



COPAFS

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

April 2018 Stakeholder Update

1. Welcome New Member!

[National Association of Realtors Research and Statistics](#)

2. Federal Data Working Group to Advance the Recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

The Bipartisan Policy Center and COPAFS have organized a working group to support the work underway at OMB to advance the recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking. The first meeting identified three areas for action: (1) Supporting the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act; (2) Engaging proactively with OMB on the President's Management Agenda; and (3) Identifying opportunities to increase capacity, transparency, and public trust in data linkage. Subsequent meetings are being scheduled to with respect to these actions.

3. COPAFS Outreach & Events

Making the 2020 Census Succeed, American Enterprise Institute

On April 23rd the American Enterprise Institute hosted a panel discussion, moderated by **Karlyn Bowman** (AEI) to discuss the importance of the 2020 Census as well as critical factors for its success. The panelists were **John Thompson** (COPAFS), **Diane Schanzenbach** (Northwestern University), **Michael R. Strain** (American Enterprise Institute) and **Hans von Spakovsky** (Heritage Foundation). Video of the event is available [here](#).

Keynote Panel at 6th Annual North American Data Documentation Initiative Conference

John Thompson (COPAFS), **Bob Groves** (Georgetown University) and **John Abowd** (U.S. Census Bureau) spoke on the importance of DDI to the research underway to modernize the Federal Statistical System.

Media Roundtable, Population Association of America

This media event was sponsored by The Population Association of America as a prelude to their annual meeting. Speakers included **John Thompson** (COPAFS), **Dr. Wendy Manning** (President, Population Association of America), **Dr. Bill O'Hare** (O'Hara Data and Demographic Services, LLC), **Dr. Jennifer Lynne Van Hook** (Pennsylvania State University) **Dr. Carolyn Liebler** (Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota)

Preparing California for Census 2020, Public Policy Institute of California

California is mobilizing efforts to support achieving a good census count in 2020. The Public Policy Institute of California hosted a panel to inform local California stakeholders of the importance of the Census and what they could do to help. This panel was moderated by journalist **Leslie Berestein Rojas** and featured **Sarah Bohn** (Public Policy Institute of California), **John Dobard**, (Advancement Project California) **Ditas Katague** (Census 2020, Governor's Office of Planning and Research) and **John Thompson** (COPAFS). [Watch here](#).

The 2020 Census: Challenges and Opportunities Panel Discussion, Population Association of America Annual Meeting

The Committee on Population Statistics (COPS) organized a panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities for the 2020 Census. The discussion highlighted a number of issues, and, in particular the polarizing effect of the decision to add a question on citizenship to the 2020 Census. The discussion was moderated by **Irma Elo** (University of Pennsylvania and former Chair of COPS) and included as Panelists **John Thompson** (COPAFS); **Robert Groves** (Georgetown University); **Joseph Salvo** (New York City Department of City Planning); and **Julie Dowling** (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). See copies of their [papers here](#).

Federal Statistical System Update, Joint Policy Board for Mathematics

John Thompson (COPAFS) briefed the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics on the status of the Federal Statistical system, including the outlook for the 2020 Census. The Joint Policy Board for Mathematics (JPBM) is a collaborative effort of the American Statistical Association, American Mathematical Society, Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. The Board represents nearly 55,000 mathematicians and scientists who are members of the three organizations

Harnessing Data to Improve Agency Results, 2018 Public Information Officer and Chief Financial Officer Summit, Association of Government Accounts & American Evaluation Association

The focus of this panel discussion session will be utilizing administrative records from multiple sources to improve program evaluations and provide more efficient federal statistics. The session will be moderated by **Jansen P. Sauvageau** (PNC Federal Services) and **Kathy Stack** (Former Evidence Team Lead, OMB). Panelists **Nancy Potok** (Chief Statistician of the United States) and **John Thompson** (COPAFS) will provide their insights regarding the use of administrative records to modernize federal statistics.

Congressional Outreach

John Thompson met with the following Congressional staffers to educate them on the importance of the 2020 Census and key factors affecting its success.

- Dan Cheever, Senator Todd Young (R-IN)
- Trevor Dean, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Press and television interviews

- [John Thompson on the 2020 Census – C-SPAN](#)
John Thompson discussed the importance of the 2020 Census and challenges that must be overcome to achieve an accurate count.
- John Thompson, speaking as former Census Director, provided additional interviews on various aspects of the 2020 Census with Michelle Smith of Associated Press, Emily Goodwin of ABC News, and Hanso Lo Wang of National Public Radio, and Lesya Bakalets of Voice of America, Russia, Jeff Mervis of Science Magazine, and Gabriel Arana of Them Magazine

4. Appropriation Letters

COPAFS has signed onto the following letters supporting appropriations for FY 2019 for Statistical Agencies:

- [Energy Information Administration](#)
- National Center of Health Statistics (forthcoming)
- [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)
- [Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistical Service.](#)

5. FY 2019 Appropriations Hearings

Appropriations committees are holding hearings to discuss funding requests for FY 2019. Funding requests are available [here](#) on the COPAFS homepage.

- Senate Hearing to Review the FY 2019 USDA Budget Request. [Watch here.](#)
- Senate Hearing to Review the FY 2019 Dept. of Labor Budget Request. [Watch here.](#)
- Senate Hearing to Review the FY 2019 Dept of Justice Budget. [Watch Here.](#)
- House Hearing to Review FY 2019 USDA Budget. [Watch here.](#)
- House Hearing to Review FY 2019 Dept of Justice Budget. [Watch Here.](#)

6. Oversight Hearings

- Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs - Reviewing the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. [Watch here.](#)
- **UPCOMING** - On May 8, 2018, the Senate Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing on the 2020 Census. For more information, [click here.](#)

7. COPAFS Quarterly Meetings

- The Summary of the April 13th Quarterly Meeting and presentations are now available [here.](#)
- The preliminary agenda for the upcoming **June 1st meeting** is also available [here.](#)

8. Highlights on the Preliminary Agenda for June 1 Quarterly Meeting

- James Woodworth, Commissioner of NCES and Charles Rothwell, Director of NCHS at COPAFS Quarterly.
James Woodworth, formerly of the Center for Research on Educational Outcomes at Stanford University's Hoover Institute, was appointed in January to lead the National Center for Education Statistics until 2021. We are excited to welcome Dr. Woodworth to his first Quarterly Meeting in June.
- Charles Rothwell, Director of NCHS
Charles Rothwell, the Director of the National Center for Health Statistics, is also on the agenda. He will provide an update on the NCHS and will share his perspectives on the future of federal statistics.

- Nancy Potok, Chief Statistician, Office of Management and Budget
We anticipate the Administration’s reorganization proposals will be issued in May, and look forward to hearing Nancy Potok’s insights and comments as part of her update on the Federal Statistical System.

See the [preliminary agenda here](#).

9. Agency Updates

- **Census Bureau**

2020 Census Quarterly Program Management Review

Quarterly Program Management Reviews update plans, tests, schedules and budgets to deliver a cost-effective 2020 Census. This PMR covered and update on the 2018 End-to-end Test, cybersecurity, and 2020 Census operations including National Partnerships, Communications, Geographic Programs, and Redistricting Data Products. [Watch here](#).

Congressional Testimonies

Ron Jarmin testified along with GAO before the House Appropriations Subcommittee. The focus of the hearing was the readiness for the 2020 Census. [Watch here](#).

On May 8, 2018, the Senate Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing on the 2020 Census. For more information, [click here](#).

The addition of the citizenship question also came up during the Department of Justice appropriation hearings in both the [House](#) and [Senate](#).

2020 Census Litigation

A number of lawsuits have been filed against the Commerce Department and Census Bureau over the addition of the citizenship question to the 2020 Census. More details will be provided as these lawsuits proceed through the court system.

- **National Agricultural Statistics Service**

Federal Register Notice: Public Notice of Non-Response Follow-Up for the 2017 Census of Agriculture

The National Agriculture Statistics Service has issued a [Federal Register Notice and Request for Comment](#) on the non-response follow up for the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Comments are invited on NASS's follow-up process for 2017 Census of Agriculture non-respondents. **NOTE: COMMENTS ARE DUE BY MAY 7th**

- **Economic Research Service**

The administration’s FY2019 Budget Request included a 46% cut to the Economic Research Service’s budget and explores the possibility of moving ERS into the National Agricultural Statistics Service. We are working with the [Friends of Agriculture Statistics and Analysis](#) to educate Congressional stakeholders about the important and distinct functions of both ERS and NASS.

- **Bureau of Labor Statistics**

Dr. William Beech is still awaiting confirmation from the Senate to serve as Commissioner of BLS.

- **National Center for Health Statistics**

Dr. Rothwell has announced his retirement from government service. He plans to stay through the end of 2018. We congratulate him on his upcoming retirement, and thank him for his long career in public service.

10. FCSM Conference Wrap – Up

Presentations are available now on the COPAFS website. To view, [click here](#).

The Conference had 882 attendees, with 700 from the government. Of the 182 non-government employee attendees, there were 10 international attendees, from Canada, Israel, Sweden and Poland. Non-government attendees represented the private sector (78), nonprofits (54), and universities (34).