

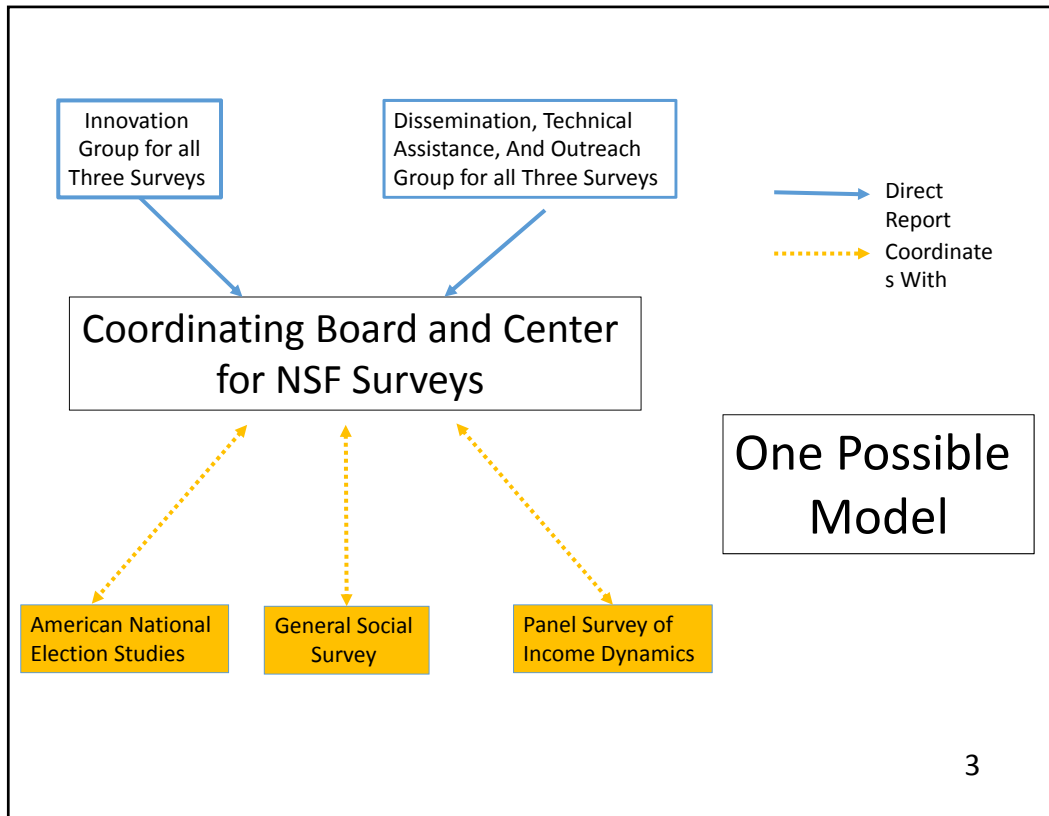
A Coordinating Board and Center for Major NSF Social Science Surveys

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Issues

- How can we get surveys to work together on innovation and dissemination?
- How can we get surveys to consider other operational collaborations
- As these surveys are used more and more across disciplines, how can we make sure that they reflect interdisciplinary concerns?
- How can we ensure that the coordination method works well with NSF's internal structure and procedures?



Examples from Other Areas

- NCRN-CO – This group at Cornell and at the National Institute of Statistical Science coordinates the efforts of eight universities in the National Census Research Network (NCRN):
 - Organizes semi-annual meetings of NCRN research leaders;
 - Facilitates information sharing and collaboration among researchers within the NCRN; Facilitates node engagement with staff from the Census Bureau and other relevant statistical agencies;
 - Facilitates interactions of NCRN nodes with stakeholder communities outside the network;
 - Supports and coordinates educational activities for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows; and
 - Hosts and maintains a website for public dissemination of research findings
- MiCDA – This group at the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging coordinates the effort of eleven aging centers of the National Institute of Aging:
 - Fosters national and international collaboration through coordination of several research networks,
 - Distributes research findings by affiliates, and
 - Provides coordinating support to all [NIA Centers](#) and collaborates with the Population Reference Bureau to widely disseminate all Centers' research findings.

Observations

- Coordination Board and Center would include membership from all three surveys and from others as well and it would be located at some university
- By having the Innovation Group and Dissemination, Technical Assistance and Public Outreach Group reporting to the Coordination Board, there would be assurance that efforts at coordination would be made across surveys and that the Coordinating Board would have some clear-cut authority and responsibility. These groups would not have to be at the same university as the Board/Center.
- The core of the individual surveys would operate much as they did before except that they would work with the Coordinating Board which would plan innovation and dissemination efforts with them and have final say over projects.
- NSF would probably fund and administer the Coordinating Board and Center through the Division Director for Social and Economic Sciences with the advice of the program directors for Economics, Political Science, Sociology, and Methodology.