

Announcement: Promoting Trust in Federal Statistics through the Evidence Act

On August 18, 2023, OMB published a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Fundamental Responsibilities of Statistical Agencies and Units](#), or the “Trust Regulation.” This marks a key milestone in the implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act).

The Trust Regulation is the first of three regulations required under the law. It is intended to promote trust in Federal statistics and the statistical agencies that produce them, by codifying and clarifying four long-standing responsibilities of statistical agencies:

- (1) to produce and disseminate relevant and timely statistical information;
- (2) to conduct credible and accurate statistical activities;
- (3) to conduct objective statistical activities; and
- (4) to protect the trust of information providers by ensuring the confidentiality and exclusive statistical use of their responses.

Trust in our nation’s statistical agencies is foundational to the effectiveness of the next two regulations OMB will issue under the Evidence Act: (1) the presumption that statistical agencies can safely access other Federal data assets for evidence-building purposes, and (2) the responsibility for statistical agencies to make data more readily available for evidence-building purposes, while properly protecting the data.

The Federal statistical system is evolving in the face of the unique modern data environment. While the responsibilities addressed in this proposed regulation are not new – and, in fact, have long been a consistent subject of OMB, Federal government, and international policy for almost as long as governments have been charged with collecting and disseminating important information about their societies – their actual implementation in the form of standards and practices can involve a wide range of managerial and technical challenges.

OMB encourages everyone to provide any thoughts or reactions to the Trust Regulation by DATE. This input will be critical to shaping the final regulation, and ensuring our Federal statistical system is able to continue to produce and disseminate relevant, timely, accurate, and objective statistics for the public and evidence-based decision-making purposes. You can provide comments on regulations.gov under Docket ID “[OMB-2023-0015](#)” and you can reach to OMB with any questions through TrustRegulation@omb.eop.gov.