

NEWS from CNSTAT

— September 29, 2017 —

PEOPLE *News*

We note with sadness the death of **Courtenay Slater** on September 10, 2017, in Annapolis MD at age 84. Courtenay earned her Ph.D. in economics from American University and held positions as staff economist with the Joint Economic Committee of Congress and the Council of Economic Advisers. During the Carter administration, she was chief economist at the U.S. Department of Commerce, with responsibility for overseeing the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau generally and the 1980 decennial census specifically. After her retirement from government, she formed a demographic data consulting firm with the late George Hall, Slater-Hall Information Products, Inc., and was president of her own consulting firm, CEC Associates. In that capacity, she worked extensively with Bernan Press on books that provided federal statistical data, often replacing publications that had been discontinued by statistical agencies for budgetary reasons. Courtenay served on CNSTAT from 1982 to 1988 and was a member of the CNSTAT panel that produced *The Bicentennial Census: New Directions for Methodology in 1990* (1985, reissued by the National Academies Press on its 30th anniversary in 2015).

We thank **Howard Gruenspecht** for his 14 years of dedicated federal service as deputy administrator of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Howard left his position on August 31, 2017, to join the staff of the MIT Energy Initiative. From July 2011 to May 2012 and January to August 2017, he served as EIA's acting administrator. Before becoming deputy administrator in 2003, he served as director of economic, electricity, and natural gas analysis in the DOE Office of Policy, having originally come to DOE as deputy assistant secretary for economic and environmental policy. His accomplishments as a career senior executive at DOE were recognized with three Presidential Rank Awards. Prior to his service at DOE, he was a senior staff economist at the Council of Economic Advisers, with primary responsibilities in the areas of environment, energy, regulation, and international trade. He has a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University.

PUBLICATION *News*

RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS (available as free PDFs with printed copies to follow)

[*The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment*](#), released in prepublication format on August 28, 2017, is the final report of the Panel to Review and Evaluate the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation Content and Design, chaired by John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research).

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a national, longitudinal household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. SIPP serves as a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of government-sponsored social programs and to analyze the impacts of actual or proposed modifications to those programs. SIPP was designed to fill a need for data that would give policy makers and researchers a much

better grasp of how effectively government programs were reaching their target populations, how participation in different programs overlapped, and to what extent and under what circumstances people transitioned into and out of these programs. SIPP was also designed to answer questions about the short-term dynamics of employment, living arrangements, and economic well-being. The Census Bureau has reengineered SIPP—fielding the initial redesigned survey in 2014. This report evaluates the new design compared with the old design. It compares key estimates across the two designs, evaluates the content of the redesigned SIPP and the impact of the new design on respondent burden, and considers content changes for future improvement of SIPP.

OTHER REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2017 (available in printed form and as free PDFs)

[*Developing a Methodological Research Program for Longitudinal Studies: Proceedings of a Workshop—In Brief*](#) (released online and in print, August 4, 2017).

[*Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation: Proceedings of a Workshop*](#) (released in prepublication format, July 7, 2017)

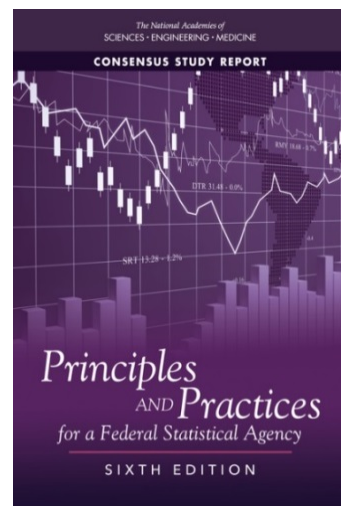
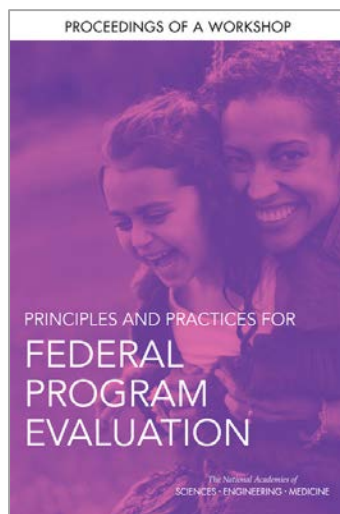
[*Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency: Sixth Edition*](#) (released online, July 6, 2017—printed copies contain the body; the on-line version includes appendices)

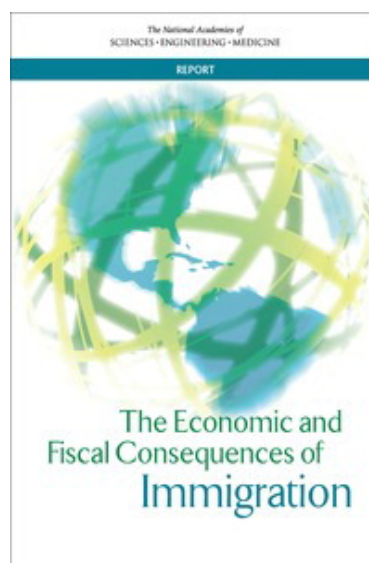
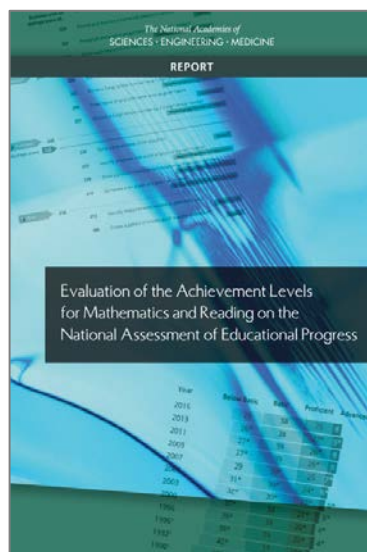
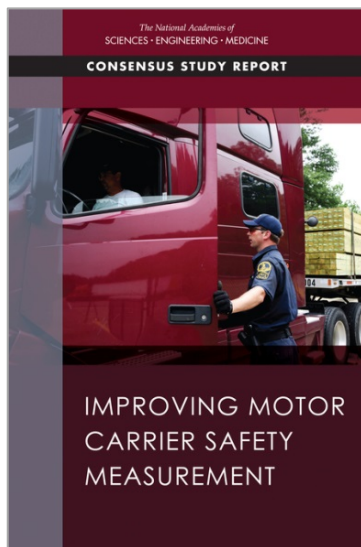
[*Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement*](#) (released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017)

[*Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*](#) (released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017)

[*Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress*](#) (released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016)

[*The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*](#) (released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016)





Reminder: PDF versions of CNSTAT and National Academies reports are available for free download at *The National Academies Press* website, <http://www.nap.edu>. The download site asks for your e-mail and a password. If you don't have an NAP account and don't want to have one, then provide your e-mail and click "I don't have an account;" on the next page click "accept NAP policies" and "log in as guest".

Reminder: Slides from previous CNSTAT public seminars are available on the CNSTAT [public seminars and symposia](#) page. Presentations from the May 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "CIPSEA at 15 Years: Benefits to Federal Statistics," are available [here](#).

Slides from several major workshops are available on the [presentations](#) page on the CNSTAT website. This page also includes a section on "[Multiple Data Sources Presentations](#)," which links to presentations from workshops and meetings for CNSTAT's [Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods](#).

EVENT & OTHER *News*

The *Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking* released its congressionally mandated report, [The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking](#), on September 7, 2017. It has recommendations that follow from its determination that “greater use of existing data is now possible in conjunction with stronger privacy and legal protections, as well as increased transparency and accountability” to support improved federal statistics, policy analysis, program evaluation, and other research. A bill is being drafted to introduce into the U.S. Congress this fall to implement selected recommendations, followed by a second bill in 2018 to implement the recommended National Secure Data Service and make other changes in legislation to facilitate secure access to administrative records for statistical use. The commission’s co-chairs, Katharine Abraham and Ron Haskins, will discuss the report at the CNSTAT seminar on October 20, 2017.

The *Board of the American Statistical Association* at its July 28, 2017, meeting endorsed the 6th edition of CNSTAT’s flagship publication, *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*. The Board previously endorsed the 4th and 5th editions of *P&P*.

CNSTAT *Meetings*

CNSTAT holds three regular meetings each year, with its spring and fall meeting dates following a set formula; our May meetings are always the Thursday–Friday preceding Mother’s Day and our October meetings are always the second-to-last Thursday–Friday of the month. Here are the next three meetings:

CNSTAT’s 134th meeting will be held **October 19-20, 2017**, at the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **20th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:45 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm. The seminar will feature the report of the *Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking*, co-chaired by Katharine Abraham and Ron Haskins, and the final report of the CNSTAT *Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research*, chaired by CNSTAT chair Robert Groves. The seminar will honor **Connie Citro**, former director of CNSTAT, for her numerous contributions to the federal statistical system and the social science research community. Connie stepped down as director in July, and she now serves as a senior scholar at CNSTAT.

CNSTAT’s 135th meeting will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, at the National Academies Beckman Center in Irvine, CA. It will be in retreat format; it will not have a public seminar or agency head luncheon.

CNSTAT’s 136th meeting will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

Active PANELS & WORKSHOPS

[Listed by sponsor agency, beginning with federal departments. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are in Washington, DC, and include open sessions. For further information, contact the person listed as the study director or project assistant (e-mail addresses follow the formula of first initial plus last name as in oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]

Department of Agriculture

Improving Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research for the Economic Research Service, USDA

Sponsor: Economic Research Service
Duration: October 2017–December 2019
Study director: TBD
Chair: TBD
Publication planned: Final report
Upcoming meetings: TBD

Panel on Methods for Integrating Multiple Data Sources to Improve Crop Estimates

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service
Duration: September 2014–March 2018
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann
Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)
Publication: Final report, *Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources*, has cleared review and is being prepared for release in prepublication format on October 11, 2017
Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

Panel on Improving Data Collection and Reporting about Agriculture with Increasingly Complex Farm Business Structures

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service
Duration: September 2015–September 2018
Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri
Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)
Publication planned: Final report is being drafted
Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for December 13, 2017, in Washington, DC

Workshop on Model-Based Methods for Producing Estimates of Livestock with Appropriate Measures of Uncertainty

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service
Duration: September 2015–September 2019
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall
Chair: TBD
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings
Upcoming meetings: TBD

Department of Commerce

Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau's Annual Economic Surveys

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau
Duration: May 2015–May 2018
Study director: Glenn White; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann
Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
Publication planned: Final report is being drafted
Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, in Washington, DC

Panel to Review and Evaluate the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation Content and Design

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2013–August 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Michael Siri; research associate: Adrienne Bradford

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication: Final report, [*The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment*](#), released in prepublication format on August 28, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports”)

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; program officer: Jordyn White;
project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau’s annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Workshop on the Census Bureau’s 2018 End-to-End Test and Concept of Operations for Reengineering the 2020 Census

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: October 2017 – September 2018

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; program officer: Jordyn White;
project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop scheduled for November 30-December 1, 2017, in Washington, DC

Department of Education

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity (see listing under “The Atlantic Philanthropies et al.” below)

Department of Health and Human Services

Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

Sponsors: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Foundation for Child Development

Duration: October 2016–April 2019

Study director: Suzanne Le Menestrel (BCYF); senior program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting (closed) scheduled for October 12-13, 2017, in Irvine, CA

Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann
Chair: Graham Colditz (Washington University, St. Louis)
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings
Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for January 18-19, 2018 in Washington, DC

Workshop on a Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Department of Labor; Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education); and U.S. Office of Management and Budget
Duration: September 2016–September 2017
Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Michael Siri
Chair: Grover (Russ) Whitehurst (Brookings Institution)
Publications: Workshop proceedings in brief was released March 20, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; full proceedings report was released in prepublication format, July 7, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print
Meeting: Workshop held October 27, 2016, in Washington, DC

Workshop on a Research Agenda for Longitudinal Studies

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging, Division of Behavioral and Social Research
Duration: September 2016–September 2017
Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann
Chair: James Jackson (University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation)
Publication: Workshop proceedings in brief was released August 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; presentation slides from the workshop are available [here](#)
Meeting: Workshop held June 5-6, 2017, in Washington, DC

Department of Justice

Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics (joint with the Committee on Law and Justice)

Sponsor: Bureau of Justice Statistics and Federal Bureau of Investigation
Duration: September 2013–March 2018
Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri
Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)
Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted
Meetings: Final in-person meeting held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

Department of Transportation

Panel to Review the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Duration: March 2016–September 2017
Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Michael Siri; off-site research associate: Jacob Spertus (Harvard)
Co-chairs: Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon) and Sharon-Lise Normand (Harvard Medical School)
Publication: Final report, *Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement*, was released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017, and is available in [PDF](#) and in print
Meetings: Fourth and last meeting held February 16-17, 2017

Standing Committee for Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: October 2017–September 2020

Study director: Michael Cohen; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Tom Menzies; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: TBD

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels.

Upcoming meetings: TBD

National Science Foundation

Committee on Reproducibility and Replicability in Science (led by the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences, with the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, CNSTAT, and the Division of Earth and Life Sciences)

Sponsor: NSF director's office (congressionally mandated)

Duration: August 2017 – March 2019

Study director: Jennifer Heimberg (DELS); board director: Michelle Schwalbe (BMSA); senior program officer: Adrienne Stith Butler (BBCSS); senior program officer: Michael Cohen (CNSTAT)

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is in review

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting held July 6-7, 2017, in Washington, DC

Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Hermann Habermann; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings report is being drafted

Meeting: Workshop held June 21-22, 2017, in Washington, DC

The American Educational Research Association, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the W.T. Grant Foundation

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Kelly Arrington
Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)
Publication planned: Final report
Upcoming meetings: Second in-person meeting scheduled for October 2-3, 2017, in Washington, DC; Third meeting scheduled for January 29-30, 2018 in Irvine, CA

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; second report, *Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps*, has cleared review and is being prepared for release on October 2, 2017; a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

• CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •

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– See our website for previous issues of *News from CNSTAT*, under “CNSTAT News” –

The Committee on National Statistics was established in 1972 at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to improve the statistical methods and information on which public policy decisions are based. The committee carries out studies, workshops, and other activities to foster better measures and fuller understanding of the economy, the environment, public health, crime, education, immigration, poverty, welfare, and other public policy issues. It also evaluates ongoing statistical programs and tracks the statistical policy and coordinating activities of the federal government, serving a unique role at the intersection of statistics and public policy. The committee’s work is supported by a consortium of federal agencies through a National Science Foundation grant, a National Agricultural Statistics Service cooperative agreement, and several individual agreements.