

American Statistical Association Lauds Efforts of Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, Endorses Group's Final Report

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (November 22, 2017) – At its quarterly meeting last week, the American Statistical Association's Board of Directors endorsed the United States Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking's (CEP) new report: [*The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking*](#).

"We are proud to endorse the commission's report and commend the commissioners for this excellent document," said ASA President Barry D. Nussbaum. "In laying out a comprehensive strategy for improving the use of evidence in the federal government while protecting the privacy of its citizens, the report identifies specific, actionable measures that can be taken, and, in doing so, demonstrates the significance and importance of statistics in bettering the public good. At a time when federal statistical agencies are tasked to do more with less funding and the integrity of objective, accurate official statistics is questioned by some in the current Administration, this report is invaluable."

By studying how data collected by the government can be used to improve government programs and policies, the commission's report includes recommendations in the following areas:

- Improving data access
- Modernizing and strengthening privacy protections
- Strengthening the federal government capacity

To implement these suggestions, the commission recommended establishing a National Secure Data Service to improve data access, develop stronger privacy protections, and increase transparency.

"Statisticians' support of evidence-based policymaking and data-driven decision-making is hard-wired," added Nussbaum. "The pursuant policies and decisions in the public sector result in smarter, more efficient government, save taxpayer money, and achieve better outcomes, with similar results in the private sector. Beyond its specific recommendations, we're pleased the commission and its report help to further the overall evidence-based policymaking movement."

The board's endorsement was informed through the advice of the ASA Privacy and Confidentiality Committee and the ASA Scientific and Public Affairs Advisory Committee. Recognizing many details are yet to be worked out to implement the report's recommendations through legislation that will produce lasting, meaningful outcomes, the ASA Board urged the

engagement of statistical expertise into the legislative process, emphasizing the ASA's proactive role in being a resource to members of Congress and their staffs.

An independent advisory committee created with bipartisan congressional support in 2016, the CEP was to develop a strategy for increasing the availability and use of data to build evidence about government programs, while protecting privacy and confidentiality. The commission's term ended on September 30, 2017.

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About the American Statistical Association

The ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and the oldest continuously operating professional science society in the United States. Its members serve in industry, government and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare. For additional information, please visit the ASA website at www.amstat.org.

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