

## Statistical Coordination

The collection, analysis, and dissemination of state government statistical information are areas of vital interest to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) because of the importance of sound, consistent data to effective budgeting, management, and planning.

[General Statute 143C-2-2](#) on the collection of state budget statistics charges the director of the budget with coordinating the efforts of governmental agencies to collect, disseminate, and analyze economic, demographic, and social statistics pertinent to state budgeting. This broad scope includes most of the statistical information gathered or produced by state agencies.

At present, OSBM statistical coordination activities are concentrated in the areas of developing improved performance measures, service statements, and other analyses associated with results-based budgeting; facilitating the Statistics Forum; developing standard economic and demographic estimates and projections for use by all agencies and the public in budgeting, planning, and research; enabling the public dissemination of detailed census information and demographic estimates and projections; and supporting the Log Into North Carolina (LINC) database of over 2,000 data series from 1970 forward for the state, counties, and municipalities. OSBM also coordinates the collection of state grants data in the [CRIS](#) (Community Information Resource System) database.

Over time OSBM has engaged in various efforts to fulfill this mission, including performance measurement and other results-based information and analysis presented with the governor's budget; a twice-yearly Statistics Forum presented by data-producing agencies; data documentation collections such as the *NC Government Information Locator Service* (an electronic cataloging system for all information sources), the *Statistical Register* (a data descriptor guide for all important recurring non-financial data series in state government), the *North Carolina Statistical System* (a description of the methodologies of data collection and analysis in the major data-producing agencies), the *State Government Statistical Abstract* (a compendium of hundreds of data tables at the state and county levels); etc. Also, there were past efforts to review and approve all statistical forms used by agencies.

Management studies done by the Management section of OSBM frequently address issues related to statistical coordination within and between agencies.

Just as the workings of state government are enhanced by coordination efforts in the area of information technology, they are equally enhanced by coordination efforts in information content, methodologies, dissemination formats, and documentation. OSBM continues to assume a leadership role in these aspects of statewide statistical coordination.