

Celebrating 50 years of Service to the Statistical Community 1972-2022

Committee on National Statistics • National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE

The National Academies is holding some meetings in person with a virtual option and others fully virtual; virtual options are available for all public meetings. All times are Eastern.

- March 21, 2023** **Consensus Study for a Roadmap for Disclosure Avoidance in the Survey of Income and Program Participation** scheduled for March 21, 2023; see this [site](#) for more information
- April 25-26, 2023** **Workshop on Approaches to Improve the Measurement of Suicide in Law Enforcement in the U.S.** scheduled for April 25-26, 2023; see this [site](#) for more information.

PEOPLE NEWS

Passing of Rebecca M. Blank

We are sad to report that Rebecca (“Becky”) Blank, former president-elect and professor of economics at Northwestern University, died February 17, 2023, from cancer at age 67. She was chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 2013 until May 2022 and was preparing to take up the presidency of Northwestern when she announced her cancer diagnosis in July 2022 and stepped down. She had deep ties to Northwestern, where she was on the faculty of the Economics Department from 1989 to 1999 and served as director of the Joint Center for Poverty Research and co-director of the Northwestern/University of Chicago Interdisciplinary Training Program in Poverty, Race and Underclass Issues. She was dean of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and co-director of the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan and taught at Princeton University. She served in three presidential administrations, most recently as acting secretary of commerce and deputy secretary of commerce under President Obama where she oversaw the 2010 census and the implementation of the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). She also was a member of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Clinton, a senior staff economist on the Council under the first President Bush, and spent time as the Robert S. Kerr senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. CNSTAT was honored to work with Becky on several important projects. She was a member of the panel that produced *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach* in 1995, and chaired a workshop on experimental poverty measures (2005), which ultimately led to the SPM. She also chaired the panel that produced *Measuring Racial Discrimination* in 2004, served on the DBASSE Advisory Committee, and was a lifetime National Associate of the National Academies. She was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Society of Labor Economists; received the David Kershaw prize from the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management for the young scholar (under age 40) whose research has had the most impact on the public policy process; gave the American Statistical Association’s President’s Invited Address in 2009; and was the Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow (2010) and winner of the Daniel Patrick

Moynihan Prize (2015) of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. She had a B.S. in economics from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in economics from MIT.

Passing of Barbara Everitt Bryant

CNSTAT is sad to report that Barbara Bryant, the first woman director of the U.S. Census Bureau (1989-1993), died on March 3, 2023, at age 96. She began her 38-year career in survey research at age 44, working for 20 years at Market Opinion Research (now Escalent), including 12 years as senior vice president. While there she directed national research for three Presidential commissions: President Ford's Commission on Observance of International Women's Year (1975-77), President Carter's Commission on World Hunger (1980), and President Reagan's Commission on Americans Outdoors (1986), as well as managing survey studies and consulting projects for media, transportation, education, and health care organizations. During her tenure as Census Bureau director, she oversaw the 1990 decennial census, 200 household and business surveys per year, and the 1992 economic and agriculture censuses. She was instrumental in moving the Census Bureau away from paper and pencil interviewing to computer-assisted survey information collection and in initiating research for changes in census taking that were implemented for the 2000 and later censuses. She oversaw an effort to statistically estimate the census undercount and devise methods to adjust the raw data to improve their accuracy. She subsequently joined the faculty of the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. There she designed the data collection methodology for the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ASCI). She retired as research scientist emerita in 2008, at the age of 82. She was a fellow of the American Statistical Association and active in the American Marketing Association and American Association of Public Opinion Research. She had a Ph.D. in communications from Michigan State University.

Passing of Jane F. Gentleman

We are sad to report that Jane Gentleman, former director of the Division of Health Interview Statistics at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), died on February 7, 2023, at age 83 after a long illness. She received a B.A. in mathematics and an M.A. in statistics from the University of Chicago. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Waterloo and became an associate professor in the Department of Statistics at Waterloo. She then worked at Statistics Canada, becoming assistant director of analytic methods. In 1999, she moved back to the DC area to work for NCHS. Her proudest accomplishments included (1) Interchanges between Statistics Canada and NCHS; (2) commemoration of the National Health Interview Survey's 50th anniversary, which included an event hosted by CNSTAT; and (3) what she called her "legacy", a poster showing a young girl analyzing data and saying, "I Want to be a Statistician Just Like my Mom." She received the Janet L. Norwood Award for outstanding achievement by a woman in the statistical sciences.

Wendy L. Martinez New Co-Editor of CHANCE Magazine

CNSTAT congratulates Wendy Martinez, senior mathematical statistician for data science at the U.S. Census Bureau, on being named co-editor, with Donna LaLonde, of CHANCE magazine, published by the American Statistical Association. She began her career as a statistician with the Department of Defense and then was director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. She joined the Census Bureau in May 2022. She has a Ph.D. in computational science and informatics from George Mason University.

SPECIAL RESOURCES



In case you missed it, we have a fantastic new [video](#) out about the value of objective national data and statistics. We're certain you know someone who would like to see it—or better yet, some organization that would like to share it. Will you take 3 minutes to check it out and then send it to a colleague?

RECENT EVENTS AND REPORTS

Workshop on Considerations for Returning Individual Genomic Results from Population-Based Surveys: Focus on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, December 2, 7, and 8, 2022

Video and other materials available from this [site](#).

Celebrating 50 Years of CNSTAT and Looking to the Future: Toward a 21st Century National Data Infrastructure, October 13, 2022

Video and other materials available from this [site](#).



2020 Census Data Products: Workshop on the Demographic and Housing Characteristics Files, June 21-22, 2022

Video and other materials available from this [site](#).

Toward a Vision for a New Data Infrastructure for Federal Statistics and Social and Economic Research in the 21st Century Workshop 2: The Implications of Using Multiple Data Sources for Major Survey Programs, May 16 and 18, 2022

Video and other materials available from this [site](#).

REMINDER: Slides from previous CNSTAT public seminars are available on the [CNSTAT homepage](#).



An Assessment of the Need for Native Seeds and the Capacity for their Supply: Final Report, a consensus report, chaired by Susan Harrison (University of California, Davis) and sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management, was released January 26, 2023. Free PDFs are available [here](#).

Extreme weather and wildfires, intensified by climate change, are damaging the native plant communities of landscapes across the United States. Native plant communities are foundational to thriving ecosystems, delivering goods and services that regulate the environment and support life, provide food and shelter for a wide range of native animals, and embody a wealth of genetic information with many beneficial applications. Restoring impaired ecosystems requires a supply of diverse native plant seeds that are well suited to the climates, soils, and other living species of the system. This report examines the needs for native plant restoration and other activities, provides recommendations for improving the reliability, predictability, and performance of the native seed supply, and presents an ambitious agenda for action.

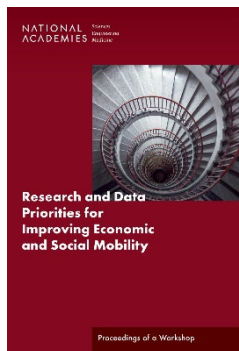


Reassessment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, a consensus report, chaired by David Savitz (Brown University) and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, was released October 14, 2022. Free PDFs are available [here](#).

Beginning with the 1990–1991 Gulf War, more than 3.7 million U.S. service members have been deployed to Southwest Asia, where they have been exposed to a number of airborne hazards, including oil-well fire smoke, emissions from open burn pits, dust and sand, diesel exhaust, and poor-quality ambient air.

Many service members, particularly those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, have reported health problems they attribute to their exposure to emissions from open-air burn pits on military installations.

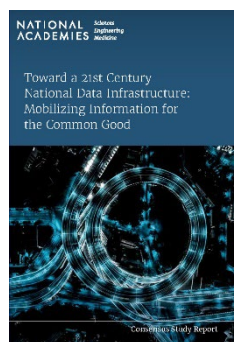
In 2013, Congress directed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish and maintain the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit (AH&OBP) Registry to "ascertain and monitor" the health effects of such exposures. This report serves as a follow-up to an initial assessment of the AH&OBP Registry completed by an independent committee of the National Academies in 2017. This reassessment does not include any strength-of-the-evidence assessments of potential relationships between exposures to burn pits or airborne hazards and health effects. Rather, this report assesses the ability of the registry to fulfill the intended purposes that Congress and VA have specified for it.



Research and Data Priorities for Improving Economic and Social Mobility: Proceedings of a Workshop was released October 3, 2022. Free PDFs are available [here](#).

Since around 1980, fewer Americans than before have been doing better than their parents – that is, more have experienced downward social and economic mobility in occupational status and income. This trend in downward mobility is occurring amidst high and rising levels of inequality in income, wealth, health, and life expectancy. To better understand the factors that influence social and economic mobility, the Committee on Population and the Committee on National

Statistics hosted a workshop on February 14–15, 2022. Courtney Coile (Wellesley College) chaired the workshop planning committee. The proceedings from this workshop, prepared by rapporteur Erin Hammers Forstag, identify key priorities for future research and data collection to improve social and economic mobility.

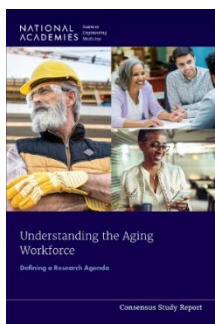


Toward a 21st Century National Data Infrastructure: Mobilizing Information for the Common Good, a consensus report, chaired by Robert Groves (Georgetown University) and sponsored by the National Science Foundation, was released in final on March 3, 2023. Free PDFs are available [here](#).

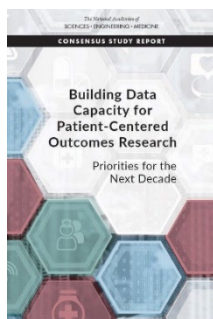
Historically, the U.S. national data infrastructure has relied on the federal statistical system and the data assets that it holds. Data and statistics from surveys were essential to what we know about the well-being of the society and economy, and provided an infrastructure for empirical social and economic research. Today,

national statistics face both grave threats and, also, a historic opportunity. Declining survey participation poses a severe threat to the quality of statistical information. Yet, at the same time, the country produces unprecedented amounts of digital data about the activities of individuals and businesses.

Toward a 21st Century National Data Infrastructure: Mobilizing Information for the Common Good is the first of three reports funded by the National Science Foundation to explore the many issues surrounding a new data infrastructure. The report describes the need for a new national data infrastructure, presents an initial vision, and describes expected outcomes and key attributes of a new national data infrastructure. The report also discusses the implications of blending data from multiple sources as well as the organizational implications of cross sector data access and use. The report concludes by identifying short- and medium-term activities that facilitate progress toward the full vision. These tasks provide a possible roadmap that permits progress toward a full vision.



*Understanding the Aging Workforce:
Defining a Research Agenda*



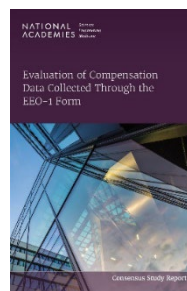
*Building Data Capacity for
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research:
Priorities for the Next Decade*



Modernizing the Consumer Price Index



*Innovation, Global Value Chains, and
Globalization Measurement—Proceedings of a Workshop*



*Evaluation of Compensation Data Collected
Through the EEO-1 Form*

All Reports Available in Print or PDF

PDFs are downloadable for free from <https://www.nap.edu>

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

**JPSM
Distinguished
Lecture
April 14, 2023**

Measuring Sexual and Gender Minorities in the Federal Statistical System: Are We There Yet?

Nancy Bates, Senior Researcher for Survey Methods Research (U.S. Census Bureau, retired) and co-chair of CNSTAT's consensus study, *Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation*, will discuss the report at the annual [JPSM Distinguished lecture](#) at 3 pm. Discussants include Gary Gates, Demographer (Retired) and Karen L. Parker, Director, Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (NIH).

**Public Comment
Invited on
Proposed Race
and Ethnicity
Reporting
Standards—
Comments Due
April 12, 2023**

On January 26, 2023, the Chief Statistician's Office in OMB released a set of initial proposals to revise OMB's statistical standards for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity data across federal agencies in a [Federal Register Notice](#). These are initial proposals developed by an Interagency Technical Working Group—they are not the final recommendations from the Working Group to OMB, and they do not represent the positions of OMB or the agencies participating on the Working Group. Input from stakeholders and the public will be critical in guiding the Working Group as it continues to refine its recommendations. Comments can be submitted by **April 12** at [Regulations.gov](#), by searching for "OMB-2023-0001". **The Working Group also has a new public website at: [spd15revision.gov](#).** The target to complete these revisions is summer 2024.

**Save the Date:
Townhalls on the
Proposed Race
and Ethnicity
Reporting
Standards**

OMB and the Federal Interagency Technical Working Group on Race and Ethnicity Standards (Working Group) are hosting three Town Halls to hear directly from the American public about the initial proposals to revise Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD 15).

- **Town Hall 1:** Tuesday, March 14 at 2pm ET
- **Town Hall 2:** Friday, March 17 at 2pm ET
- **Town Hall 3:** Saturday, March 18 at 2pm ET

The Town Halls will be accessible via Webex and audio through Verizon. More information is available at this [link](#).

**FCSM 2022
Conference
presentations
posted; Call for
Abstracts for
2023 Conference**

Presentations from the 2022 FCSM Conference can be accessed for download in PDF format at <https://www.fcsm.gov/events/2022-fcsm-conference/>. Looking ahead to the **2023 FCSM Research and Policy Conference**, a few items to note:

- The conference will take place on **October 24-26, 2023, at the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center** (3501 University Blvd E, Hyattsville, MD)
- The **Call for Abstracts** is available at www.fcsm2023.org, and abstracts are due **April 3, 2023**.

CURRENT PROJECT PORTFOLIO *(listed by sponsor)*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Consensus Panel on Evaluation and Improvements to the Supplemental Poverty Measure

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2020–December 2023

Study director: Christopher Mackie; senior scholar: Constance Citro; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: James Ziliak (University of Kentucky)

Publication planned: Consensus report is in response to review

Meetings: Public meetings held from March 2021 through January 2022; closed meetings held on a monthly basis thereafter; see this [site](#) for more information

Consensus Study for a Roadmap for Disclosure Avoidance in the Survey of Income and Program Participation

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2021–September 2023

Study director: Brad Chaney; senior program officers: David Johnson and Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Madeleine Goedicke

Chair: Trivellore (Raghu) Raghunathan (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Consensus report is being drafted

Meetings: Closed meeting held March 2-3, 2023; see this [site](#) for more information

Consensus Panel to Review and Evaluate the Quality of the 2020 Census

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2021–April 2023

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officers: Michael Cohen and Katrina Stone; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Teresa Sullivan (University of Virginia)

Publications planned: Interim consensus report, *Understanding Quality in the 2020 Census: Interim Report*, released April 7, 2022 ; final consensus report is being drafted

Meetings: Closed meeting held December 1-2, 2022; see this [site](#) for more information

Workshop on 2020 Census Data Products: Demographic and Housing Characteristics File

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: January 2022—July 2023

Study director: Katrina Stone; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: V. Joseph Hotz (Duke University) and Elizabeth Garner (Colorado Department of Local Affairs)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings has cleared review and is being prepared for public release

Workshop: Held June 21-22, 2022; see this [site](#) for more information

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Consensus Committee on Future Directions for Applying Behavioral Economics to Policy *(led by Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences)*

Sponsors: National Institutes of Health, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Duration: January–December 2022

Study Director: Molly Checksfield Dorries; senior program officer: Christopher Mackie

Chair: Alison Buttenheim (University of Pennsylvania)

Publication planned: Consensus report is in response to review

Meetings: Closed meeting held November 30-December 1, 2022; see this [site](#) for more information

Consensus Committee on Policies and Programs to Reduce Intergenerational Poverty (*led by Board on Children, Youth, and Families*)

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families, Bainum Family Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Foundation for Child Development, National Academy of Sciences W.K. Kellogg Fund, Russell Sage Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Duration: September 2021–September 2024

Study Director: Jennifer Gootman; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Christopher Mackie

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Consensus report is being drafted

Meetings: Closed meeting held February 9-10, 2023; see this [site](#) for more information

Workshop on Considerations for Returning Individual Genomic Results from Population-Based Surveys with a Focus on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

Sponsor: National Center for Health Statistics

Duration: May 2022–July 2023

Study Director: Celeste Stone; project assistant: Alex Henderson

Chair: Jeffrey R. Botkin (University of Utah)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings is being drafted

Workshop: Held December 2, 7, and 8, 2022; see this [site](#) for more information and workshop materials

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Workshop on Approaches to Improve the Measurement of Suicide in Law Enforcement in the U.S.

Sponsor: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Duration: September 2022–July 2023

Study director: Katrina Stone; project assistant: Madeleine Goedicke

Co-chairs: Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon University) and Vickie Mays (UCLA)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Workshop: Scheduled for April 25-26, 2023; see this [site](#) for more information

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Impacts of Alternative Compensation Methods on Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Retention and Safety Performance (*led by Transportation Research Board*)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: July 2022–July 2024

Study director: Noel Popwell; senior program officer: Krisztina Marton

Chair: B. Starr McMullen (Oregon State University)

Publication planned: Consensus report

Meetings: Meeting held January 18-19, 2023; meetings scheduled for March 24 and May 16-17; see this [site](#) for more information

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Toward a Vision for a New Data Infrastructure for Federal Statistics and Social and Economic Research in the 21st Century

Workshop 1: The Scope, Components, and Characteristics of a 21st Century Data Infrastructure

Sponsor: Division of Social and Economic Sciences

Duration: April 2021–March 2023

Study director: Thomas Mesenbourg; associate program officer: Michael Siri; associate program officer: Katelyn Stenger; program assistant: Joshua Lang

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publication: Consensus report released in final March 3, 2023 (see “Recent Events and Reports” above)

Meetings: Workshop sessions held December 9 and 16, 2021; see this [site](#) for more information

Workshop 2: The Implications of Using Multiple Data Sources for Major Survey Programs

Sponsor: Division of Social and Economic Sciences

Duration: April 2021–March 2023

Study director: Krisztina Marton (previously Daniel Weinberg); program assistant: Joshua Lang

Chair: Sharon Lohr (Arizona State University, emerita)

Publication planned: Consensus report is in response to review

Meetings: Workshop sessions held May 16 and 18, 2022; see this [site](#) for more information

Workshop 3: Approaches for Data Governance and Protecting Privacy

Sponsor: Division of Social and Economic Sciences

Duration: April 2021 –March 2023

Study director: Jennifer Park; senior program officer: Brad Chaney; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Jerry Reiter (Duke University)

Publication planned: Consensus report

Meetings: Closed meeting held February 2, 2023; workshop TBD; see this [site](#) for more information

THE SPIEGEL FAMILY FUND; THE OMIDYAR NETWORK; THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION; THE ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION

Consensus Panel on an Integrated System of Household Income, Wealth, and Consumption Data and Statistics to Inform Policy and Research

Sponsors: Spiegel Family Fund, Omidyar Network, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Duration: January 2022–March 2024

Study director: David Johnson; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Christopher Mackie; program assistant: Alex Henderson

Chair: Tim Smeeding (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Publication planned: Consensus report is being drafted

Meetings: Public meeting held February 27, 2023; see this [site](#) for more information

HOW CAN CNSTAT HELP YOU?

Did you know CNSTAT provides a wide range of services, from consensus studies to workshops to small expert meetings? We are uniquely positioned to guide effective, forward-looking, and scientifically rigorous approaches to improving statistical methods and information. We can bring together experts to help you tackle your most challenging issues.

- ◆ [Contact us](#) to discuss how we can help your organization
- ◆ [Attend](#) our public seminars, workshops, and events
- ◆ [Engage](#) with our ongoing project on envisioning a new national data infrastructure

ABOUT CNSTAT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

153rd CNSTAT Meeting This meeting will be closed, but a spring seminar will be held with the
May 11-12, 2023 specific date TBD.

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MEMBERS

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OUR MISSION

The Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) was established in 1972 at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to provide an independent review of federal statistical activities. The mission of CNSTAT is to provide advice to the federal government and the nation grounded in the current best scientific knowledge and practice that will lead to improved statistical methods and information upon which to base public policy. CNSTAT seeks to advance the quality of statistical information, contribute to the statistical policies and coordinating activities of the federal government, and help provide a forward-looking vision for the federal statistical system and national statistics more broadly in service of the public good.