Approaches for Assessing and Communicating the Quality of National Statistics: A Workshop

Committee

Michael Davern

Chair

Michael Davern (Chair) (he/him/his) is executive vice president and chief research officer at NORC at the University of Chicago, leading health research departments that house large survey projects including the National Immunization Survey, the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, and All of Us. The four departments also conduct evaluation research and perform technical assistance for several federal government agencies. Davern has worked to improve population health by providing high quality data to decision makers. These data are often acquired through primary survey data collection, administrative data systems, medical records and/or clinical data. Before joining NORC, Davern served as research director of the SHADAC at the University of Minnesota, where he designed, developed, and managed various health policy research projects. Davern also served as a co-investigator on several grants that disseminated the www.IPUMS.org family of data sets (including international IPUMS), which is one of the largest distributors of survey microdata and metadata documentation in the world. Davern currently serves as principal investigator of the General Social Survey, which has been collecting and disseminating data on opinions, attitudes and social economic status in the U.S. since 1972. He has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Notre Dame. Davern served on several National Academies committees, including the Panel on Addressing Priority Technical Issues for the Next Decade of the American Community Survey.

Beth Jarosz

Member

Beth Jarosz (she/her/hers) is a senior program director at the Population Reference Bureau. Her focus is on subnational demographic and socio-economic trends, estimation and forecasting, and trends in child well-being. Jarosz was previously a demographer at the San Diego Association of Governments and an instructor at Pensacola State College. She currently serves as vice president of the Association of Public Data Users and is a member of the steering committee for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Essentials for Childhood Initiative in California. Jarosz previously served as vice president of the Southern Demographic Association. She has numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals and has been quoted in national media, including Fortune and CityLab (The Atlantic). Jarosz holds a Master’s degree in demographic and social analysis from the University of California, Irvine. Jarosz served on the National Academies steering committee for the Workshop on Improving the American Community Survey.

J. S. Landefeld

Member

Steven Landefeld (he/him/his) is a consultant to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis in Washington, DC. Prior to this, he served as advisor to the United Nations Statistical Division, visiting professor at the United States Naval Academy, director of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Special Assistant to the Chair of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. His current research is on statistical agency organization, the impact of long-term macro trends in statistics, and producing relevant and accessible data. Landefeld is the recipient of numerous domestic and international awards, including the Presidential Distinguished Executive Award; the Julius Shiskin Award from the American Statistical Association; the Harry Freeman Award from the Coalition of Services Industries; the Henri Willem Methorst Medal from the International Statistical Institute; and the David O. Cooke Award from the American Society for Public Administration. He is also a fellow of the National Association for Business Economics. He has testified before Congress on topics ranging from the economic recovery to the measurement of economic wellbeing. He has been regularly cited in print media and was a regular guest on radio and television. Landefeld has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. Landefeld served on several National Academies committees, including the Panel on Measuring the Transformation of Retail Trade and Related Activities and the Panel on Reengineering the Annual Economic Surveys.

Alexis R. Piquero

Member

Alexis Piquero (he/him/his) is a professor in the Department of Sociology & Criminology, and Arts and Sciences Distinguished Scholar at the University of Miami. He previously served as the director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In directing BJS, he oversaw a budget of more than $90 million including several dozens of data collections on various crime and justice topics, including police-citizen contacts and worked hand-in-hand with a dedicated team of more than fifty personnel. Piquero is an internationally recognized criminologist who has given congressional testimony on evidence-based crime prevention practices, and provided counsel and support to local, state, national, and international criminal justice agencies and elected leaders. An author of more than 500 articles and several books, he examines criminal careers, criminal justice policy, crime prevention, and the intersection of race/ethnicity and crime with a focus on quantitative methodology. He is a fellow of both the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. He is a recipient of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Bruce Smith Sr. Award for outstanding contributions to criminal justice, as well as the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Division of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology of the American Society of Criminology. He has a Ph.D. in criminology & criminal justice from the University of Maryland College Park. Piquero served on several National Academies committees, including the Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics and the Committee on Assessing the Research Program of the National Institute of Justice.

Ninez Ponce

Member

Ninez Ponce (she/her/hers) is professor and endowed chair at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Fielding School of Public Health and holds a joint appointment at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. She directs the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, home to the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the largest state health survey in the nation. As the principal investigator for CHIS, Ponce has pioneered methods for collecting data on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and immigrant health, setting national standards. A health economist, Ponce aims to reduce transaction costs affecting racial/ethnic disparities through more precise measurement of demographic information. Her research includes developing multicultural survey measures, conducting population-representative health surveys for diverse populations, and exploring social factors in health policy. She has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors at the National Center for Health Statistics and the National Quality Forum. Ponce has earned numerous awards, including the AcademyHealth Impact Award, the CDC Foundation's Elizabeth Fries Prize, and the American Association of Public Opinion Research Inclusive Voices Award. Ponce is currently Associate Editor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at JAMA Health Forum and serves on Executive Board of AcademyHealth. She has a Ph.D. from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Ponce served on the National Academies Subcommittee on Standardized Collection of Race-Ethnicity Data for Healthcare Quality Improvement.

Eric Rancourt

Member

Eric Rancourt (he/him/his) is assistant chief statistician responsible for strategic data management, methods and analysis at Statistics Canada, where he has been for 34 years. During his tenure at Statistics Canada, he has occupied several roles, including director general of methodology, director general of strategic data management, director of international cooperation, director of corporate planning, head of research, production manager of the Survey Methodology Journal, and researcher. His main areas of work have been on treatment of nonresponse, estimation, gathering, safeguarding, and using administrative and alternate data in statistical programs. He has been involved in many professional associations and is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He is chair of the board of the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute, chair-elect of the American Statistical Association Survey Research Methods Section and Vice President of the International Association of Survey Statisticians. He has a B.S. in statistics from Université Laval, in Quebec City, Canada. Rancourt served on the National Academies Committee on Transparency and Reproducibility of Federal Statistics for the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

Jonathan Schwabish

Member

Jonathan Schwabish (he/him/his) is a senior fellow in the Income and Benefits Policy Center at the Urban Institute and founder of the data visualization and presentation skills firm, PolicyViz. Schwabish is also a member of the Urban Institute's Communications team where he specializes in data visualization and presentation design. His research agenda primarily includes nutrition policy and policies that affect people with disabilities. Schwabish is considered a leader in the data visualization field and a leading advocate for clarity and accessibility in research. He has written extensively on ways to best visualize data including technical aspects of creation, design best practices, and accessible communication strategies for social science research. Through all of his work, Schwabish helps nonprofits, research institutions, and governments at all levels improve how they communicate their work and findings to their partners, constituents, and citizens. He has published four books, providing comprehensive guides to creating, communicating, and distributing data-rich content and analysis. Schwabish has a Ph.D. in economics from Syracuse University.