

## Statistical Standards

[Home](#) | [Overview](#) | [Statistical Standards](#) | [Review and Adjudication](#)  
[Confidentiality Procedures](#) | [Restricted Use Data Licenses Procedures](#)  
[Task Force on Quality Systems](#) | [Research Projects](#)

Written Standards were first developed at NCES in 1987 when 21 standards were formally accepted by the Congressionally mandated Advisory Council on Education Statistics. These standards were published and distributed throughout NCES. In 1989, NCES undertook a thorough review of the initial statistical standards; this effort involved many participants and resulted in the 1992 publication of "[NCES Statistical Standards](#)." The 20 standards and two related guidelines have been in use at NCES since that time.

Many of the existing standards have withstood the test of time; however, changes in Authorizing legislation need to be incorporated into some of the existing standards and several areas have emerged that require further consideration. Several mechanisms are in place to address these issues. A Quality Improvement Team revised the NCES Guidelines for Tabular Presentations; this effort will result in a redrafting of the standard for Tabular and Graphical Presentations. An Expert Panel organized by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences reviewed existing standards and practices for the computation of response and nonresponse rates, as well as related standards for the analysis and reporting of data with nonresponse. The results of that review will guide revisions of the NCES statistical standards for response rates. Work is underway within the Program to identify standards in need of revision and potential subject matter for new standards. A Standards Task Force will be formed to continue this effort.

The Statistical Standards Program consults and advises on methodological and statistical aspects involved in the design, collection, and analysis of statistical data collections in the Center. Program staff also provides consultation and advise to the NCES Data Cooperatives, and to other offices within the Department of Education as the need arises.



### National Center for Education Statistics

Office of Educational Research & Improvement, U.S. Dept. of Education  
 ([map](#)) 1990 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, USA, Phone: (202) 502-7300