OMB's "Trust Regulation": A proposed rule on the Fundamental Responsibilities of Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units

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Slides, Recording

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The Office of Management and Budget published a proposed rule on August 18 with potentially substantial positive ramifications for the Federal statistical system. Officially titled, "Fundamental Responsibilities of Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units," the "Trust Regulation" proposes numerous provisions to promote public trust in the recognized Federal statistical agencies and units that produce Federal statistics. Orvis and Leslie will overview and respond to questions on the regulation, which is key milestone in implementing Title III of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act).

Comments on the regulation can be submitted on regulations.gov under Docket ID "OMB-2023-0015" and are due October 2, 2023.

Karin A. Orvis, Ph.D.

Dr. Karin A. Orvis currently serves as the Chief Statistician of the United States, as well as the Branch Chief for Statistical and Science Policy with the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). In this capacity, Dr. Orvis is responsible for leading and coordinating the decentralized Federal Statistical System to ensure it continues to provide the gold-standard for impartial, trusted Federal statistics foundational to informing decisions across the public and private sectors. Dr. Orvis also oversees implementation of OIRA's science policy responsibilities, and is charged with ensuring the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of the information disseminated by Federal agencies and used in decision-making.

Dr. Orvis brings 20 years of progressively broader experience spanning the federal government, academia, and private sector, where she has played leading roles in policy, program development and evaluation, data analysis and reporting, research, outreach and engagement. Prior to her current assignment, Dr. Orvis served in executive-level roles in the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), strategically leading multidisciplinary, interagency teams in designing, implementing, and evaluating enterprise-wide policies and programs. Specifically, Dr. Orvis most recently served as the Director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, responsible for suicide prevention programs DoD-wide. She also previously served as the Acting Principal Director of Military Community and Family Policy, responsible for the military community quality-of-life programs for service members and their families, as well as the Director of the Transition to Veterans Program Office, where she led the interagency Transition Assistance Program, ensuring that service members are fully prepared to transition from active duty to civilian life. Throughout all of her federal roles, she strategically leveraged data collection methods, statistical analysis, research, and program evaluation to drive policymaking, and directed and oversaw interdisciplinary research to develop new strategies to shape future policies and programs.

Before joining the federal government, Dr. Orvis served as a University Assistant Professor at Old Dominion University, teaching and mentoring Doctoral, Masters, and undergraduate students in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, research/data collection methodology, and statistical analysis. She has also worked with the private sector on programs related to employee assessment/selection, training, leader development, and organizational effectiveness. Her work has been published in journals such as *Leadership Quarterly*, *Military Psychology*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Journal of Business and Psychology*, and the *International Journal of Training and Development.*

Dr. Orvis holds a Doctorate and a Master of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from George Mason University, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Michigan State University. She has received various awards throughout her career including the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service, Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence, Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Society for Military Psychology Presidential Citation, and the American Society for Training and Development Dissertation Award.

Kerrie Leslie

Kerrie Leslie is Senior Statistician in the Office of the Chief Statistician of the United States. She is currently the lead on development of the "Trust Regulation" and also works to promote the efficiency, timeliness, relevance, and quality of Federal economic statistics, including for Principal Federal Economic Indicators. Her work has included leading numerous interagency coordination efforts, guiding statistical policy development, and serving as the office lead on the office on the 2020 Census, among other roles. She has been with OMB for six years.

Prior to joining OMB, Ms. Leslie spent more than eight years as an economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Department of Labor. At BLS, she led analysis of employment and price data, conducted research to expand the uses and improve the quality of survey data, and led teams ranging from evaluating nonresponse bias in surveys to coordinating and improving communication processes. Ms. Leslie has an M.A. in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University and B.S. degrees in Mathematics and Economics from The Pennsylvania State University. She is a member of the American Statistical Association.