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This Month’s HEADLINES

This Month’s DEEP DIVE: Evidence-Based Policymaking

This Month’s HOMEWORK: What you can do this month
This Month’s Experts

Wendy Naus, COSSA  
wnaus@cossa.org

Nick Hart, Bipartisan Policy Center  
nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org
MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
African Studies Association
American Association of Geographers
American Council of Learned Societies
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of American Law Schools
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
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Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
RTI International
Social Science Research Council
Quick Questions

Use the chat box to ask a question.

More opportunities for Q&A at the end.
This Month’s Headlines

CONGRESS
• FY 2019/second partial government shutdown?
  • More: www.cossa.org/advocacy/funding-updates
• 116th Congress committee leadership finalized

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
• Comments on NICHD Strategic Plan Due TOMORROW 2/15
  • More: www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/strategicplan
• SBE Director Encourages Social Scientists to Participate in NSF’s Big Ideas

EXECUTIVE BRANCH (cont’d)
• NIH Seeking Input on Updated Definition of “Behavioral and Social Sciences Research”
• FY 2020 Budget Request delayed until March
• Funding Opportunities
  • More: www.cossa.org/resources/funding-opportunities

COMMUNITY
• AAAS CEO Rush Holt Announces Retirement

COSSA
• 2019 Social Science Advocacy Day, 4/30 to 5/1
  • Early bird registration ends tomorrow! www.cossa.org/event/2019-advocacy-day
  • Why Social Science? Because It Can Improve Government Efficiency via Evidence-Based Policy (Research-to-Policy Collaboration)
  • More: www.whysocialscience.com

WASHINGTON UPDATE
Subscribe for even more: www.cossa.org/washington-update
Quick Questions

Use the chat box to ask a question.

More opportunities for Q&A at the end or email me at wnaus@cossa.org
Evidence-Based Policymaking and
The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018

Today’s Guest:
Nick Hart, PhD
Director, Evidence Project, Bipartisan Policy Center
The Evidence Act: 
Implications for Social Scientists and Strategies to Stay Involved

Nick Hart, Ph.D.

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

bipartisanpolicy.org/evidence
• The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (P.L. 115-435) stands to revolutionize federal data policies, with positive improvements for years to come
  • Will lead to better accessibility of data for research
  • We will hopefully see prioritization of activities to generate and use evidence in policymaking

• Lots of opportunities for good – and countless risks to effective implementation that will need your help
What is Evidence-Based Policymaking?

- Use of systematically collected data analyzed with rigorous methods to provide insights about policies and programs operate

- The evidence informs policy decisions

- Sometimes needed information simply isn’t available – goal to develop strategies to identify gaps and to address them as quickly as possible.
U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking
Themes from the Evidence Commission

• **Improved Access to Data** – improve access to data for program administrators and researchers, facilitate linking of data sets

• **Stronger Privacy Protections** – strengthen privacy protections by making them more uniform across government and more dynamic in the face of changing risks associated with the use of data

• **Greater Capacity** – fill the existing gaps in capacity across actors inside and outside government, establish a single entity to better support data access and privacy protection
about: EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING

The Bipartisan Policy Center’s Evidence-Based Policymaking Initiative supports the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking. Specifically, the initiative provides advice and expertise on implementation options and strategies, expands and extends the work of the Commission as Congress develops legislation and as the Executive Branch devises regulations, policies, and standards to improve the generation of high level, quality evidence.

More at www.bipartisanpolicy.org/evidence
The Evidence Act (HR 4174)

115th CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 4174

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

November 14, 2017

Received, read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

AN ACT

To amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes;

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
Key Features of the Evidence Act

• **Title 1: Capacity**
  • Establishes evaluation officers, requires evaluation policies and plans
  • Creates new advisory committee for planning the National Secure Data Service
  • Outlines expectation for “learning agendas”

• **Title 2: Open Data and Access (OGDA)**
  • Requires agencies to make data open and machine-readable when possible
  • Creates new data inventories for government-collected data and plans for making data more open, with consideration of data sensitivity
  • Establishes chief data officers

• **Title 3: Confidential Data Protection and Accessibility (CIPSEA)**
  • Codifies directives on maintaining public trust in government data
  • Reauthorizes strong privacy protections for confidential data
  • Clarifies access to administrative records under CIPSEA
  • Directs development of new portal for researchers to apply to access confidential data collected by government
  • Expands requirements to agencies for analyzing the risk of re-identification of certain data
What does this mean for social scientists?

• **Reduced Burden for Applying to Access Government Data**
  • Processes for accessing government-collected data should become more clear, meaning researchers can spend less time applying for access (or figuring out how to apply) and more time focused on research.
  • Data inventories will articulate what data exist – so researchers can better determine whether applying for access to existing data is valuable, or whether new data collection activities should be prioritized.

• **Improved Accessibility of Data**
  • The Open Data provisions (Title 2) combined with the presumption of access under CIPSEA (Title 3) offer opportunities for new uses of data that have not been possible in the past.

• **Improved Data Quality**
  • As data become more accessible, more accessed, and more used, we will identify limits and quality gaps to improve future data collection and data management activities.

• **Insights about Policy-Relevant Questions to Address**
  • Agency learning agendas can help researchers looking to develop policy-relevant projects prioritize issues policymakers currently want access to.

• **New Champions and Workforce for Social Science**
  • Chief Data Officers and Chief Evaluation Officers offer potential to expand the reach of social science in agencies, encouraging the production of relevant studies along with their eventual use in policy decisions.
What can COSSA and researchers can do now?

- **Provide feedback on the Federal Data Strategy.** Provide direct feedback on guidance for implementing the Evidence Act.
- **Contact agencies you work with.** Let political appointees, managers, and staff know your priorities for implementing the Evidence Act and offer your expertise via technical assistance.
- **Volunteer for an Advisory Committee.** Agency advisory committees and the new NSDS advisory group will all have a big role to play moving forward.
- **Meet with congressional staff about your priorities.** Share new research and your interests in the Evidence Act implementation with congressional staff, and encourage them to provide adequate oversight.
- **Write and share commentary.** Share your priorities and why the Evidence Act matters to your audience through op-eds, journals, etc. to ensure implementation remains a priority.
- **Host an Event to Continue the Dialogue.** Ensure colleagues and peers in the community know what’s coming next, and help us spread the word about the potential for improvements.
- **Join BPC’s Mailing List** to stay up to date with events and opportunities for feedback moving forward.
Let’s hear from you!

If using computer microphone: raise your hand!
   Step 1: select “participants”
   Step 2: select “raise hand”
       (may be in sidebar)
   Step 3: after you’re unmuted, ask your question!

If using telephone audio/microphone: put your question in the chat box!
Homework

- **Sign up to get updates on the Federal Data Strategy.**
  - [https://strategy.data.gov](https://strategy.data.gov)

- **Reach out to federal agencies about your priorities for implementation of the Evidence Act.**
  - COSSA can help!

- **Sign up for Social Science Advocacy Day!**
  - Early bird registration ends TOMORROW!
    - [www.cossa.org/event/2019-advocacy-day](http://www.cossa.org/event/2019-advocacy-day)
Find this useful?

- **Tune in** each month – 2nd Thursday

- **Tell your colleagues to sign up for COSSA Member Messages and Alerts**—MEMBERS ONLY (email Julia at jmilton@cossa.org)

- **Encourage other organizations and universities to Join COSSA** (email Wendy at wnaus@cossa.org)

- **Send us your ideas** for DEEP DIVES (email Camille at chosman@cossa.org)
Next Month:

- March’s HEADLINES
- **DEEP DIVE:** The President’s FY 2020 Budget Request
Did you miss last month’s Headlines?

- Visit: www.cossa.org/resources/headlines
Wendy Naus, Executive Director
Email: wnaus@cossa.org

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