



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

April 2005

LAST CALL TO REQUEST A PAPER NEWSLETTER

Beginning with the May edition of the WSS News, electronic mail will become the default mode of delivery. What exactly does this mean? If you currently receive the newsletter in hard copy and have not notified us that you wish to continue receiving the newsletter in that form, we will switch your delivery to email if we have a valid email address. New members who join the WSS after April 1 will begin to receive the newsletter electronically. For both old and new members, if we do not have a valid email address, we will write you to obtain one—or an indication that you would really prefer the hard copy version. No WSS member will be cut off, but as we have announced on numerous occasions, it is in the interest of the organization to move as many members as we can to electronic delivery. This will save the organization thousands of dollars annually in printing and postage costs, which will allow a further reduction in dues, which were lowered for the first time in memory on January 1. There will be other benefits to the organization as well. Electronic delivery is more timely, so more members will be aware of sessions scheduled early in the month. An expanded email list will also allow us to reach a larger share of the membership with announcements of late-breaking sessions—and changes due to weather and other events. Lastly, the several board members who have spent an inordinate amount of time this year trying to reconcile electronic and surface mail lists will not have to go through that again.

If you currently receive the newsletter in hard copy, you were sent both the paper and electronic versions this month. We hope that this helps to persuade you of the merits of electronic delivery. It will also tell us how many of the nearly 500 email addresses that were sent these additional copies are invalid, so that we can work to obtain correct addresses by May 1.

If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter in hard copy, contact the WSS secretary, Courtney Reiser, at (301) 763-4142 or courtney.n.reiser@census.gov.

WSS and Other Seminars (All events are open to any interested persons)		
April 8	Fri.	Mortality Before and After the 2003 Invasion Of Iraq: Cluster Sample Survey
15	Fri.	Why Small Changes in Question Wording Can Produce Big Changes in Survey Measurement: Unraveling Some Mysteries of Questionnaire Design with the Theory of Satisficing
19	Tues.	Analyzing Call History Records to Achieve Optimal Outcomes: Survey Response and Efficient Use of Resources
27	Wed.	Evaluating Alternative Calibration Schemes for an Economic Survey With Large Nonresponse
May 25	Wed.	Questionnaire Design Methodology for a Study of Human Rights Abuses during the Armed Internal Conflict of Sierra Leone
26	Thurs.	An Introduction to the American Time Use Survey
June 13	Mon.	The Fourth Funding Opportunity in Survey and Statistical Research Seminar

Also available on the Web at the following URL: <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss>

Announcements

SIGSTAT Topics

April 20, 2005: PROC ROBUSTREG - Robust Regression Methods (<http://www.sas.com>)

The experimental ROBUSTREG procedure in SAS/STAT version 9 provides resistant (stable) results in the presence of outliers by limiting the influence of outliers. ROBUSTREG provides four robust methods: M estimation by Huber (1973), Least Trimmed Squares (LTS) estimation by Rousseeuw (1984), S estimation by Rousseeuw and Yohai (1984), and MM estimation by Yohai (1987). Charlie Hallahan will be the speaker.

May 11, 2005: PROC QLIM - Qualitative and Limited Dependent Variable Models (<http://www.sas.com>)

The QLIM (Qualitative and Limited dependent variable Model) procedure analyzes univariate and multivariate limited dependent variable models where dependent variables take discrete values or dependent variables are observed only in a limited range of values. This procedure includes logit, probit, tobit, and general simultaneous equations models. The simultaneous equations model can contain discrete choice and limited endogenous variables as well as continuous endogenous variables. Charlie Hallahan will be the speaker.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the **CPCUG**, the Capital PC User Group, and **WINFORMS**, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science. All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from 12:30 to 1:30. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk. First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the **SIGSTAT** website, <http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>.

Changed Your Email Address?

If your email address has changed, please notify us. Send your new address and your old address to Vince Massimini at svm@mitre.org. If you are an ASA member, you should also notify the ASA. You can update your email address on-line through the Members Only feature on the ASA web page (www.amstat.org). You will need your six-digit ASA member ID, which is printed on the label of your ASA journals and Amstat News.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the June WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than April 26, 2005. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

The biographical information of the candidates for the Board of Directors will appear in the May issue.

Program Announcement

Topic: Mortality Before and After the 2003 Invasion Of Iraq: Cluster Sample Survey

Speaker: Les Roberts, John Hopkins School of Medicine

Discussant: Jana Asher, Carnegie Mellon University

Chair: Wendy Rotz, Ernst & Young LLP

Sponsors: WSS Methodology Section, DC-AAPOR, AAAS

Date/Time: Friday, April 8, 2005/12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: BLS Conference Center, Room 7. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Abstract: The number of Iraqis dying because of conflict or sanctions since the 1991 Gulf war is uncertain. Claims ranging from a denial of increased mortality to millions of excess deaths have been made. No surveys or census-based estimates of crude mortality have been undertaken in Iraq in more than a decade. In a setting of insecurity and limited availability of health information, a nationwide household survey was conducted using a cluster sample to estimate mortality during the 14·6 months before the invasion (Jan 1, 2002, to March 18, 2003) and to compare it with the period from March 19, 2003, to the date of the interview, between Sept 8 and 20, 2004.

It is estimated that about 100,000 excess deaths or more have occurred since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. This is the basis of the number widely cited in the media and originally reported in the Lancet. Violence accounted for most of the excess deaths and air strikes from coalition forces accounted for most violent deaths. The study demonstrates that collection of public-health information is possible even during periods of extreme violence. The results need further verification and should lead to changes to reduce noncombatant deaths from air strikes.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Why Small Changes in Question Wording Can Produce Big Changes in Survey Measurement: Unraveling Some Mysteries of Questionnaire Design with the Theory of Satisficing**
- Speaker:** John Krosnick, Stanford University.
- Discussants:** Gordon Willis, NCI & Howard Schuman, Emeritus, University of Michigan
- Date/Time:** Friday, April 15, 2005/3:00 p.m.
- Location:** 2205 Lefrak Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742
- Abstract:** Since the 1940s, thousands of experiments have been published showing that small changes in the wording of questions or the ordering of questions or response choices can substantially affect the answers survey respondents provide. But over the years, much more research has documented such effects than has explained the psychological mechanisms responsible for them, describing when and why these effects occur and what to do about them in the pursuit of accurate measurement. This talk will present the theory of survey satisficing, which offers a parsimonious explanation for a range of question wording, structuring, and ordering effects and ties them all to a single psychological mechanism and a single set of variables that are thought to turn these effects on and off. A review of the accumulated social science literature documents wide-ranging empirical support for satisficing theory, which has clear implications for good measurement practice in surveys.
- Contact:** Rupa Jethwa Eapen, 301-314-7911, rjeapen@survey.umd.edu

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Analyzing Call History Records to Achieve Optimal Outcomes: Survey Response and Efficient Use of Resources**
- Chair:** Nancy Bates, Census Bureau
- Speakers:** Brian Meekins, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Discussant:** Scott Keeter, Pew Research Center for the People and the Press
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 19, 2005/12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 9. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Section, WSS
- Abstract:** Acceptable response rates are only maintained through increased efforts. However, these efforts are often directed by anecdotal evidence and a small core of literature. This research attempts to analyze attempt history information in order to evaluate operational guidelines and better utilize resources. Although data used in the analysis are from a telephone survey, these techniques can be readily adapted to other survey modes, providing the appropriate metadata is collected. The data used in this analysis are from the call history information of the Telephone Point-of-Purchase Survey (TPOPS), a nationally representative, list-assisted, RDD survey conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data used in this analysis were collected quarterly in the years 2003 and 2004.

Attempts soliciting response to surveys can be modified in a number of ways to improve the probability of a positive outcome: the number of attempts, the time of day (or interview shift) of an attempt, the time lag between attempts, and the priority of attempts to sampling units. As a starting point, various probability distributions are examined that describe contact and interview completion in relation to these attempt variables. It is clear, however, that each attempt is dependent on not only the previous attempt, but also combinations of prior attempts. Conditional distributions are examined leading to logistic and proportional hazard models. Logistic regression and multinomial logistic are used to address the likelihood of a positive outcome (contact and interview completion) given call history information. Because the TPOPS is a rotating panel survey, information from previous waves are also utilized in these models. Proportional hazard models are used to examine, not only the likelihood of contact or interview completion, but the time until that event occurs, giving insight into the most efficient avenue to pursue with attempt strategies. Finally, we propose a survival model that estimates optimal time lags by modeling the probability of contact and completion using the complete attempt history. The estimated calling lags can be used to inform call scheduling rules for similar telephone surveys.

Program Announcement

Title: **Evaluating Alternative Calibration Schemes for an Economic Survey With Large Nonresponse**

Speakers: Phillip S. Kott, USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service

Chair: Michael P. Cohen, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 27, 2005/12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 8. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts an annual economic survey of farm operations called the Cost and Returns Report (CRR). This survey is fairly long and is based on a multiphase sample with several opportunities for nonresponse. As a result, CRR response rates are low by government standards. The USDA has historically “trued up” the estimated number of farms within a region and economic size class using more reliable benchmark aggregates determined from other sources.

The USDA used truncated linear calibration to reweight the 2002 CRR. This allowed the Department to employ greater number of benchmark aggregates than it the past. Delete-a-group (d-a-g) jackknives were used to measure the accuracy of 2002 CRR estimates. Furthermore, d.a.g jackknife methodology was employed to investigate,

i, the effects of replacing the (last phase of the) nonresponse adjustment with linear calibration,

ii, the effects of accounting for the area frame component of the CRR with linear calibration of the list frame sample only, and

iii, the effects of using a calibration routine based on a log function in place of a linear one. Both analyses find that there are characteristics that are correlated with each design feature.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Questionnaire Design Methodology for a Study of Human Rights Abuses during the Armed Internal Conflict of Sierra Leone
- Speakers:** Jana Asher, Carnegie Mellon University
- Chair/
Discussant:** Fritz Scheuren, NORC, University of Chicago
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, May 25, 2005/12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 1. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Section, WSS and DC-AAPOR
- Abstract:** In order to estimate a count of human rights abuses of various types in Sierra Leone during the 1991-2001 armed internal conflict, a national random sample survey was administered between January and July of 2004 by the American Bar Association. The author served as the technical and administrative coordinator for that project, and used the opportunity to test several questionnaire design methodologies, including scripted probes to elicit time information, pairing of interviewer and respondent by gender, and cognitive interviewing across multiple languages follows by extensive standardization across languages. In this talk, the author will discuss the conflict, the survey project in general, and the questionnaire design methodology in specific. She will then discuss the results of the survey in the context of this methodology, and finally make suggestions as to future uses for the data collected in Sierra Leone.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **An Introduction to the American Time Use Survey**
- Speakers:** Jay Stewart, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Chair:** Katharine G. Abraham, Joint Program in Survey Methodology
- Date/Time:** Thursday, May 26, 2005/ 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 9. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Public Policy Section, WSS and DC-AAPOR
- Abstract:** The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) collects information on how people living in the United States spend their time. While BLS has long produced statistics about the labor market, such as employment, hours, and earnings, the ATUS marks the first time that a Federal statistical agency has produced estimates on how Americans spend another critical resource—their time. Estimates show the kinds of activities people do and the time spent doing them by sex, age, educational attainment, labor force status, and other characteristics, as well as by weekday and weekend day. The possibilities for using ATUS data are extremely broad, and this seminar is designed to introduce researchers and policymakers to the ATUS and to illustrate some of the questions that can be answered using ATUS data. This seminar will provide a brief overview of the ATUS, describe what data are collected, and present results from some of the early research. A question and answer period will follow.

Program Announcement

- Title:** The Fourth Funding Opportunity in Survey and Statistical Research Seminar
- Organizers:** Research Subcommittee of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology
- Date/Time:** Monday, June 13, 2005, 9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. (NOTE SPECIAL TIME)
- Sponsors:** Washington Statistical Society, and Washington DC/Baltimore Chapter AAPOR
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Rooms 1, 2, and 3, 2 Massachusettes Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to PSB, please see the notice at the end of this announcement.
- Abstract:** Since 1998, 12 Federal statistical agencies in collaboration with the National Science Foundation and the support of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology have been funding and administrating The Funding Opportunity Survey and Statistical Research, a research grants program oriented to the needs of the Federal Statistical System. The Fourth Funding Opportunity Seminar features the reports of the principal investigators of 3 research projects that were funded in 2003.
1. "Topics in Small Area Estimation" by Malay Ghosh and Tapabrata Maiti
 2. "Improved Methods of Estimating Production and Income Across Nations" by Robert Feenstra
 3. "Regression and Deconvolution with Heteroscedastic Measurement Error" by Leonard Stefanski

Each report will be discussed by invited Federal agency staff.

The full program of the Seminar will appear in the May issue of the WSS. Please E-mail Sherry Dockery if you plan to attend the Seminar. "SDockery@CDC.gov"

Notice about Seminars at the Bureau of Labor Statistics

To attend seminars at BLS, you need to email your name, affiliation, and title of the seminar to wss_seminar@bls.gov by noon at least two days in advance, or call 202-691-7524 and leave message. Bring photo ID to the seminar.

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, WSS News provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 387-3032.

WESTAT

Westat is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,700 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities. We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/5001)

Three or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume by one of the following methods to: **[Job Code is REQUIRED to apply]** Westat, Attn: Resume System, 1650 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850-3195; Email: resume@westat.com; FAX: (888) 201-1452. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Research & Evaluation Officer

The Center for Applied Behavioral and Evaluation Research of the Social Change Group of the Academy for Educational Development conducts applied research to assist in the design and the evaluation of its domestic and international programs. During the past 15 years, AED has gained a reputation as one of the leading institutions combining social marketing and modern communications science with behavioral and social research to effect individual and community change. CABER supports this effort in the social and health domains of HIV/AIDS prevention, comprehensive school health, drug abuse awareness, maternal and child health, nutrition, population, health services, violence and injury prevention, education, agriculture, and the environment.

The Research and Evaluation Officer performs quantitative data analysis in a multi-task environment. Time will be initially allocated 100% to the SPNS Caribbean Peer Support Initiative Evaluation and Support Center (CHIVES).

AED has been contracted to run the CHIVES Center that facilitates the work of five Health and Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) Demonstration sites that are implementing targeted peer support models for HIV+ Caribbean's. The Center's three principal objectives are (1) providing the Demonstration sites with technical assistance (TA) and support needed to improve their peer support interventions; (2) maximizing the statistical power of the local evaluations by conducting a scientifically rigorous cross-site evaluation that yields systematic information about which models of peer-based interventions are most effective for which groups of Caribbean's and that documents the processes of intervention delivery and implementation in order to facilitate the replication of effective models; and (3) identifying, compiling and disseminating best practices, lessons learned, other relevant evaluation findings, and replicable models to HIV/AIDS service providers, policymakers, funders, and patients.

Interested applicants should send resume with cover letter referencing position #TV4419wss to: AED/HR, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; fax: (202) 884-8413 or email: employ@aed.org. For additional information, visit our website at <http://www.aed.org>.

We thank all individuals for their interest in AED; however only those selected for interviews will be contacted. Individuals responding to job postings are considered applicants for a particular position only after they have been invited to complete the company's official printed employment application form.

STATISTICAL ANALYST

Maryland Medical Research Institute, Inc. (MMRI), a not-for-profit medical research organization, seeks one or more statistical analysts to participate in applied clinical/epidemiological investigations. Candidates should have a masters or doctoral degree in bio/statistics, public health, social/biological science (quantitative) or related field with 1-3 years of SAS experience. Basic knowledge of

generalized linear models (regression, ANCOVA, etc.) and excellent writing and oral presentation skills are required. Desired experience includes some or all of the following: advanced SAS programming (macro language, manipulation of large, complex databases, production of analysis data sets); modeling longitudinal or nested (clustered) data (mixed models, HLM, GEE, complex survey analysis techniques, structural equations); outcomes or survey research, predictive modeling, meta-analysis; and preparing manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Individuals should be versatile, ambitious, and able to work with little direct supervision. Competitive salaries and benefits, excellent working conditions. Non-smoking office. E.O.E. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter and resume to: Amy Connor, Maryland Medical Research Institute, 600 Wyndhurst Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210; Email: aconnor@mmri.org; Fax: (410) 433-1117.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Statistician and Econometrician Positions

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is seeking interested applicants for **Statistician** and **Econometrician** positions with a minimum of three years of related experience for our Washington, DC office. A Master's or Doctoral degree in statistics and/or economics is required. Applicants should have strong communication skills, and at least two years of SAS programming experience.

Our Advisory Services practice provides comprehensive analytic, financial, economic and strategic advice to companies with complex business problems. Within Advisory, the Dispute Analysis & Investigations group provides a broad range of consulting and forensic accounting services to attorneys and other parties involved in litigation, arbitration or mediation and other alternative dispute resolution forums.

Statisticians and economists within our practice work together to develop practical solutions for our government and commercial clients, through the use of sampling applications, statistical and economic modeling, forecasting and

prediction, and the ability to process and analyze large volumes of data.

For more information, please contact Dr. Jessica Pollner by email at Jessica.Pollner@us.pwc.com or phone at 202-822-4040.

Biostatistician/Mathematical Statistician

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has an opening for a permanent position within the Surveillance Research Program (SRP) of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. This is located within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). SRP manages the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program, a comprehensive population-based reporting system and extends the utility of the SEER database through linkages with other key data sets. SRP also provides leadership in developing statistical methodologies appropriate for analyzing trends and for evaluating the impact of cancer control interventions as well as geographic, socioeconomic, behavioral, genetic, and health care delivery factors on the cancer burden.

This position will encompass several broad areas of responsibility: (1) Assume major responsibility for initiating and managing collaborative analyses with scientists from NCI and other institutes, agencies and academic centers, of the rich data sets resulting from recent database linkages, such as SEER and the National Longitudinal Mortality Study. (2) Conduct research to answer key questions about cancer rates and cancer-related health status in diverse populations of the U.S., with particular emphasis on socioeconomic and geographic parameters.

Doctoral degree required with considerable experience related to the analysis and interpretation of health statistics. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Salary \$74,000-\$97,000. The location is Rockville, MD, near Washington, DC. Excellent benefits. U.S. citizenship or permanent residency is required for federal positions. DHHS and NIH are equal opportunity employers. Please send a cover

letter briefly summarizing your experience and interests along with your CV, preferably by e-mail, by **May 1**, to:

Judith Swan, MHS
Surveillance Research Program, DCCPS
6116 Executive Blvd., MSC 8315
Bethesda, MD 20892-8315
Phone: (301) 435-4958
Fax: (301) 480-4077
js60y@nih.gov

<http://surveillance.cancer.gov/>
<http://surveillance.cancer.gov/csb/>
<http://srab.cancer.gov/>

RESEARCH ASSISTANT/JR. PROGRAMMER

A small, downtown, highly professional, yet outwardly informal, biostatistical firm involved in medical research/consulting. Many projects have impact on public health. Position requires a BA/BS with background in science. Must be literate and numerate. Attention to detail, accuracy, initiative, and excellent communication skills are essential. Proficient in MS Word; statistical programs a plus. Support management team in compiling study reports, writing minutes, correspondence, & documentation. Convert statistical output into finished reports using Microsoft Word's extended functions. May perform data audits. Opportunity for professional growth through introduction to project management and to SAS programming for analysis of data from clinical drug trials. Fax cover letter, resume, and references to (202) 429-9268 or email to office@statcollab.com. Use Ref WSRA.

(BIO)STATISTICIAN

Small, downtown, highly professional, yet outwardly informal, biostatistical firm involved in medical research & consulting seeks a (bio)statistician; attention to detail, accuracy, initiative & excellent communication skills are essential. Must be able to juggle several complex projects simultaneously, including project coordination, data analysis, SAS programming, data management for medical studies & technical writing. MS in (bio)statistics or statistics required. Fax cover letter, resume, sample SAS programs, and references to (202) 429-9268 or email to office@statcollab.com. Use Ref WSBS.

**U.S. Government Accountability Office
(GAO) Senior Research
Programmer/Analyst**

Open period: 03/23/2005 - 04/13/2005

Salary: \$74,963.00 - \$114,987.00

Location: Washington, DC

For the full announcement for this position and details on how to apply, see:
<http://www.gao.gov/jobopp.htm>

DESCRIPTION: Senior Research Programmer/Analysts work in a multidisciplinary environment in support of policy research on a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to, education, military manpower, homeland security and justice, international affairs and trade, and natural/environmental resources. Senior Research Programmer/Analysts work closely with research staff in creating, managing, and analyzing large and complex data files. Candidates will be expected to acquire a basic understanding of the research topic, have a thorough knowledge of the data involved, possess effective interpersonal skills, and have the ability to meet deadlines while working concurrently on multiple projects. Individuals will also be expected to provide advice and guidance in determining reliability of data, reporting on the analysis and interpretation of results, fully document results of analyses, and brief officials within and outside of GAO. This position is located in the Applied Research and Methods (ARM) Team.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must have at least one year of specialized experience (equivalent to at least the GS-13 level in the federal service) or at a senior level (in the private sector) that demonstrates the ability to successfully perform the duties of the position, e.g., designing & conducting complex analyses of computerized information; providing advice & guidance to other staff in reporting, interpreting, & documenting results of computerized data analyses, & briefing top-level officials on the results of computerized data analyses.

Successful candidates will have at least five years of experience in database and statistical programming, strong analytical and communication skills, and exceptional problem-solving abilities. Degree in

quantitative social sciences, public policy, statistics, or related field recommended. Knowledge of SAS, SPSS, or other statistical analysis software packages is strongly preferred. Extensive experience in large administrative databases such as census or survey data, military personnel, or federal funding database desired.

EMPLOYER INFORMATION: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is a federal government agency that works for Congress and the American people. Congress asks GAO to study the programs and expenditures of the federal government. GAO, commonly called the investigative arm of Congress or the congressional watchdog, is independent and nonpartisan. It studies how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars. For more information about GAO, see: <http://www.gao.gov/about.htm>. GAO is an equal opportunity employer. Hiring selections will be based solely on merit, without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age or disability.

For more information about this position, contact:
Recruitment & Employment, 202-512-4900
WashingtonS@GAO.GOV

**U.S. Government Accountability Office
(GAO) Research Programmer/Analyst**

Open period: 03/23/2005 - 04/13/2005

Salary: \$61,913.00 - \$68,000.00

Location: Washington, DC

For the full announcement for this position and details on how to apply, see:
<http://www.gao.gov/jobopp.htm>

DESCRIPTION: Research programmer/analysts work in a multidisciplinary environment in support of policy research on a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to, education, military manpower, homeland security and justice, international affairs and trade, and natural/environmental resources. Research programmer/analysts work closely with research staff in creating, managing, and analyzing large and complex data files. Candidates will be expected to acquire a basic understanding of the research topic,

have a thorough knowledge of the data involved, possess effective interpersonal skills, and have the ability to meet deadlines while working concurrently on multiple projects. Individuals will also be expected to provide advice and guidance in determining reliability of data, reporting on the analysis and interpretation of results, fully document results of analyses, and brief officials within and outside of GAO. This position is located in the Applied Research and Methods (ARM) Team.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must have at least one year of specialized experience (equivalent to at least the GS-11 level in the federal service) or at an entry level (in the private sector) that demonstrates the ability to successfully perform the duties of the position, e.g., designing & conducting complex analyses of computerized information; providing advice & guidance to other staff in reporting, interpreting, & documenting results of computerized data analyses, & briefing top-level officials on the results of computerized data analyses.

Successful candidates will have one to three years of experience in database and statistical programming, strong analytical and communication skills, and exceptional problem-solving abilities. Degree in quantitative social sciences, public policy, statistics, or related field recommended. Knowledge of SAS, SPSS, or other statistical analysis software packages is strongly preferred. Extensive experience in large administrative databases such as census or survey data, military personnel, or federal funding database desired.

EMPLOYER INFORMATION: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is a federal government agency that works for Congress and the American people. Congress asks GAO to study the programs and expenditures of the federal government. GAO, commonly called the investigative arm of Congress or the congressional watchdog, is independent and nonpartisan. It studies how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars. For more information about GAO, see: <http://www.gao.gov/about.htm>. GAO is an equal opportunity employer. Hiring selections will be based solely on merit, without regard to race, color, sex, sexual

orientation, national origin, religion, age or disability.

For more information about this position, contact:
Recruitment & Employment, 202-512-4900
WashingtonS@GAO.GOV



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