



# Federal Data Budgets in an Age of Austerity

Howard J. Silver, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Consortium of Social Science  
Associations (COSSA)

Association of Public Data Users  
Annual Meeting  
September 21, 2011



## COSSA GOVERNING MEMBERS

- American Association for Public Opinion Research
  - American Economic Association
  - American Educational Research Association
  - American Historical Association
  - American Political Science Association
  - American Psychological Association
  - American Society of Criminology
  - American Sociological Association
  - American Statistical Association
  - Association of American Geographers
  - Association of American Law Schools
  - Law and Society Association
  - Linguistic Society of America
  - Midwest Political Science Association
  - National Communication Association
  - Population Association of America
  - Rural Sociological Society
  - Society for Research in Child Development
- 
- Also 24 Member Organizations, 57 Universities, 13 Centers and Institutes



## COSSA HISTORY

### 30 Years of Advocacy for the Social and Behavioral Sciences

- 1981 Reagan Budget Cuts Social Science Research, COSSA formed.
- 1982 COSSA Moves beyond NSF and beyond budgets
- COSSA ensures Social Sciences at the Table in U.S. Science Policy
  - Separate Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research at the National Institutes of Health
- Responding to Attacks on Social Science
  - Eliminate the NSF Directorate 1995-96
  - Attempts to Defund Sexual Behavior Research –latest 2009
  - Attacks on Social/Behavioral Science at NSF– eliminate political science program 2009



## President Obama: 2011 State of the Union

- “We will win the future”
- Out Innovate – NSF Increases, Energy including Behavior, ARPA-E
- Out Educate – RTT, IES Increases, ESEA Reauthorization, First in the World, STEM Teachers
- Out Build – New Highway Bill, National Infrastructure Bank, Wireless Broadband



## SHORT TERM GOOD NEWS OBAMA FY 2012 BUDGET

NSF INCREASED – NCSES

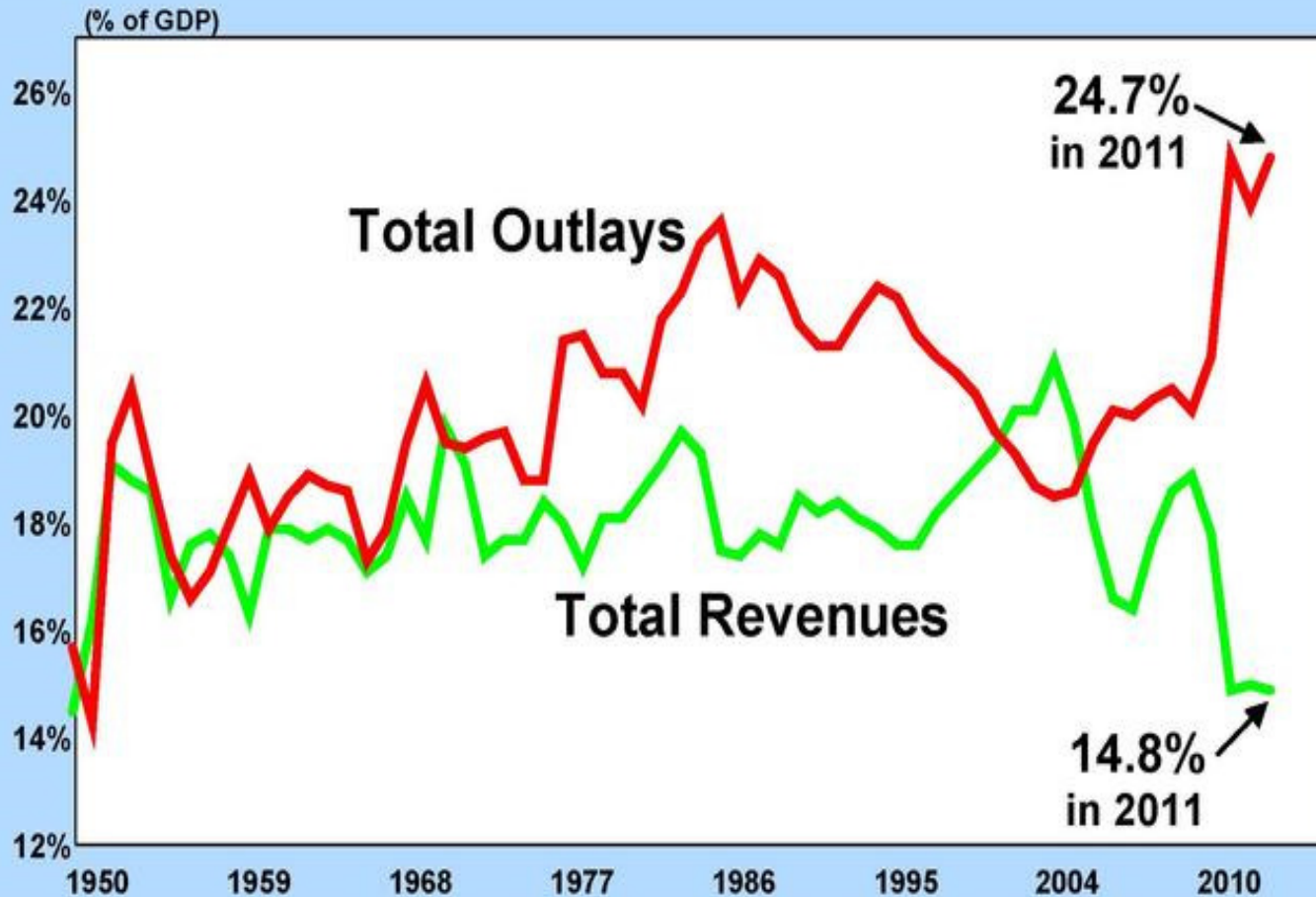
ERS and NASS INCREASED

BEA INCREASED; CENSUS IN YEAR 2

NCES INCREASED; CONTINUED BUILD-UP OF  
STATEWIDE DATA SYSTEMS

NCHS INCREASED

# Spending and Revenues



Sources: OMB, CBO



## BUDGET CONTROL ACT DISCRETIONARY CAPS

FY 2012 -- \$1.043 TRILLION

\$7 BILLION BELOW FY 2011

\$24 BILLION ABOVE HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION

DIVIDED AMONG 12 APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES



## SUPERCOMMITTEE

12 MEMBERS – 6 HOUSE, 6 SENATE, 6 DEMS, 6 REPS

CO-CHAIRS: SEN. PATTY MURRAY (D-WA), REP. JEB  
HENSARLING (R-TX)

GOAL: REDUCE THE DEFICIT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$1.2 TRILLION  
OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS

MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS

DEFENSE AND NON-DEFENSE

RAISE REVENUES

REPORT BY NOVEMBER 23

HOLDING HEARINGS



## SEQUESTRATION

NO AGREEMENT OR CONGRESSIONAL REJECTION

AUTOMATIC ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUTS

CUTS GO INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY 2013

SOME PROGRAMS FOR POOR EXEMPT – MEDICAID, SOCIAL SECURITY, SNAP, PELL GRANT

ESTIMATES ARE 9 PERCENT REDUCTIONS FOR NON-EXEMPT PROGRAMS



## IN THE MEANTIME: FY 2012 APPROPRIATIONS

	FY 11	FY 12 R	FY 12 H	FY 12 S
ERS	81.8	86.0	69.5	77.7
NASS	156.4	165.4	148.5	152.6
ESA/BEA	97.1	112.9	97.1	95.1
CENS P	891.2	752.7	596.8	690.0
CENS S	258.5	272.1	258.5	253.3
CENS T	1,149.7	1,024.8	855.3	943.3
BJS	47.8	57.5	46.6	45.0
EIA	95.0	124.0	105.0	105.0



## COPING

Data and Information Keys to Economic and Other Policies –  
“Evidence-Based”

No Sense of Urgency Except for Cost Cutting

Hard to Sell as part of Science Policy Agenda – NAS Colloquium

Alternatives to Surveys; Administrative Data

Privacy and Confidentiality; New Human Subjects Rules

Partnerships – Interagency Sharing, States and Local  
Governments, Universities, Business, Foundations



THANK YOU!

HOWARD J. SILVER, Ph.D.

[silverhj@coffa.org](mailto:silverhj@coffa.org)

[www.coffa.org](http://www.coffa.org)