

Coordinating to Use Data in New Ways: The Opportunity of the Evidence Act

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What is the Evidence Act?

- Introduced by Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray after the release of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking's report in September 2017
- Addresses 11 of the Commission's 22 recommendations
- Signed by the President and enacted into law on January 14, 2019 as P.L. 115-435
- Includes three Titles:
 - Title 1—Federal Evidence-Building Activities
 - Title 2—Open Government Data Act
 - Title 3—Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency (CIPSEA) Act

What is the Evidence Act?

Background: 3 Big Ideas

1. Evidence-Based Policymaking Requires Systematic Planning
2. Effective Federal Data Asset Use Requires High-Quality Data Governance
3. Privacy-Protected Data Sharing Requires Coordinated Support

Why Does the Evidence Act Matter?

- Builds on longstanding principles underlying Federal policies and data infrastructure
- Creates a new paradigm for agencies to rethink how they build and use data and evidence
- Focuses on leadership with creation of three new senior officials responsible for meeting Act's requirements
- Emphasizes collaboration and coordination across functions within agencies
- Calls on agencies to strategically and methodically build evidence vs. ad hoc efforts
- Elevates program evaluation as a key agency function

Focus on Coordination and Collaboration

- Requires designation of three new senior-level positions to coordinate these activities (EO, SO, and CDO)
- Evidence Act and OMB implementation guidance stress collaboration and coordination among the designated officials:
 - Data Governance Bodies are an important tool to support strong coordination;
 - All three officials on Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building; and
 - Specific support and coordination on key deliverables
- Effective implementation requires engagement across the agency, including senior leadership, policy officials, program administrators, strategic planning, budget staff, etc.
- Coordination across agencies through Councils for each designated official and cross-Council collaboration

Leveraging the Moment

- Unequivocal call to action to better use existing data to build evidence and use it to make decisions
- Opportunity to more effectively coordinate evaluation, statistics, and policy
- Requires agencies to rethink how we do this work:
 - Leverage designated officials to better coordinate
 - Work across siloes
 - Be strategic
- Requires commitment and focused effort!

Tools to Rethink How We Use Data

- What are the tools agencies can use to leverage this momentum?
- Evidence Act offers many:
 - Deliverables like multi-year learning agenda and capacity assessment
 - Comprehensive data inventories
 - Federal data catalog
 - Expanding access to data for evidence –
 - Presumption of accessibility
 - Expanding secure access to CIPSEA data assets
 - Single application to data assets

Roadmap for the Session

- HUD's Experience Supporting and Enhancing its Data Infrastructure and Use
 - Calvin Johnson – Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research, Evaluation, and Monitoring (PD&R/HUD)
- Linking State Medicaid Data and Child Welfare Data for Outcomes Research
 - Valeria Butler – Senior Social Science Research Analyst (OPRE/ACF/DHHS)
 - Emily Madden – Program Analyst (ASPE/DHHS)
- The Department of Labor's Data Exchange and Analysis Platform
 - Christina Yancey – Chief Evaluation Officer (CEO/DOL)
 - Scott Gibbons – Chief Data Officer (CEO/DOL)
 - David Judkins – Principal Associate (Abt Associates)