

2018 FCSM Research and Policy Conference



Federal Committee on
STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY

Conference Details

- Over 200 abstracts submitted
- 49 Sessions including 4 panel discussions
 - Web scrapping, nonresponse bias, measuring poverty, survey redesign, burden, combining data
- 2 Plenary Sessions
 - Sharon Lohr
 - “Combining Data and Crime”
 - Nancy Potok
 - Keynote Panel: “Initiatives to modernize the Federal Statistical System”

Attendance

- 882 Attendees
 - 700 Government
 - 182 Non-government
 - 10 International
 - Canada
 - Israel
 - Sweden
 - Poland

Post Conference Survey Results

	2015 percent “Very Good” or “Excellent” (weighted avg)	2018 percent “Very Good” or “Excellent” (weighted avg)
Conference facilities	80.1 (4.08)	77.9 (4.05)
Conference location	85.4 (4.37)	89.5 (4.48)
Conference organization staff	82.7 (4.24)	85.8 (4.35)
Length of sessions	63.7 (3.72)	66.8 (3.81)
Format of sessions	64.1 (3.76)	69.9 (3.88)
Session Topics	63.7 (3.74)	64.7 (3.85)
Keynote speaker	81.4 (4.30)	79.3 (4.15)
Plenary panel	NA	62.5 (3.76)
Hotel accommodation (if applicable)	77.8 (4.06)	77.8 (4.00)

Key Sessions

- **Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps**
 - **Based on CNSTAT report**
 - **Focused on changes in survey field**
 - Lower response rates
 - Greater use of administrative data
 - **More use of blended (administrative and survey) data in official statistics**
 - Survey data still has an important role
 - **Less measurement of errors around administrative data**
 - **Short and long term recommendations**

Key Sessions

- **Non-Probability Sampling and Estimation**

- “Fit-for-Purpose” surveys can be useful (Levine, Lee, Kennedy)
 - Timely
 - Cost-effective
 - Can cover hard-to-reach populations
 - Ethical considerations
- Developing field for estimation from non-probability samples (Valliant)
 - Binary regression
 - Regression Trees
 - Calibration
- Hybrid estimates: combining probability samples with non-probability samples (Dever)
 - Non-probability samples to enhance the representativeness of domains

Key Sessions

- **Next Steps in Advancing the Recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policy Making**

Planning for the Future

- Moving the conference date back to November/December
- Eliminating the paper program
 - Online
 - App-based
 - Print fewer copies
- Venue
 - Washington DC Convention Center
 - Local hotel
 - Local conference space (Federal building)
- Suggestions for improving the conference