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**OMB ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF  
STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

**Washington** — Today, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released new guidelines for protecting the confidentiality of information gathered in statistical surveys sponsored by Federal agencies. The new guidance helps agencies implement the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA), and provides for government-wide uniformity when collecting and maintaining confidential statistical information.

Under CIPSEA guidance, agencies are required to clearly describe the confidentiality protection for the information they are collecting from the public, safeguard the information to prevent unauthorized access, and ensure that all persons who have access to confidential data have a current understanding of confidentiality rules and procedures.

“These guidelines will help maintain and enhance the public’s trust and confidence that we will protect this information and ensure it is used only for statistical purposes,” said OMB Deputy Director for Management Clay Johnson.

Statistics collected and published by the Federal Government constitute a significant portion of the available information about the United States’ economy, population, natural resources, environment, and public and private institutions. More than 70 Federal agencies or organizational units carry out statistical activities, but prior to the enactment of CIPSEA, the protections for the confidentiality of statistical data varied across agencies.

The guidance was developed through an extensive interagency process over a multi-year period. The process included review by dozens of experts across Federal agencies and the public.

To view the guidance, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/statpolicy.html>

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