

Frequently Asked Questions

(updated 11/1/23)

1. Who is the audience for annual reports?
 - Congress,
 - Parent agencies,
 - OMB, and
 - Stakeholders outside of government who rely on government statistical data and can influence the funders.
2. What is the overall goal of this project?
 - Develop objective metrics and use them to annually assess the health of the federal statistical agencies to raise their visibility and garner support for their vital work, publishing the results of the initial assessment in the first quarter of 2024 with annual updates thereafter.
3. Why is this project important to the federal statistical system?
 - By proactively monitoring the agencies' health, there is greater opportunity to address needs and vulnerabilities, and recognize accomplishments and strengths.
4. What is the plan for information gathering and data collection in year 1 and 2 of the project?
 - In year 1, we will focus on the 13 principal federal statistical agencies in extensive consultation and collaboration with the federal statistical community and other experts. In year 2, we will extend the year 1 work in depth and breadth and also research methods for assessing the health of statistical units in the other 13 agency members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).
5. What is the purpose and goal of the workshop?
 - The workshop has several objectives:
 - Provide broader context for the project to key stakeholders across the Federal Statistical System;
 - Share the work to date and outline the research group's proposed future directions;
 - Engage the community in an interactive dialogue about the metrics, including at the workshop and in relevant scientific journals;
 - Gather feedback on work-to-date and future plans to incorporate into the year 1 report and further year 2 research;
6. Why is the workshop being held in Nov 2023?
 - The workshop is being held on November 6 to provide the leadership team time to gather information, begin to synthesize it, and discuss very early findings with workshop attendees. The date will also provide enough time for the team to incorporate input from the workshop participants into the first assessment report to be released in the first quarter of 2024 and inform plans for the year 2 research agenda.

7. How can workshop participants contribute after the event?
 - We hope that participants will be willing to do any of the following: (i) continue to provide reactions and ideas on the first year report and subsequent work; (ii) contribute relevant papers to special issues of publications; and (iii) constructively critique research results, report structure, and drafts.
8. If I can't attend the workshop, what are other ways to engage on the project?
 - Please see response to previous question.

Please email Steve Pierson with other questions (pierson@amstat.org).