in the Paperwork Reduction Act 1994
• Coordinates the activities of the federal statistical system
• Chairs the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

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Overview Federal Statistics
Primary Statistical Agencies

- US Census Bureau
- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- National Center for Health Statistics
- National Center for Education Statistics
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Economic Research Service
- IRS Statistics of Income Division
- Office of Research Evaluation and Statistics SSA
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
- Energy Information Administration

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Overview Federal Statistics
Essential Resource

- Reapportionment and Redistricting
- Principal Key Economic Indicators
- American Community Survey
- Unemployment and Labor Force Statistics
- GDP and CPI
- Economic Census
- Income and Poverty
- Health Insurance
- Health Standards
- Opioid Addiction

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Overview Federal Statistics
Essential Resource

• Food Security
• Farm Productivity
• Obesity
• Crime Victimization
• Corrections and Recidivism
• Energy Usage and Fuel Reserves
• Education Progress
• Science and Engineering Workforce Statistics
• Veterans Statistics
• Highway Infrastructure

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Challenges for Federal Statistics

- Declining Survey Response Rates
- Funding Constraints – Do More With Less
- Expanding Demands for Data
- Protecting Privacy
- Concerns Regarding Federal Data Collection
Response Rate Challenges
Current Population Survey

Source: US Census Bureau

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2020 Census Readiness

Census Process 1970 through 2010

• Prepare address list
• Mail paper questionnaire
• Capture Information from mail returns
• Conduct in-person enumeration of non-responders using paper and pencil
2020 Census Readiness

2020 Census Modernization and Efficiency

• Reengineer Address List Development
• Optimize Self Response
• Use Administrative Records and Third Party Data
• Reengineer Field Operations
• Integrated Communications and Partnership

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Importance of Community Support

2020 CENSUS INNOVATION
Integrated communications & partnerships program

1990 Census undercount

2010 Census undercount

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Source US Census Bureau
2020 Census Challenges

• Census appropriations $200 million below request
• Has forced prioritization of activities to core systems development to achieve cost saving
• Reduction in field testing
• Deferral of complete modernization
  – Increased in-person address listing
  – Return to paper-based methods for selected areas
• Deferral of Communications and Partnership

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2020 Census Challenges

• Increased Funding Critical for an Accurate Census in 2020

• If not in Fiscal Year 2018, then Fiscal Year 2019 is essential
Opportunities

• Integrated statistical data from surveys, administrative records, and commercial data.

• Accessible, high-quality, public data to help businesses and communities grow the economy, create jobs, address socio-economic issues, improve quality of life, and offer better services.

• Chief Statistician of the United States modernization initiatives.

• Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking — www.cep.gov

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Evolution of the Role of Data in Good Government

- Public-Private Data Partnerships
  - The Opportunity Project (opportunity.census.gov)
- Census Bureau Local Update of Census Addresses
- Access tools
  - Census Bureau City SDK, Business Builder, and On the Map
- Greater use of local data to make informed decisions on allocation of resources and services
Thank You

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