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# Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION



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## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1977

- March 2 - USDA Food Consumption Survey  
(See details in February Newsletter)
- March 9 - Random Digit Dialing
- March 17 - Poverty Status of Families Under Alternative  
Definitions of Income (Note early starting time)
- March 23 - APL and Statistics (This will be a double session  
12:30 - 3:30, with a twenty minute break)

### METHODOLOGY SECTION

**Topic:** Random Digit Dialing

**Speakers:** Joseph Waksberg, Westat, Inc.  
Raymond O. Nelson, Vice-President and  
General Manager, Chilton Research Services

**Discussant:** Barbara A. Bailar, Bureau of the Census

**Chair:** Monroe G. Sirken, National Center of Health Statistics

Random digit dialing is a telephone sampling technique that allows unlisted telephone numbers, as well as listed numbers, a chance to be selected. Chilton Research Services has been using random digit dialing methods for 12 years. Mr. Nelson will discuss the techniques used by Chilton, including some recent developments. Mr. Waksberg will describe a new random digit dialing sampling method that he developed for use by CBS News and Westat.

**When and Where:** Wednesday, March 9, 1977, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.,  
Boutwell Auditorium, 7th Floor, IRS Bldg.  
(Please use entrance at 1111 Constitution Ave.,  
and bring a copy of this newsletter to show the  
building guard)

## GENERAL SESSION

Topic: Poverty Status of Families Under Alternative Definitions of Income

Chair: Julius Shiskin, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Speakers: John Korbel, Congressional Budget Office  
Harold Beebout and Raymond Uhalde, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Discussants: Benjamin Bridges, Social Security Administration  
Roger Herriot, Bureau of the Census  
Mollie Orshansky, Social Security Administration  
Jan Peskin, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HEW  
Eugene Smolensky, University of Wisconsin

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), with assistance from Mathematica Policy Research, recently completed an important and controversial staff paper on the effect on poverty of alternative income definitions. The analysis was originally requested by former Senator Mondale in order to examine the apparent paradox that, despite the fourfold increase in social welfare expenditures from 1965 to 1975, the percentage of families in poverty declined by only about 30 percent.

Many investigators have long contended that the paradox is, in part, due to the income concept being employed to measure poverty. The CBO study attempted to deal with this problem by proposing several alternative income definitions. The impact of these definitional differences was then simulated and changes in the character and number of poor families examined.

Formidable conceptual and statistical difficulties have to be tackled in such an endeavor. These include valuation issues related to the addition of fringe benefits and in-kind payments to the conventional Census Bureau total (money) income measure; statistical adjustments needed to overcome deficiencies in the reporting of cash income; and the applicability of the current poverty definition to a more inclusive income concept.

The speaker and discussants will engage in a frank exchange of views on the actual CBO procedures used to answer Senator Mondale's question.

When and Where: Thursday, March 17, 1977, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,  
Martin Luther King Library, 9th and G Sts., N.W.,  
Room A-5 (Auditorium)



## COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Topic: APL and Statistics

Chair: Derry Davison, Scientific Time-Sharing Corporation

Speaker: Allen Rose, Scientific Time-Sharing Corporation

To the statistician and operations researcher, APL can be viewed as an elegant and consistent notational vehicle for the expression of statistical and economic calculations. It may well replace the varied, arbitrary, and ambiguous notations presently cluttering the literature of these fields. Moreover, since APL is widely available in interactive, time-shared computing systems, the practitioner can perform numerical solutions directly using the same notation. APL has particular appeal to those who are concerned about the large amount of detail usually required in most computer systems.

APL is a natural language for the solution of statistical problems. Inherent in the language are most of the procedures which are usually explicitly provided in the form of subroutines or subfunctions in other time sharing systems. Built-in language features include both matrix and vector addition, subtraction, and multiplication. A multitude of transformation operators are provided. Matrix inversion and solution of least square fits are likewise built-in features. Any of these features can be easily combined to provide traditional statistical functions.

Mr. Rose has spoken widely and often on the merits of APL, and provides lively lectures, supplemented with on-line examples.

When and Where: Wednesday, March 23, 1977, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.,  
Boutwell Auditorium, 7th Floor, IRS Bldg.  
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building guard)

## EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Notes to job applicants and to employees with job openings:

1. Deadline for inserting notices is the 12th of the month preceding the publication month.
2. Reruns of notices may be made on a space-available basis.

## JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an individual seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing this applicant should notify Evelyn R. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization, and telephone number. The applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential. Mrs. Kay's address is:

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