

## 15. LEVERAGING FEDERAL STATISTICS TO STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

Federal statistics have informed decision-making in the United States since its founding. The first constitutionally mandated census of population and housing in 1790 originated from “the desire of the colonists to find some equitable plan for the distribution of the burdens of the war, which proved to be one of the most perplexing questions which entered into the deliberations of the Continental Congress.”<sup>1</sup> This 1790 Census planted the seeds for what we refer to today as the Federal statistical system. Over the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the system continued to blossom into a specialized, decentralized, interconnected network to address emerging information demands, including tax, agriculture, education, and labor, for the growing Nation. The 20<sup>th</sup> century presented new and evolving policy needs leading to further expansion of the Federal statistical system to include commerce, public health, energy, justice, transportation, and more. More than two decades into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Federal statistical system continues to provide the gold-standard for impartial, trusted Federal statistics foundational to informing decisions across the public and private sectors.

As the challenges facing the Nation continue to evolve and become more complex, so does the information required to inform decisions. Addressing these new information needs efficiently and effectively will require greater coordination and collaboration than ever across the Federal statistical system, as well as with a broad set of data partners and users. Traditionally, the coordination of the decentralized system has relied heavily on the Office of the Chief Statistician and the good-faith efforts of the individual Federal statistical agencies, units, and programs. As new challenges present themselves, such as long-term downward trends in survey response,<sup>2</sup> increased risk of re-identification of confidential information,<sup>3</sup> and short-term coronavirus pandemic-related challenges,<sup>4</sup> it becomes increasingly difficult for Federal statistical agencies, units, and programs to meet their individual missions and serve their many stakeholders, including Federal, State, local, territorial, and tribal governments; businesses; and individuals. While each of the Federal statistical agencies, units, and programs have found innovative ways to address challenges individually, this individual approach is proving more and more difficult, and a successful future for the whole Federal statistical system will rely on increased collaboration.

The Office of the Chief Statistician, leaders across the Federal statistical system, the Administration, and the Congress have all sought ways to require, encourage, and expand coordination and collaboration across the system, recognizing the efficiencies and advancements possible when taking advantage of the whole system’s statistical infrastructure and expertise. Of particular note are the requirements to adopt a common framework for protecting statistical data, acquiring administrative and program data, and disseminating statistical data securely, in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018 (CIPSEA 2018)<sup>5</sup> and other provisions within the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act).<sup>6</sup> In addition, the Administration understands the value of relying upon the Federal statistical system to advance key priorities, including racial equity, climate change, and scientific integrity. For example, in support of USDA’s climate goals, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) established a high-performance cloud computing environment and began automating the collection and integration of several diverse data sets, allowing for new data layers for climate analysis across USDA. The Office of the Chief Statistician and leaders of the system are working together to provide strategic vision for and robust implementation of common frameworks and expanded responsibilities in support of evidence-building. It is no longer sufficient for individual statistical agencies or units (and statistical programs through the role of Statistical Officials) to focus solely on their individual missions.

Operating efficiently as a system requires clearly delineated roles. CIPSEA 2018 assigned expanded responsibilities to Federal statistical agencies and units, which serve as trusted intermediaries between data providers and evidence builders, to implement new policies and procedures for accessing, sharing, generating, protecting, and disseminating data in coordination with one another. The Evidence Act also provides for the designation of Statistical Officials, who facilitate coordination of statistical activities within and across departments and participate on the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).

Enhanced support for the work of the Federal statistical system is needed now more than ever to ensure that Federal statistical agencies, units, and programs can meet their individual and new, collective missions. The remainder of this chapter provides an overview of the Federal statistical system, discusses individual and collective

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/wright-hunt.pdf> (p. 11)

<sup>2</sup> [https://nces.ed.gov/fesm/pdf/A\\_Systematic\\_Review\\_of\\_Nonresponse\\_Bias\\_Studies\\_Federally\\_Sponsored\\_SurveysFC-SM\\_20\\_02\\_032920.pdf](https://nces.ed.gov/fesm/pdf/A_Systematic_Review_of_Nonresponse_Bias_Studies_Federally_Sponsored_SurveysFC-SM_20_02_032920.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://nces.ed.gov/fesm/dpt>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.bea.gov/system/files/2021-01/ICSP-COVID-19-Report\\_011521.pdf](https://www.bea.gov/system/files/2021-01/ICSP-COVID-19-Report_011521.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Title III of Pub. L. 115-435. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ435/PLAW-115publ435.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Pub. L. 115-435. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ435/PLAW-115publ435.pdf>.

ways to build toward the future and the importance of trust in enabling that future, and provides budget highlights and figures for the 13 principal statistical agencies and units.

**The Federal Statistical System.** The Federal statistical system collects and transforms data into useful, objective information and makes it readily and equitably available to stakeholders while protecting the responses of individual data providers. Federal, State, local, territorial, and tribal governments; businesses; and the public all trust this information to be credible and reliable and use it to make informed decisions. The decentralized, interconnected network includes:

- *Office of the Chief Statistician.* Led by the Chief Statistician of the United States, the Office of the Chief Statistician at OMB has the statutory responsibility<sup>7</sup> of coordinating the Federal statistical system to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the integrity, objectivity, impartiality, utility, and confidentiality of information collected for statistical purposes. This office accomplishes this by promulgating regulations, developing and maintaining statistical policies and standards, identifying priorities for improving programs, assessing statistical agency budgets, reviewing and approving collections of information from statistical agencies and units, and coordinating U.S. participation in international statistical activities, among other functions.
- *Thirteen principal statistical agencies and units.* These 13 principal statistical agencies and units are agencies or organizational units of the Executive Branch whose missions are predominantly the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of information for statistical purposes,<sup>8</sup> covering such topics as the economy, workforce, energy, agriculture, foreign trade, education, housing, crime, transportation, and health.
- *Approximately 100 other statistical programs.* These statistical programs produce and disseminate statistics in support of other mission areas and conduct a variety of evidence-building functions, including program evaluation, scientific research, data collection, policy and program analysis, and the provision of funding and other support for external research.
- *Twenty-four Statistical Officials.* Pursuant to the Evidence Act, each CFO Act Agency has designated a senior staff person in the Agency to be the Statistical Official with the authority and responsibility to advise on statistical policy, techniques, and procedures, and to champion statistical data quality and confidentiality. At the 11 CFO Act Agencies that contain a statistical agency or unit, the head of that

statistical agency or unit has been designated the Statistical Official, as required by the Evidence Act.

- *Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).* Chaired by the Chief Statistician of the United States, the ICSP<sup>9</sup> advises and assists the Chief Statistician of the United States in the coordination of the Federal statistical system; the implementation of statistical policies, principles, standards, and guidelines; and the assessment of statistical program performance. ICSP currently includes 26 members. Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), all 13 heads of the principal statistical agencies and units are members. Pursuant to the Evidence Act, all 24 Statistical Officials are also members; however, 11 of the Statistical Officials are also heads of principal statistical agencies or units. The ICSP is a forum for collaboration, coordination, and information-sharing among the principal statistical agencies and units and additional statistical programs across its member agencies, including on issues such as ensuring data quality and confidentiality, attaining and providing data access, and playing an effective role in agency-wide data governance.

Chart 15-1 below depicts each of these entities as part of the decentralized, interconnected network that is the Federal statistical system. Each is a critical piece of the system, providing value by advancing its specific mission and set of responsibilities. Coordination and collaboration enhance the value of each entity and the system as a whole.

**Building toward the future.** Individual and collective contributions are necessary to strengthen both the system and the data landscape available to inform decisions by policymakers, businesses, and the public.

*Investing in statistical infrastructure.* Statistical infrastructure supports mission delivery, enables modernization, and promotes reliability. However, like bridges and roads, statistical infrastructure requires ongoing maintenance and updating. Individually, Federal statistical agencies, units, and programs regularly assess their work and advance the methods used for collection, analysis, protection, and dissemination of their statistical products. They also ensure robust security and IT infrastructure is in place to facilitate their work. For example, recently the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) collaboratively developed an Application Programming Interface (API) to securely and seamlessly transfer data from OSHA to BLS in support of the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses collection. That API reduces duplication and burden for thousands of respondents and improves the quality and consistency of data.

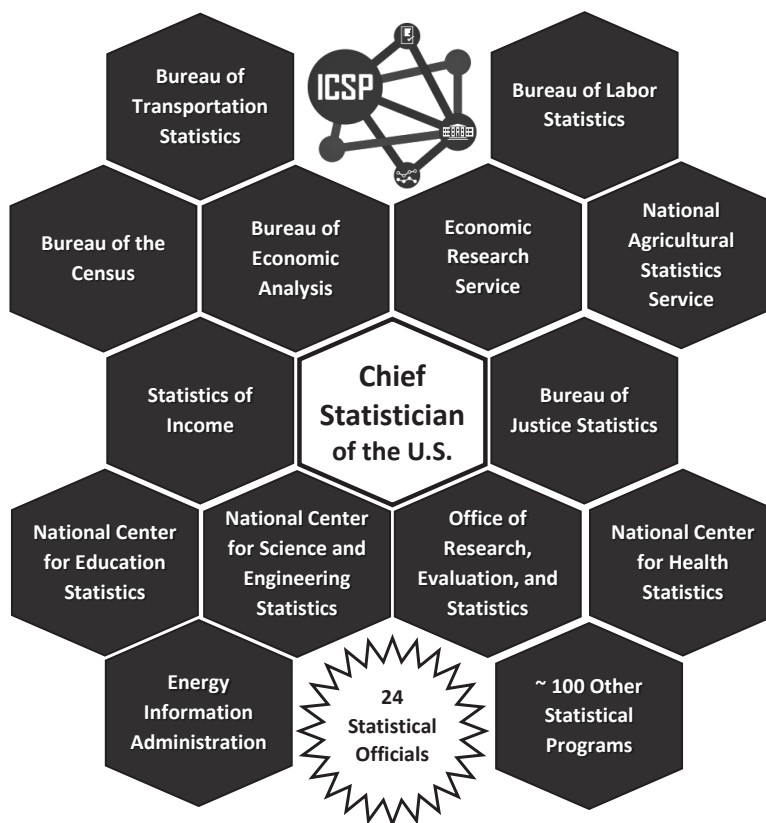
Collectively, members across the system participate in reviews and updates of statistical standards and best practices to promote comparability and consistency in Federal statistics. Pursuant to the PRA, the Office of the Chief Statistician reviews and revises statistical standards periodically to ensure their relevance through

<sup>7</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)

<sup>8</sup> Statistical purpose (44 U.S.C. 3561(12)) (A) means the description, estimation, or analysis of the characteristics of groups, without identifying the individuals or organizations that comprise such groups; and (B) includes the development, implementation, or maintenance of methods, technical or administrative procedures, or information resources that support the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

<sup>9</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)

Chart 15-1. THE DECENTRALIZED FEDERAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM



leading interagency coordination and public engagement on emerging issues. In the last year, the Office of the Chief Statistician issued final decisions for the revisions to the Core-Based Statistical Area Standards<sup>10</sup> and the North American Industry Classification System.<sup>11</sup>

In 2014, OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 1 identified four fundamental responsibilities of recognized statistical agencies and units.<sup>12</sup> CIPSEA 2018 incorporated those responsibilities into statute and imposed a new requirement for the heads of all agencies to enable, support, and facilitate recognized statistical agencies or units in carrying out these responsibilities. This dual set of responsibilities acknowledges that recognized statistical agencies and units cannot meet their responsibilities alone, while also emphasizing the importance of their ability to conduct their statistical activities autonomously. The codification of the four fundamental responsibilities also signifies their criticality to the statistical infrastructure; by upholding these core responsibilities, agencies ensure the trustworthiness of the system—a necessity if the system is to take on an expanded role in the generation of evidence to support policymaking. As required by CIPSEA 2018, OMB is developing the “Trust” regulation

to further guide and support agencies’ fulfillment of the four fundamental responsibilities.<sup>13</sup>

Without ongoing investments in the statistical infrastructure, the quality and relevance of Federal statistics begins to deteriorate.

*Blueprint for the future.* Building from the trusted statistical infrastructure in place, the Congress, the Administration, the Chief Statistician of the United States, and leaders from across the Federal statistical system have coalesced around a blueprint for the future of the Federal statistical system. This blueprint relies heavily on the statutory framework provided by CIPSEA 2018 and operating as a seamless system. CIPSEA 2018 contemplates a common framework for protecting statistical data, acquiring administrative/program data, and disseminating statistical data securely. Executing a common framework requires increased interagency engagement when developing new policies and procedures. One example is the Standard Application Process (SAP), which is intended to simplify the process of evidence-building by providing users with a centralized, secure means of applying for access to the restricted data they need from statistical agencies. The ICSP worked diligently on and delivered to OMB a consensus version of a proposed SAP policy,<sup>14</sup> and regularly engages on the implementation of

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-07-16/pdf/2021-15159.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-12-21/pdf/2021-27536.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-02/pdf/2014-28326.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3563(c)

<sup>14</sup> This proposed policy went out for public comment on January 14, 2022. Available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-01-14/pdf/2022-00620.pdf>.

the standard application portal, for which the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), as the designated program management office, provides leadership and support. Other CIPSEA 2018 initiatives remain under development, including two regulations: (1) to make more Federal data assets accessible to statistical agencies and units for the purposes of developing evidence,<sup>15</sup> and (2) to safely and securely expand access to data assets of statistical agencies and units acquired or accessed under (1) while protecting such assets from inappropriate access and use.<sup>16</sup> All of these initiatives have benefited to date from substantial interagency engagement, with more engagement expected prior to finalization. Getting such policies and regulations right is important to the longevity and success of the Federal statistical system.

The future success of the system will also require expansion. Understanding this, CIPSEA 2018 requires OMB to develop and issue guidance outlining the process by which an agency may be designated a statistical agency or unit. Clearer guidance is expected to encourage additional units across the Federal Government to adopt the requirements of CIPSEA 2018 and to seek designation as statistical agencies and units, thereby increasing resources and breadth of the system. With the 2023 President's Budget, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requests resources to develop a path, which would include commissioning a report from the Committee on National Statistics at the National Academy of Sciences, to create a statistical unit meeting the requirements of CIPSEA 2018 within DHS.

Effective expansion will also require increasing the capacity of Statistical Officials to serve their agencies. The Social Security Administration (SSA), for example, continues to expand its investment in its Disclosure Review Board (DRB). Led by SSA's Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, the DRB reviews statistical tables and public use files prior to public release to ensure compliance with statutes, regulations, and policies requiring SSA to not disclose personally identifiable information to the public. SSA has recently bolstered the DRB by adding members from across SSA components to better socialize its practices and has also revised documentation of its disclosure protocols.

Collaboration with external and internal partners is also critical to the system's future success. OMB Memorandum M-19-23<sup>17</sup> recognizes the importance of drawing upon the varied expertise of the wide range of Federal data partners, such as the Chief Data Officer, Evaluation Officer, senior agency official for privacy, and Chief Information Officer, to yield improved Federal data policies and practices; the Memorandum requires the establishment of Data Governance Bodies within CFO Act Agencies to bring together and harness the strengths of such officials. The Evidence Act required establishment of another body, the Advisory Committee on Data

for Evidence Building (ACDEB),<sup>18</sup> which is made up of partners across Federal, State and local governments, as well as non-governmental experts in privacy, technology, research and more. The ACDEB, charged with providing recommendations concerning access to data and providing recommendations on how to facilitate data sharing, data linkage, and privacy enhancing techniques, issued their Year 1 report, including recommendations to OMB and ICSP, in October 2021.<sup>19</sup> The Office of the Chief Statistician and ICSP provided an initial response to the Year 1 report during the January 2022 public ACDEB meeting and plan to continue iterative engagement throughout the remainder of the committee's work. The ACDEB will finalize its work with a set of recommendations to OMB in October 2022. Finally, the system will continue to rely on its traditional means of engagement, such as Federal Advisory Committees (Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee,<sup>20</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics Technical Advisory Committee,<sup>21</sup> National Center for Health Statistics Board of Scientific Counselors,<sup>22</sup> etc.), public comment opportunities, focus groups or listening sessions, and more.

*Trust as an enabler.* Trust in Federal statistics underpins their value and enables future improvements. Each entity within the Federal statistical system must be diligent in upholding this trust. Data providers must trust the system to protect the confidentiality and exclusively statistical use of the information they provide. Meanwhile, data users must trust that the resulting statistics are free from political bias, generated with quality inputs, available equitably, and reliable. Any doubts or uncertainty could introduce negative effects on markets, investments, economic growth, job creation, and more.

Operation as a seamless system will not come easily. But, given the system's role as the trusted steward of the public's most sensitive data and a font of evidence, it must happen. Achieving this interconnectivity will require development and implementation of new policies; making strategic investments; collaboration with data partners, including Chief Data Officers, Evaluation Officers, senior agency officials for privacy, and Chief Information Officers; and ongoing engagement with other stakeholders, including State, territorial, local, and tribal governments, businesses, and the public. For more information on the Budget's related investments in evidence-building capacity and program evaluation, see Chapter 6, "Building and Using Evidence to Improve Government Effectiveness."

**Highlights of 2023 Principal Statistical Agency and Unit Budget Proposals.** Each of the 13 principal statistical agencies and units has an important role to play, and the collective priorities reflected in the 2023 President's Budget demonstrate the commitment of those statistical agencies and units to advancing not only their

<sup>18</sup> More information on the ACDEB and its work is available at: [www.bea.gov/evidence](http://www.bea.gov/evidence).

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.bea.gov/system/files/2021-10/acdeb-year-1-report.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://apps.bea.gov/fesac/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/advisory/tac.htm>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/bsc.htm>

<sup>15</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3581(c)

<sup>16</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3582(b)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/M-19-23.pdf>

own missions, but also the more coordinated future of the Federal statistical system.

- *Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau), Department of Commerce.* Funding is requested to support ongoing, core programs and to: (1) continue a multi-year transformation from a survey-centric model to a data-centric model centered on blending different sources of data to benefit all Census Bureau programs and provide timelier and more relevant data; (2) conduct the major data collection operations for the 2022 Economic Census; (3) continue development of new enterprise IT systems; (4) continue to improve data products and statistical methodologies; (5) collaborate with other Federal partners to develop intersectional analysis and sampling frames to support study of historically underserved communities; (6) provide a streamlined process for social safety-net programs to collaborate with the Census Bureau to characterize the demographics of their program participants; (7) support scholars studying marginalized populations by alleviating costs and bolstering institutional research, including through the provision of virtual access to Federal Statistical Research Data Centers; (8) support research, development, and field testing for measuring sexual orientation and gender identity in population surveys; (9) support closing out of the 2020 Census operations; and (9) support research, design, and testing efforts for the 2030 Census.
- *Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce.* Funding is requested to support core programs, including the production of some of the Nation's most critical economic statistics—such as Gross Domestic Product—and to: (1) improve and expand new distributional measures to support economic activity, including support to move the Annual National and Annual State Distribution of Personal Income measures to production quality; (2) develop nuanced measures of U.S. participation in global supply and distribution chains; (3) develop a Space Economy Satellite Account that details the contribution of space-related activities to U.S. economic growth; and (4) accelerate and expand BEA's Health-care Satellite Account, which provides cutting-edge data on U.S. health care spending by disease.
- *Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Department of Justice.* Funding is requested to support ongoing BJS data collections and to: (1) redesign the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) instrument and employ a split-sample design during implementation to ensure comparability of estimates between the current and redesigned instruments; (2) collect new data on the maternal health of incarcerated women; (3) increase understanding of crime victimization in historically underserved communities through investment in the volume, quality, and analysis of data collected by the National Incident Based Reporting System; (4) develop a new data collection on access to justice; (5) increase the frequency of the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics data collection; (6) enhance data collection on human trafficking; and (7) continue efforts to modernize and enhance dissemination of data and analysis.
- *Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Department of Labor.* Funding is requested to support core programs, including for the production of principal Federal economic indicators, and to: (1) launch activities in the International Price Program to integrate administrative trade data for homogeneous product areas into its news releases; (2) improve the collection of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program's Housing Survey; (3) continue collecting detailed days away from work or days of job transfer or restriction case data for the Occupational Safety and Health Statistics program; (4) continue development of a new National Longitudinal Survey of Youth cohort; (5) support timelier release and expanded data collection for the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey; (6) restore agricultural industries to the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics; (7) support moving the BLS-produced thresholds for the Supplemental Poverty Measure from research to production quality; (8) support research and development toward the construction of a consumption-based poverty measure; and (9) continue research for developing a chained Consumer Price Index for low-income households. In addition, should funding not be included in the final FY 2022 appropriation, funding is requested to cover the costs associated with the physical move of the BLS headquarters to the Suitland Federal Center.
- *Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), Department of Transportation.* Funding is requested for the Transportation Vulnerability and Resilience Data Program (TVRDP) and for data to support evaluation research under the Evidence Act. TVRDP data identify portions of the transportation network that are vulnerable to flooding and other disruptions and the ability of the network to recover from the disruptions. Support of evaluation research includes collection of small-area, equity-related data and development of outcome measures for use in the Department's Learning Agenda and completion of the National Transit Geospatial Database, which identifies the location of intercity, urban, and rural transit services that are essential for meeting the mobility needs of underserved communities.
- *Economic Research Service (ERS), Department of Agriculture.* Funding is requested to support core programs and to, jointly with the Food and Nutrition Service, conduct a second round of the National Household Food Purchase and Acquisition Survey (FoodAPS-2), which follows the FoodAPS-1, fielded in 2012, that produced previously unavailable data on food purchase patterns of Americans, of households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assis-

tance Program, other poor and low-income households, and the factors that influence their choices.

- *Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy.* Funding is requested to continue delivering critical data, analysis, forecasts, and long-term energy outlooks on which EIA's stakeholders rely, and to: (1) explore the collection and publication of new and highly relevant electricity information, such as regional hourly data on wind and solar generation, data on the hybrid operation of solar and battery projects, data on sales of electricity to power electric vehicles, and regional estimates of emissions related to electricity generation; (2) begin modernizing the National Energy Modeling System to more fully address the transitional nature of the energy sector, including through the ability to model deep decarbonization scenarios; and (3) provide near real-time information to support the Federal response to unforeseen energy disruptions and natural disasters, including short-term emergency data collections and expanded use of third-party data and analysis.
- *National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Department of Agriculture.* Funding is requested to support core programs and to conduct the 2022 Census of Agriculture, which occurs on a five-year cycle and is critical to measuring agricultural production down to the county level.
- *National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Department of Education.* Funding is requested to provide support for NCES ongoing activities and to: (1) support the continued development and implementation of the National Assessment of Educational Progress research and development for innovations; and (2) build out the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten to address pandemic effect questions raised by the Senate without starting entirely new cohort studies.
- *National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Department of Health and Human Services.* Funding is requested to support ongoing programs and activities and to: (1) promote greater accessibility and interoperability of health data, while protecting confidential information; (2) develop innovative methods and new technologies for data collection and analysis, including real-time surveys that increase policy relevance and expanded integration of data from electronic health records; (3) enhance the value of health data to communities through improved visualization and presentation tools; (4) expand the NCHS Data Linkage Program, which connects health-related data sources to enable scientists and policymakers to answer complex health questions; (5) accelerate provision of high-quality mortality data; (6) increase data available for understanding the health and health care status of historically underserved communities through increased sample sizes and evaluation of electronic health records; and
- (7) expand availability of restricted data through the Virtual Data Enclave.
- *National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), National Science Foundation.* Funding is requested to provide support for ongoing NCSES activities and to: (1) lead Government-wide development of evidence-building infrastructure such as the Standard Application Process, America's DataHub, and early work on a National Secure Data Service; (2) improve data and understanding regarding racial equity and participation, including by reimagining the congressionally-mandated Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering report; (3) further the Nation's understanding of the impact of research and development funding on the U.S. and global scientific enterprises; (4) inform U.S. policy on the foreign-trained science and engineering workforce by filling important gaps in knowledge of foreign-born and foreign-degreed scientists and engineers; (5) improve the Government's classification systems for defining and measuring cybersecurity, bioeconomy, and data science occupations; and (6) study the skilled technical workforce's future and relevance to economic recovery and industries of the future.
- *Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (ORES), Social Security Administration.* Funding is requested to (1) conduct research on Social Security programs and their beneficiaries, including publishing papers in the Social Security Bulletin; (2) provide policymakers and the public with objective, scientific, and methodologically sound information and analysis; (3) automate and modernize the production of statistical publications; (4) draw on the expertise of researchers around the country, such as the Retirement and Disability Research Consortium, through grants and contracts; and (5) provide objective, secure data and statistics while protecting privacy through strict adherence to disclosure review policies.
- *Statistics of Income Division (SOI), Department of the Treasury.* Funding is requested to provide support for ongoing SOI programs and to: (1) implement the Evidence Act, including implementation of the Department's and Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) data governance processes, cross-agency work on privacy-preserving new data access models, and support for innovative research with the potential to improve tax administration through the Standard Application Process; (2) fully incorporate tax law provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Taxpayer First Act, and three separate pandemic relief acts into SOI programs and products; (3) establish new interagency research and data production collaborations that enhance tax administration and policy evaluation; (4) develop new data products and visualizations suitable for dissemination through multiple channels, and implement a comprehensive taxonomy to improve the function of SOI's web pages; (5)

explore new, responsible uses of machine learning, natural language processing, and optical character recognition to improve the availability and quality of IRS administrative data for statistical purposes; and (6) support Department and cross-agency initiatives implementing Executive Order 13985, “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government”.

**Conclusion.** In summary, Federal, State, territorial, local, and tribal governments; businesses; and the public alike rely upon Federal statistics to inform evidence-based decisions, to enable the development and improvement of

sound policies, and to enhance the equitable delivery of services and programs. It is because of the trust placed in the Federal statistical system that users derive such enormous value from these Federal statistics. This trust is essential for the system’s future, in which statistical agencies and units will not only be responsible for mission delivery and modernization, but will also serve as trusted ambassadors for Federal data and its capacity to generate evidence safely and securely, both for the Federal Government and for external researchers. CIPSEA 2018 is a critical milestone for the system, recognizing its importance and its accomplishments while providing direction for the future

**Table 15-1. 2021-2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL STATISTICAL AGENCIES<sup>1</sup>**  
(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Actual	Estimate	
	2021	2022 <sup>2</sup>	2023
Bureau of the Census <sup>3</sup>	1,121.20	1,121.95	1,524.33
Bureau of Economic Analysis .....	111.86	111.86	140.88
Bureau of Justice Statistics .....	92.18	92.28	113.14
Bureau of Labor Statistics .....	655.00	655.00	741.74
Bureau of Transportation Statistics <sup>4</sup> .....	26.00	26.00	33.00
Economic Research Service .....	85.48	84.76	93.00
Energy Information Administration .....	126.80	126.80	132.60
National Agricultural Statistics Service <sup>5</sup> .....	183.92	183.92	216.08
National Center for Education Statistics .....	334.12	316.69	385.30
Statistics .....	127.06	131.39	176.08
Assessment .....	199.36	177.60	201.52
National Assessment Governing Board .....	7.70	7.70	7.70
National Center for Health Statistics .....	175.40	175.40	181.94
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, NSF <sup>6</sup> .....	66.05	72.64	87.95
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, SSA .....	35.66	39.38	38.14
Statistics of Income Division, IRS .....	37.42	40.70	40.79

<sup>1</sup> Reflects any rescissions and sequestration.

<sup>2</sup> FY 2022 estimates reflect an annualized continuing resolution, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>3</sup> Agency Total includes discretionary and mandatory funds.

<sup>4</sup> FY 2022 estimates reflects an allocation account from the Highway Trust Fund.

<sup>5</sup> Includes funds for the periodic Census of Agriculture of \$46.3, \$46.3 and \$65.9 respectively.

<sup>6</sup> FY 2022 estimate reflects the President’s Budget request.

