

This reference sheet provides definitions and acronyms for the most commonly used terms related to the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018. Other relevant terms and definitions can be found in OMB Circular A-11, Section 200.22. Print this sheet to use as needed alongside the Learning Agenda, Annual Evaluation Plan, and Capacity Assessment Toolkits.

Definitions (OMB M-19-23)

- ▶ **Evidence:** Information produced as a result of statistical activities conducted for a statistical purpose.
- ▶ **Foundational Fact-Finding:** Foundational research and analysis such as aggregate indicators, exploratory studies, descriptive statistics, and basic research.
- ▶ **Learning Agenda:** A systematic plan for identifying and addressing priority questions relevant to the programs, policies, and regulations of the agency.
- ▶ **Performance Measurement:** Ongoing, systematic tracking of information relevant to policies, strategies, programs, projects, goals or objectives, and/or activities.
- ▶ **Policy Analysis:** Analysis of data, such as general purpose survey or program-specific data, to generate and inform policy, e.g., estimating regulatory impacts and other relevant effects.
- ▶ **(Program) Evaluation:** Systematic analysis of a program, policy, organization, or component of these to assess effectiveness and efficiency.
- ▶ **Statistical Activities:** The collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of data for the purpose of describing or making estimates concerning the whole, or relevant groups or components within, the economy, society, or the natural environment. Includes the development of methods or resources that support those activities, such as measurement methods, models, statistical classifications, or sampling frames.
- ▶ **Statistical Purpose:** The description, estimation, or analysis of the characteristics of groups, without identifying the individuals or organizations that comprise such groups, [which] includes the development, implementation, or maintenance of methods, technical or administrative procedures, or information resources that support these purposes.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

- ◆ **Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018:** Evidence Act
- ◆ **Office of Management and Budget:** OMB
- ◆ **Evaluation Officer:** EO
- ◆ **Chief Data Officer:** CDO
- ◆ **Statistical Official:** SO