Accomplishments and Future Plans of the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building (ACDEB)
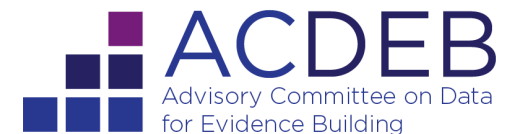
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December 9, 2021

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences

National Science Foundation

Outline

- Evidence Building Ecosystem

- ACDEB Background and Charge

- Vision for a National Secure Data Service

- Committee Recommendations

- Year 2 and Next Steps

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Evidence-Building Ecosystem

Before The Evidence Act & ACDEB

Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA 2002)

Privacy Act

Paperwork Reduction Act

Information Quality Act

The Federal Statistical System aligns with The Evidence Act

- Strengthens statistical policy directives

- Presumption of access to data for statistical purposes

- Evidence includes foundational fact finding, performance measurement, policy analysis, and program evaluation

    The term 'evidence" means information produced as a result of <u>statistical</u> activities conducted for a statistical purpose (Section 3561 of title 44)

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday, the third day of January, two thousand and eighteen

An Act

To amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018".

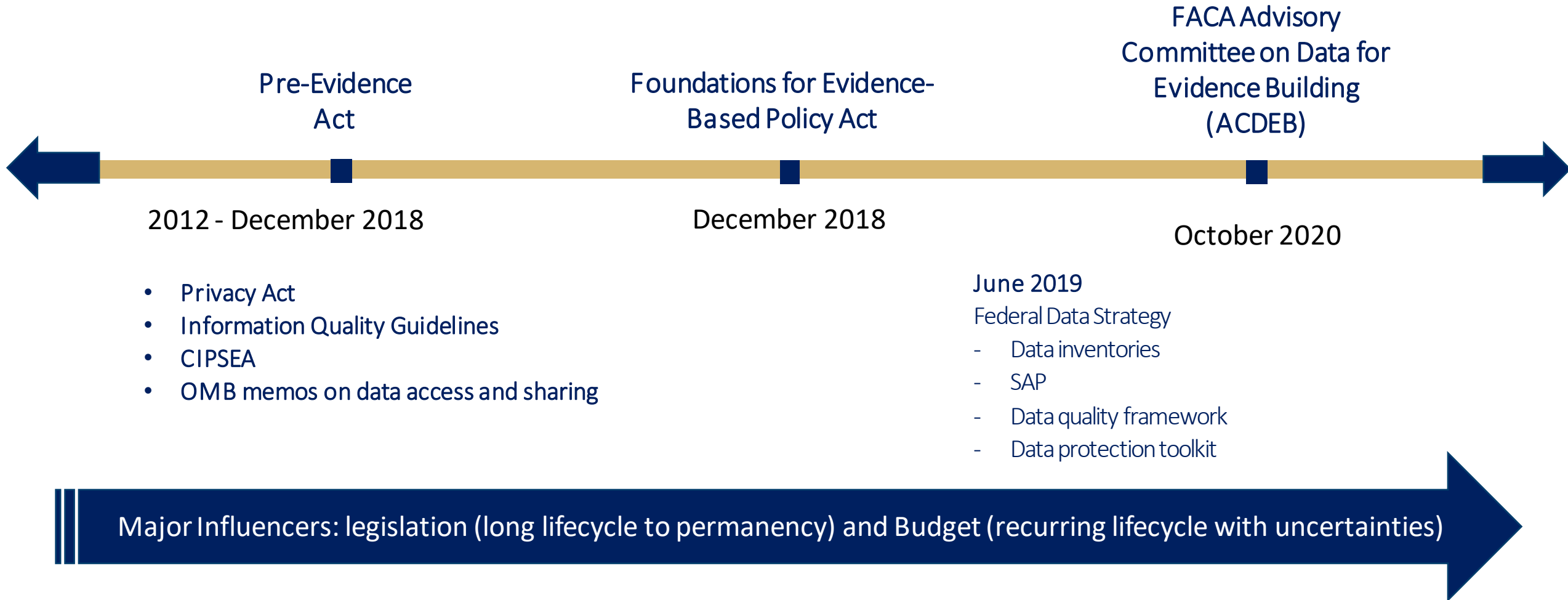# Federal Statistical System – Pre & Post Evidence Act (3 examples)

Pre

- Agency specific data access systems

- Public use and restricted use access to data

- CIPSEA 2002

Post

- Collaborative systems – Standard Application Process (SAP)

- Increased emphasis on tiered access to data

- CIPSEA 2018

The Evolution of Evidence Building

Pre-Evidence Act

Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy Act

FACA Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building (ACDEB)

2012 - December 2018

December 2018

October 2020

- Privacy Act
- Information Quality Guidelines
- CIPSEA
- OMB memos on data access and sharing

June 2019
Federal Data Strategy
- Data inventories
- SAP
- Data quality framework
- Data protection toolkit

Major Influencers: legislation (long lifecycle to permanency) and Budget (recurring lifecycle with uncertainties)

What is the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building (ACDEB)?

- Established as part of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act)

- Promotes the use of federal data for evidence building with a particular emphasis on evaluating the need and value of a potential National Secure Data Service (NSDS)

- Seeks to understand and define how an NSDS could enhance the existing evidence-building ecosystem in the United States in a way that makes the entire system better.

- Reviews, analyzes, and makes recommendations to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on responsibly expanding data access

Vision for a National Secure Data Service

Philosophy:
As a philosophy, the NSDS will produce value for the American public by facilitating evidence building.

Service:
As a service, the NSDS will provide coordination and capacity-building services for data users, data providers, and related communities of practice.
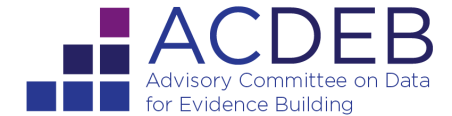
Place:
As a place, the NSDS will be a legally recognized entity that functions within the larger ecosystem, with hardware, software, and administrative infrastructure and capacity that allows it to meet its mission.

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ACDEB Recommendations

Seven recommendations were developed, reviewed, and approved by the full Committee for immediate action by OMB.

The order of the recommendations does not indicate importance—they are equally important for OMB consideration.

ACDEB Committee Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1 – Evidence Act Regulations**
  The OMB Director should take immediate steps to promulgate draft guidance and regulations required under the Evidence Act, including reviewing and incorporating the Committee's preliminary advice provided in this report and engaging with the Committee as part of the comment process.

- **Recommendation 2 – Chief Statistician of the United States**
  The OMB Director should take immediate steps to designate a full-time Chief Statistician of the United States and elevate this position within OMB's organizational structure, in alignment with Evidence Commission recommendation 5-4.

ACDEB Committee Recommendations

- **Recommendation 3 – Standard-Setting Procedures**
  The OMB Director and Chief Statistician of the United States should leverage existing authority under the Paperwork Reduction Act to establish a clear procedure for public and stakeholder engagement on future data standards for intergovernmental, interagency, or intra-agency data sets.

- **Recommendation 4 – Appropriations Requests**
  The OMB Director should include specific requests for increased funding to support implementation of the Federal Data Strategy priorities and Evidence Act requirements in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 President's Budget request to Congress.
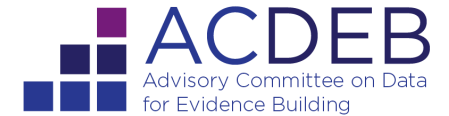
ACDEB Committee Recommendations

- **Recommendation 5 – Value-Driven Pilot Program**
  The Committee recommends that the Chief Statistician of the United States, in concert with the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, establishes a pilot program, with funding as needed, that demonstrates the value of streamlining data sharing and increasing coordination, specifically with projects that highlight cross-functional, cross-agency, and cross-governmental topics.

- **Recommendation 6 – Privacy-Preserving Technologies Case Studies**
  The Committee recommends that the United States Chief Statistician, in concert with the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, publishes case studies where privacy-preserving technologies were employed, in alignment with Evidence Commission recommendation 3-2.

ACDEB Committee Recommendations

- **Recommendation 7 – Communication**
  The Committee recommends that the Chief Statistician of the United States, in concert with the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, develops a comprehensive communication and education strategy, including highlighting the value of data access, linkage, and analysis; the importance of collaboration; and the safety of data protection methods.

ACDEB Next Steps... *Where we're Headed!*

NSDS structure

✓ NSDS is envisioned to address needs of evidence builders as it

- Coordinates across governmental and non-governmental entities

- Communicates value and use of data

- Acts as a concierge/librarian for potential data users

- Enables R&D (data privacy, linkage)

✓ Partnering with local and state governments

ACDEB Next Steps... *Where we're Headed!*

NSDS Attributes
✓ Transparency and trust
✓ Accessibility
✓ Independence
✓ Legal responsibility to acquire protect, and link data
✓ Scalable functionality
✓ Sustainability
✓ Oversight and accountability
✓ Intergovernmental support

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ACDEB Inputs

Federal Data Strategy Action Items

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Legislation

Federal, State and Local Government data along with Private Sector data

ResearchDataGov
Application Portal for Restricted Data for Federal Statistics

Data Coalition

Demonstration Projects: America's Data Hub, FSRDCs

Federal Data Strategy
Leveraging Data as a Strategic Asset

Tiered Access and Administrative Efficiencies

ACDEB Next Steps... *Where we're Headed!*

- ✓ Iterating with the Office of Management and Budget

- ✓ Furthering partnerships with local and state governments

- ✓ Identifying use cases

- ✓ Shaping recommendations

- ✓ Delivering Year 2 Report

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Thank you for having me today –