Big Steps to Increase Data Access for Evidence-Building

Title III of the Evidence Act
High Level Look at the Evidence Act

Title I asks agencies to develop research plans to address priority questions.
High Level Look at the Evidence Act

Title II asks agencies to build data catalogs, coordinate data governance, and develop open data plans.
High Level Look at the Evidence Act

Title III protects the confidentiality of non-open data; makes those data accessible at an appropriate level for the purposes of evidence building.
Title III (subtitled “CIPSEA of 2018”):

Re-authorizes the Confidential Information Security and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA)

Adds provisions to strengthen access to data for evidence building
Background: CIPSEA (2002)

• CIPSEA established strong confidentiality protections for information collected for statistical purposes by Federal agencies
• Key feature: the “CIPSEA pledge”
• Only recognized statistical agencies and units may designate agents to handle CIPSEA data
Information acquired under CIPSEA Pledge

1. Can be used exclusively for statistical purposes
2. Cannot be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone not authorized by CIPSEA
3. Is safeguarded by control of its access and use
New Features of CIPSEA in Title III

• Expand Access to Confidential Data for Evidence

• Strengthen and Preserve Confidentiality Protections
Access to Data for Evidence - Game Plan

• Identify trusted intermediaries
• Articulate high confidentiality standards
• Empower trusted intermediaries to access data
• Ensure provision of data to evidence-builders
• Build tools and infrastructure
Access to Data for Evidence - Statute

- Identify trusted intermediaries
  - Process for recognizing statistical agencies
- Articulate high confidentiality standards
  - Codification of SPD1 (the “Trust Directive”)
- Empower trusted intermediaries to access data
  - Presumption of Accessibility
- Ensure provision of data to evidence-builders
  - Expanding Secure Access to CIPSEA Assets
- Build tools and infrastructure
  - Standard Application Process
Statistical Agencies

Process for recognizing statistical agencies

**Previous**: Request to Chief Statistician, demonstrate that activities predominantly statistical

**New**: Increased transparency, expanded criteria

Codification of Statistical Policy Directive 1

**Stat Agency Responsibilities**: Relevance and Timeliness; Accuracy and Credibility; Objectivity; Confidentiality

**Previous**: OMB Guidance

**New**: Regulations
Presumption of Accessibility

**Previous:** OMB Guidance (OMB –M-14-06)
- Encouraged agencies to share data while addressing legal requirements
- Highlighted relevant Privacy Act exceptions

**New:** Regulations to implement Evidence Act
- Require the timely provision of data assets to any requesting statistical agency or unit
- Clear and consistent standards for complying with applicable laws
- Transparent process for requesting data and responding to requests
Expanded Access to CIPSEA Data Assets

**Previous:** 2-tier system

- Public Use datasets and statistics for broad investigations
- Data Enclaves for small number of well-qualified investigators

**New:** Broader implementation of multiple tiers

- Statistical agencies must assess sensitivity level of each data asset
- Access to data assets related to risk assessments
- Access to some assets may be improved through modifications (e.g. removing or obscuring some information) to the data
Tiered Access: Trade-offs

Accuracy

Accessibility

Confidentiality
Principles of Tiered Access

- Control of authorized access (person, machine, device, location)
- Principle of least privilege (need to know) for access
- Time-bound access to the minimum data and services required
- Baked-in data governance and compliance requirements for increased security
Single Application Process

**Previous:** Each statistical agency potentially had its own application process to access confidential data

**New:** The process for each statistical agency will be identical