



OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY STATISTICS (OHSS)

# OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY STATISTICS 101

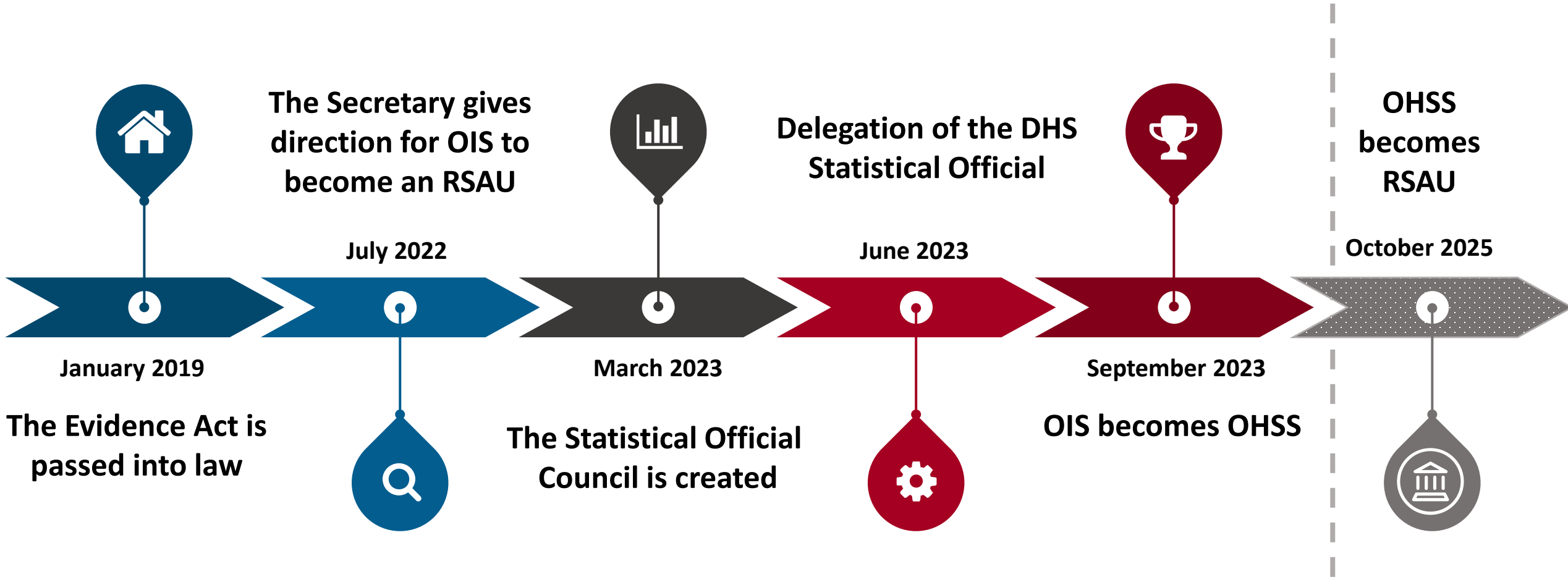


Homeland  
Security

COPAFS – December 6, 2024



# OHSS HISTORY



# OHSS BACKGROUND, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

## The Background

OHSS was developed to **centralize statistical data reporting** across DHS and **address the increasing demand for comprehensive insights** into areas such as immigration, law enforcement, cybersecurity, and disaster response.





## The Core Values

-  **Objectivity**
-  **Transparency**
-  **Partnership**
-  **Customer Service**

## The Mission Statement

The OHSS's mission is to foster **transparency** and **data-driven** homeland security **decision-making** by analyzing and disseminating timely, objective DHS data and statistics.

## The Goals

-  **Conduct Stakeholder Engagement**
-  **Manage SSOR**
-  **Disseminate DHS Data to the Public**
-  **Provide Improved Data Services for DHS**

# OHSS UNIQUE STATISTICAL POLICY CHALLENGES

## The Background

OMB hasn't recognized a new statistical agency in over 20 years. The recent Trust Regulation creates significant new protections for existing RSAUs, but also significant barriers for agencies seeking recognition.

- OHSS differs from most other RSAUs in certain ways:
  - OHSS reports primarily on internal agency data instead of external/survey data
  - OHSS works with highly sensitive data
  - In addition to public reporting, OHSS produces internal reports for situational awareness using preliminary data that are not suitable for public release
  - OHSS provides extensive pre-decisional support to leadership
- OHSS is working with OMB to establish an operating model that protects DHS and Component equities while meeting OMB's core requirements for recognition



# DHS POLICIES

## Delegation to the Executive Director of OHSS

Gives authority to the Executive Director to oversee homeland security statistical activities and independent statistical reporting.



## Delegation to the DHS Statistical Official

Gives authority to the DHS Statistical Official to set statistical policy across the Department. The SO is not explicitly an OHSS function.



## Enterprise Data Management Policy Directive

Establishes policy to carry out the Evidence Act of 2018 and the Departments information sharing. It defines a uniform approach for how DHS proactively identifies, prioritizes for action, and oversees data governance, including a description of roles and responsibilities needed to carry out these requirements.



**Delegations  
and  
Directives**



# DHS STATISTICAL OFFICIAL COUNCIL (SOC)

## Overview



### Authority

The SO Council supports the SO in **providing effective governance** of DHS statistical initiatives by aligning efforts with strategic goals, laws, and policies.



### Mission

The mission of the SO Council is to provide **governance and guidance** as the DHS Statistical Official establishes agency-wide statistical data policies, adopts statistical standards, champions equity-related data policies, and coordinates with the DHS CIO to identify requirements for IT capabilities to improve data transparency and consistency, data-driven decision support, and efficiency of statistical data reporting.

## Membership

### Chair

DHS Statistical Official

### Voting Members

Component Statistical Officials

### Non-Voting Members

DHS CDO, DHS Evaluation Officer,  
DHS CIO, DHS General Counsel, DHS  
CPO, DHS CRCL, DHS CMIO

### Non-Voting Participants

Representatives from Federal Statistical  
Agencies and Units, as invited by the Chair  
Representatives from the Executive Office  
of the President, as invited by the Chair  
Subject Matter Experts, as invited by the  
Chair



# STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF RECORD



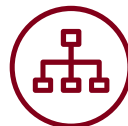
What happens to the data in the SSOR?

OHSS generates the SSOR using statistical standards approved by the Department's SOC to **convert administrative records**, Component, and other source data **into validated statistical data**.



Who is responsible for the SSOR?

OHSS, in partnership with relevant Components and Offices, establishes and maintains the SSOR, and populates the SSOR from **Component administrative data** and other records based on statistical data standards.



How does OHSS use the SSOR?

OHSS uses data from the SSOR to **produce statistical reports** and to **publish other data assets**, including data dictionaries and a public-facing data glossary.

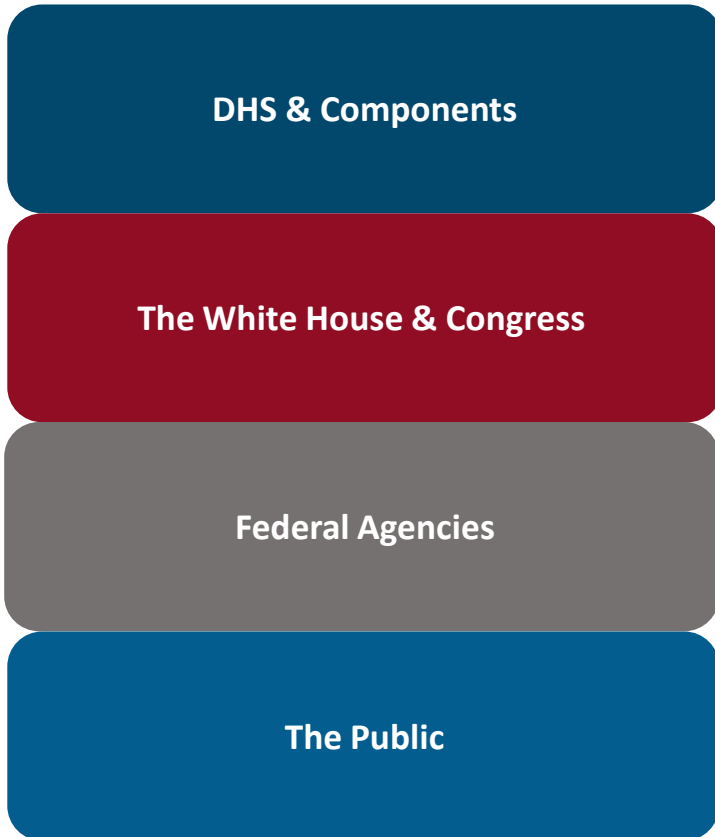


What is the SSOR?

The SSOR is **the Department's official authoritative data source** for enterprise statistical reporting.



# STAKEHOLDERS



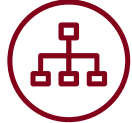
## Who does OHSS work with?

- OHSS works with the Department through its offices and agencies to gather information and data for research and development of topics.
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- OHSS responds to requests for statistics based on the White House and Congress needs and generates official public statistics.
  - The Executive level of direction to report on data.
  - OHSS works with OMB to establish OHSS as an RSAU.
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- OHSS works with the Department through its offices and agencies to gather information and data for research and development of topics.
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- OHSS provides the public reports on statistics that are used for research and more.
  - OHSS manages and maintains the SSOR with the help of the DG division allowing the public to access data for their own research and statistical purposes.





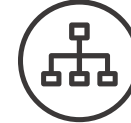
# LONG-TERM GOALS



IN COORDINATION WITH DHS LEADERSHIP, OHSS WILL DEFINE PRIORITIES BASED ON STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.



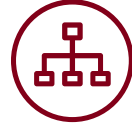
OHSS WILL DISSEMINATE A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF CORE HOMELAND SECURITY METRICS ON A FIXED SCHEDULE.



OHSS WILL MAINTAIN THE AUTHORITATIVE DHS STATISTICAL DATA FOR CONSISTENT, AUTOMATED, AND TIMELY REPORTING.



OHSS WILL PROVIDE RELIABLE AND USER-FRIENDLY SERVICE TO DECISIONMAKERS TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING.



ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL POLICIES, PROCESSES, AND AUTHORITIES THAT SUPPORT THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF OHSS AS AN OBJECTIVE STATISTICAL AGENCY.



ENSURE OHSS STAFF HAVE THE IT RESOURCES AND TOOLS NEEDED TO BE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE.

