

SSA's Office of Research, Evaluation & Statistics (ORES)

COPAFS June 5, 2020

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Associate Commissioner



Securing today
and tomorrow

[SocialSecurity.gov](https://www.SocialSecurity.gov)

Discussion Topics for Today

How we are dealing with...

1. COVID-19
2. Staffing
3. Disseminating Agency Reports
4. Budget



ORES Overview

‘Strengthening Social Security Through Objective Research’

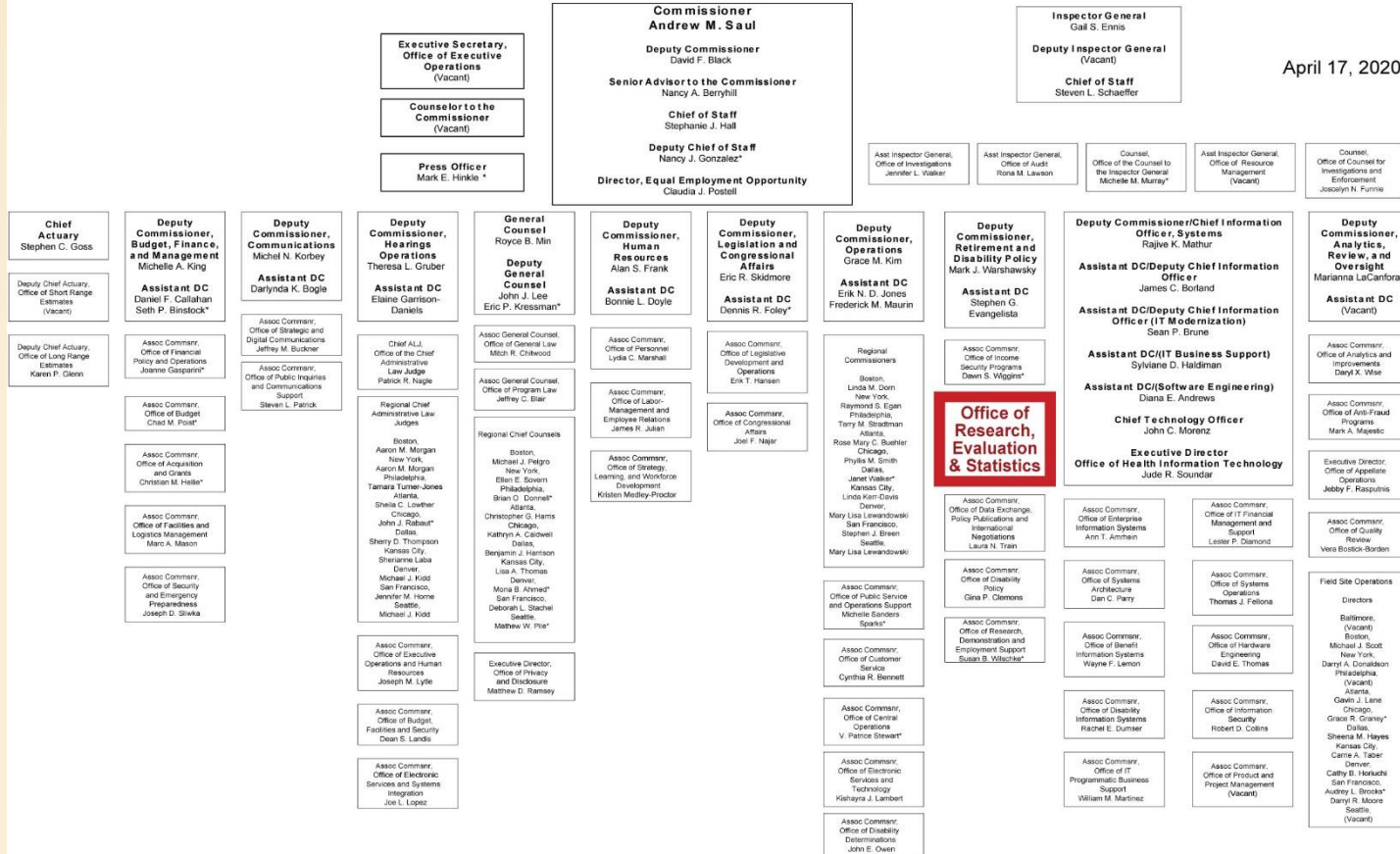
I serve as the SSA designated **Statistical Official** under the **Evidence Based Policy Act**. We create a body of evidence, and adhere to Federal Statistical Agency principles and practices. We:

- Perform targeted **Research and Evaluation** by internal and external analysts
- Develop **Data and Statistics** to support research
- Maintain **Microsimulation** capability to model effects of proposed Social Security changes
- **Disseminate** our work via web publications and public meetings



ORES IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

April 17, 2020



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During the COVID-19 Pandemic

ORES Research and Statistics Work Continues

- Develop research datasets, perform most of our research, and produce all statistical publications (available at www.ssa.gov/policy)
- Monitor impact on arrangements that require restricted research data at secure research data centers. Assess if those arrangements can be renegotiated to:
 - allow data to be copied into SSA's secure environment for remote access; or
 - adjust completion dates, and add any necessary no cost extensions to agreements



Continued...

During the COVID-19 Pandemic

ORES Research and Statistics Work Continues

- Respond to requests for research, data, and statistics related to COVID-19
 - Assist with analysis, statistics, and data production or exchange, including new responsibilities and adjustments in response to COVID
 - Adjust our research plan to anticipate a new focus on the economic and demographic impacts from COVID-19
- <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>



Staffing

Challenge

ORES is a small statistical unit, with our employees spread across a number of specialty roles:

- Researchers (Economist/Social Science Research Analyst)
- Social Insurance Program Specialists
- Information Technology Specialists/Data Developers
- Math Statistician
- Editor/Print Production Specialists
- Program and Management Analysts (technical/administrative)

Response

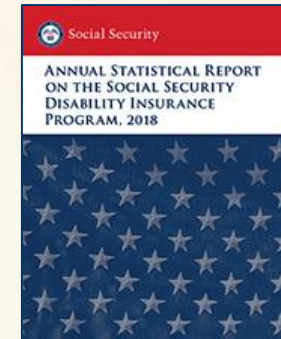
We also have extramural research and contractor support to supplement capacity



Dissemination-

We continue to disseminate our research and statistics electronically via the Internet www.ssa.gov/policy

- Research in the Social Security Bulletin (published since 1938) and other products such as Policy Briefs and research summaries
- Statistical publications providing tables on programs and beneficiaries (e.g., *Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program*)
- Other resources such as *Facts & Figures About Social Security*, *International Update*, program explainers, population profiles, and public-use data files
- Presentations of research in public forums – RDRC Conference and other professional conferences (virtually when that is an option during COVID-19 Pandemic)



Budget...

- ORES employee salaries are funded through SSA's Limitation on Administrative Expenses budget
- We also have a separate research budget that we use to fund:
 - Our extramural research grant program
 - Blanket Purchase Agreement for research and analysis (supporting evidence-based decision-making)
 - Data processing modernization for research and statistics
 - Inter-agency survey data collections and other collaborations
 - Simulation model development
 - Other contract support services



ORES Resources

We invite you to...

- Follow our [research and statistics webpage](#) for the latest publications
- Track our [extramural research outcomes](#)



Questions?

