

**Office of Research Evaluation and Statistics (ORES) Annual Report to OMB
Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA)
Implementation for Calendar Year 2017**

April 2, 2018

ORES Website

Upon OMB approval, ORES will post this Calendar Year 2017 CIPSEA Report on its website “Research, Statistics & Policy Analysis” at: <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/about.html>

Use of the CIPSEA Confidentiality Pledge

ORES did not conduct any new surveys or collections of information during calendar year 2017 that required the CIPSEA confidentiality pledge. During 2017, ORES received under a pledge of confidentiality from the University of Michigan, signed consent forms for participants in its Health and Retirement Survey (HRS).

Compliance with the CIPSEA Implementation Guidance – Section III (Affirmation of Compliance)

- 1. Physical and Informational Systems Security:** Only authorized persons are permitted access to confidential information stored on SSA’s information systems. SSA’s Mainframe Computer and ORES Secure Server sites in Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC are compliant with the CIPSEA provisions, the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) requirements, the recommended National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards, the SSA Directive from the Chief Information Officer, and the SSA *Information Systems Security Handbook (ISSH)*, and the *ORES Guidelines for Removing Data from the SSA Work Site*.
- 2. Confidentiality Training:** All individuals accessing data protected under CIPSEA are required to obtain security and suitability clearance and must be certified annually by completing an annual CIPSEA PowerPoint training. Non-ORES staff/contractors/grantees and other Federal agency employees must also complete, date/sign the CIPSEA Agent Agreement.
- 3. Record Keeping:** ORES maintains an Excel Spreadsheet that identifies and tracks all individuals accessing confidential information protected under CIPSEA.
- 4. Review of Information Prior to Data Dissemination:** ORES established a Disclosure Review Board (DRB) that reviews and approves Title 13 and other CIPSEA outputs and research reports for disclosure prior to public release. Interim work tabulations/statistical outputs are also reviewed by SSA disclosure specialists prior to the individual taking them off-site. ORES developed a *Rules for Disclosure Avoidance* document for data protected under CIPSEA that is compliant with *Working Papers 22*, and with SSA and IRS disclosure guidelines. SSA’s DRB and disclosure avoidance document were also approved by the Census Bureau’s DRB as compliant with Census Bureau disclosure policy and guidelines.

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Agents Certified Under CIPSEA

Entity	Purpose	# of Persons	Secure SSA Sites
SSA Office of Data Exchange and Policy Publications	IT Support (HRS Restricted Data Sets)	5	Secure Servers at SSA secure sites in Baltimore, MD and in Washington, DC

Data Protected Under CIPSEA During Calendar Year 2017

The University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research (UM/ISR). Based on written consent, ORES provides UM/ISR SSA Administrative Program Data for respondents taking part in the UM/ISR HRS. For all verified respondent input records, ORES provides UM/ISR output files of benefits and earnings information, adds an anonymous, public use identifier to each record for linkage purposes, and deletes PII data elements from each record, including the SSN and name.

UM/ISR links their respondent data to these output files using the anonymous, public use identifier and creates “Restricted Data Sets”. Subsequently, UM/ISR provides ORES a copy of the Restricted Data Sets which ORES agrees to use at a SSA secure site solely for research and statistical purposes.

Compliance with the CIPSEA Implementation Guidance – Section IV (Designated CIPSEA Agents)

Contracts and Written Agreements: The “quid pro quo” agreement between SSA and UM/ISR contain the appropriate provisions as shown in the Appendix of the CIPSEA Implementation Guidance.

Physical and Informational Systems Security: No CIPSEA data were used at off-site facilities during calendar year 2017.

Confidentiality Training: All CIPSEA Agents are certified annually by completing the CIPSEA PowerPoint Training, and by completing, signing and dating the CIPSEA Agent Agreement.

Record Keeping: ORES maintains an Excel Spreadsheet identifying and tracking all individuals (including CIPSEA Agents), granted authorized access to confidential information.