

## Task Force on Quality Systems

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This Task Force was convened in the fall of 1996 "...to study the quality control procedures for NCES publications and determine if there are ways to improve the current procedures in a cost effective manner." The first phase of this Task Force included a review of current procedures and resulted in a set of nine findings and twenty recommendations that were included in an April 1997 [NCES Working Paper \(NCES 9713\)](#). The findings and recommendations are focussed on five areas: spread existing skills within NCES, improve documentation and communication, improve uses of computer systems for checking key results, improve the review process, and improve contract procedures.

The Quality Systems Task Force established Quality Improvement Teams to address the subset of recommendations that were identified " in the April 1997 report "... as being the most viable." One QIT addressed the issue of increasing the number of personnel available to conduct reviews. Another QIT revised the set of guidelines for tabular presentations; in addition a report that will document analytic techniques applied in Center publications has been commissioned and will be reviewed by members of the Quality Systems Task Force. There are also QITS working on specifications for improved communications between NCES staff and programmers and on specifications for the review of electronic data products.



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