

# Confidentiality and Data Access Committee

- **Jacob Bournazian, Chair**  
Energy Information Administration

**BTS Confidentiality Seminar Series**  
**June 11, 2003**

# Early Developments for Protecting Data Confidentiality

- Privacy and data confidentiality legislation was introduced in the 1970s.
- The Right to Privacy was evolving.
- Issues began to emerge:
  - ◆ What is the nature of statistical disclosure?
  - ◆ How can agency requirements relating to confidentiality be met?
- Protecting confidentiality information vs. Public's need for information.
- Statistical Working Paper No. 2 – 1978
  - ◆ Released by FCSM

# Statistical Working Paper No. 22

[www.fcs.m.gov/working-papers/spwp22.html](http://www.fcs.m.gov/working-papers/spwp22.html)

- Disclosure Limitation Methods for tables and micro data files
- Recommendations
- Guidelines for selecting effective DSL methods
- Further research to develop improved DSL methods
- Annotated bibliography

# CDAC is formed

[www.fcsfm.gov/committees/cdac](http://www.fcsfm.gov/committees/cdac)

- The first interest group formed by the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology in 1996.
- Two reasons for its formation:
  - ◆ Staff within statistical agencies needed a forum to share information and problems relating to data confidentiality.
  - ◆ Follow-on activity from SW Paper #22.
- 40 members across 25 federal agencies

# Objectives

- **Share current research activities**
- **Explore new research ideas**
- **Serve as a forum for other government entities to seek assistance on confidentiality and data access issues**
- **Organize data confidentiality sessions at conferences to educate the public and provide a channel for exchanging ideas with academia**
- **Implement the recommendations and research agenda of Statistical Working Paper No. 22**

# New Era Opening For Federal Agencies and the Statistical Community

- Shelby Amendment
- HIPAA
  - ◆ Privacy Rule – 1<sup>st</sup> time national standards set for to protect privacy.
- Patriot Act
- Common Rule
- CIPSEA

# Meeting Topics

- Legal issues
- Web sites, publications
- Conferences, meetings
- Disclosure limitation practices
- Preparing files for public use
- Data licensing
- Research Data Centers
- Disclosure Review Boards
- Exploring new research methods

# Data Products

[www.fcsfm.gov/committees/cdac/](http://www.fcsfm.gov/committees/cdac/)

- **Brochure**
  - ◆ **Confidentiality and Data Access Issues Among Federal Agencies**
- **Checklist on Disclosure Potential of Proposed Data Releases**
  - ◆ **Agencies need to centralize their review of data products for disclosure issues**
- **Identifiability in Microdata Files**
- **Restricted Access Procedures**
- **Panel on Disclosure Review Boards of Federal Agencies**
- **Links to Other Sources of Information**



# New Data Confidentiality Product

- Developed software to perform an audit of the suppression patterns for tabular data
- Available for download from website beginning January, 2004

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