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**Government Issues New Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys to Reflect  
Current Best Practices**

**Washington**— Today, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released new standards and guidelines for statistical surveys sponsored by Federal agencies. The new guidance provides government-wide uniformity in statistical methods and practices to ensure the reliability and utility of data produced and updates the standards to bring them in line with current professional practice.

The new guidance provides twenty statistical standards on survey design, production of estimates, survey review procedures, as well as data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination. One of the most significant areas covered in the new standards and guidelines concerns sources of bias in surveys, particularly potential bias due to declining response rates. This guidance offers best practices for agencies to assess and evaluate potential bias in their surveys.

In releasing the new standards and guidelines, OMB Deputy Director for Management Clay Johnson said, “Data gathered and distributed by the Federal government affect people’s lives and well-being. It is essential that the collection process guarantees the information is sound and reliable to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used to efficiently obtain high quality information.”

The revised standards and guidelines were developed through an extensive interagency process over a multi-year period. The process included review by dozens of experts across Federal agencies, survey methodology practitioners, and the public.

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

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