



Subject: NCSES Corrections Policy

Date: November 30, 2023

Scope

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) is committed to providing the public with high-quality data.¹ NCSES strives for timely and punctual publication of releasable data while maintaining a high level of credibility and scientific integrity. In furtherance of those goals, the NCSES Data Governance Board (DGB) oversees all data-related policies and procedures for the Center. The DGB establishes this corrections policy to specifically increase user transparency and trust in NCSES data products.²

Purpose

An erratum is a procedural, computational, conceptual, or other kind of substantive error discovered after the release of an official product. Substantive errors could result in incorrect estimates or interpretations or in difficulties with data interactions or preservation.

To maintain public transparency and trust, NCSES must call out and publicize such errors, thoroughly document their cause and nature, and release a corrected product as soon as possible.³ In alignment with these requirements, the NCSES corrections policy includes three fundamental principles:

Open Identification – NCSES welcomes identification of errors in its data products from all stakeholders.

Expeditious Corrections – The NCSES corrections procedure allows for the prompt release of corrections.

¹ Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. 2020. *A Framework for Data Quality*. FCSM 20-04. Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. September 2020. Available at https://www.fcsm.gov/assets/files/docs/FCSM.20.04_A_Framework_for_Data_Quality.pdf.

² <https://nces.nsf.gov/about/data-governance>

³ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2021. *Transparency in Statistical Information for the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics and all Federal Statistical Agencies*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Available at <https://doi.org/10.17226/26360>.

Transparent Documentation – NCSES will provide findable and clear documentation of all corrections to its data products.

Distribution, Enforcement, and Cancellation

This policy was distributed by the NCSES Chief Statistician, applies to all NCSES data products, and is effective until replaced or cancelled.

Revision History

Version	Date	Section	Description	Approver
1.0	12/7/2023	Throughout	Initial version	Christina Freyman, John Finamore