The National Academies of
SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
Committee on National Statistics

CNSTAT Panel on Improving USDA's Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research
First Meeting -- April 16, 2018

The National Academy of Sciences Building
Lecture Room
2101 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC

AGENDA

Meeting Goals: The panel's first meeting consists of a set of high-level overview presentations by ERS staff about current projects and priorities of the agency's Consumer Food Data System (CFDS) program. These presentations will inform panel members, and meeting participants more broadly, about key developments—exploiting proprietary data, developing linkages across disparate data sources, adding supplements to exiting surveys, and continued planning for FoodAPS-2—pushing forward the CFDS data infrastructure. Research highlights emerging from various CFDS program initiatives will also be summarized. During this afternoon closed session, the panel will review (and, if necessary, refine) its charge, attend to institutional requirements, and finalize planning of an open session for the project's second meeting in June.

Open Public Sessions, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m.　　*Registration and networking; light breakfast available in East Court*

9:00　　　　 Welcome, introductions, and overview of agenda
- **Marianne Bitler**, *Chair*
- **Brian Harris-Kojetin**, *Director, Committee on National Statistics*
- **Monica Feit**, *Deputy Director, DBASSE*

9:30　　　　Sponsor's welcome; high-level overview of the agency's vision and strategy for improving data for food and nutrition policy research

Goals and objectives of the study (20 minutes)
- **Mary Bohman**, *Administrator, ERS*; **Jay Variyam**, *Division Director, ERS*

Blueprint for the current CFDS program—components, organization, and rationale (20 minutes)
- **Mark Denbaly,** *Deputy Division Director for Food Economics Data, ERS*.

Questions from the panel; general discussion (20 minutes)

10:30   *Break*

10:45   Discussion of the project *Statement of Task*, and prioritization of topics for the study
               – **Panel members'** perspectives: each panel member identifies key issues embodied in the charge, and discusses primary interests related to the study (5 minutes each)
               – Response from **sponsors** and open discussion (15 minutes)

12:00 p.m.   *Working lunch to continue morning discussions*

1:00   Current data programs, research activities, and program plans. More detailed presentations by ERS staff to inform panel members about CFDS program activities. The session should also be oriented to stimulate panel thinking about what kinds of presentations would be most useful to pursue during the open portion of meeting #2.

               Session 1: Use of proprietary data (25 minutes, 15 minutes Q&A)
               – **David Levin** and **Megan Sweitzer**, *Economists, ERS*

               Session 2: Other non-survey data sources
               Linking to nutrition information (10 minutes)
               – **Andrea Carlson**, *Economist, ERS*
               Linking to food environment data (10 minutes)
               – **Shelly Ver Ploeg** *Chief, Food Assistance Branch, ERS*
               Next Generation Data Platform for Administrative Data (10 minutes)
               – **Mark Prell,** *Senior Economist, ERS*

               Questions from the panel; general discussion (10 minutes)

               Session 3: FoodAPS-1 and Plans for FoodAPS-2 (25 minutes, 15 minutes Q&A)
               – **Elina Page**, *Economist*, *ERS*.

3:00 p.m.   **Adjourn open session**