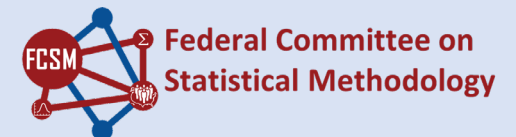


Evaluating Fitness for Purpose

CNSTAT Committee on MRIP Data Quality Standards
June 27, 2025

Bob Sivinski
Chair, Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology



Charge to the Committee

The committee will:

- Evaluate the effectiveness and applicability of the MRIP standards for key data uses, considering a few exemplar domains and sectors.
- Identify the alignment of the MRIP Standards to best practices in federal agencies and the survey profession more generally.
- Assess the adequacy of the MRIP Standards for meeting OMB Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys.



Evaluate Key Uses – IQA

Information Quality Act Framework:

- Federal agencies should make decisions using the best data reasonably available.
- Agencies must collect, use, and disseminate information that is *fit for purpose*.
- Information quality comes at a cost, and some information may need to meet higher or more specific quality standards than others.
- Information is *influential* if the agency can reasonably determine that it will have clear and substantial impact on important public policies or important private sector decisions.



Alignment to Best Practices

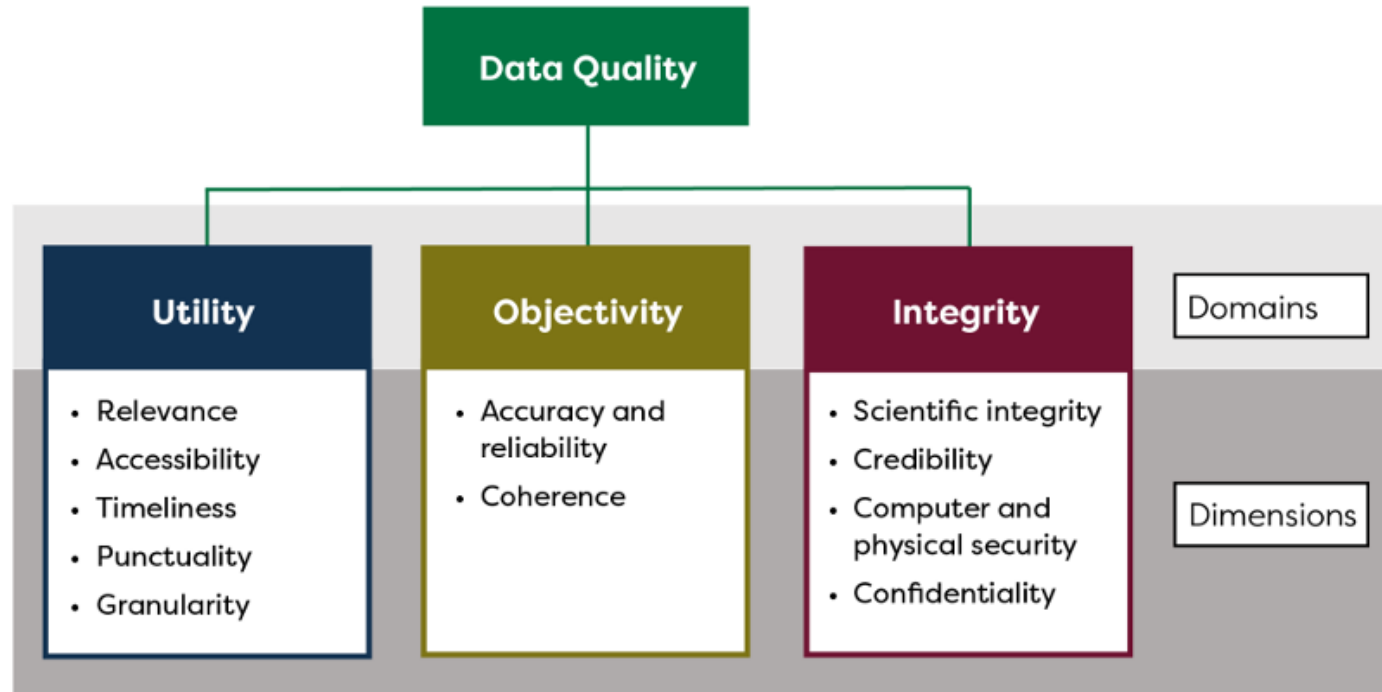
Notes on best practices:

- Best practices are not minimum practices or even standard practices!
- Often qualitative and focused on transparency, putting the burden of the fitness for purpose assessment on the user.
- FCSM *Framework for Data Quality*, AAPOR *Standard Definitions*, and the Total Survey Error framework, in addition to OMB Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys



FCSM Framework for Data Quality

Figure ES 1. The FCSM Data Quality Framework



MRIP Specific Challenges

Methodological

- Sampling frame
- Non-response / sample size
- Linkage / overlap

Practical

- Lack of central control / authority
- Different priorities

Collaborative Approach to Data Access

- Involve partners early and often
- Communication (everyone needs to have same definitions, understand value, appreciate constraints)
- Get it in writing
- Quality feedback loop
- Don't put the burden on the data provider

