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Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION



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NEWSLETTER - APRIL 1977

- April 6 - Recent Developments in Record Linkage Methodology
- April 13 - Problems and Issues in National Health Insurance
- April 15 - Estimate of Reliability in the Stress/Strength Model
- April 19 - Statistics for Allocation of Funds
- April 26 - The National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council Twin Registry
- April 27 - Federal Statistics Planning: OMB's "Framework" Recommendations

AGRICULTURE

- Topic: Recent Developments in Record Linkage Methodology
- Speakers: William L. Arends and Richard W. Coulter, Statistical Reporting Service
- Discussant: Matthew Jaro, Bureau of the Census
- Chair: Norman D. Beller, Statistical Reporting Service

The Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) is developing a record linkage system to create a master list sampling frame of farm operators in each State. This system uses a probability model which incorporates some of the theoretical concepts developed by Ivan P. Fellegi and Alan B. Sunter. One practical problem encountered in implementing the theory is that it is not economically feasible to make all comparisons of all records. A surname coding technique is thus employed to subset the file into blocks of records which maximize the likelihood of identifying duplication. One paper which will be presented discusses the analysis conducted by SRS in determining the optimum surname coding technique for its purposes. This will be followed by a discussion of some of the modifications made to the original model in its implementation including the manner in which the surname code is also employed as a matching variable.

When and Where: Wednesday, April 6, 1977, 12:30-2:00 p.m.,
Tower Building, 1401 K. Street, N.W.,
Basement Conference Room

ECONOMICS

- Topic: Problems and Issues in National Health Insurance
- Chair: Jerome A. Mark, Office of Productivity and Technology, BLS
- Speakers: Stephen P. Harden, Ph.D., Eugene Moyer, Ph.D., Mark S. Freeland, Ph.D., Myron Katzoff, Ph.D., National Health Insurance Modeling Group, Social Security Administration

This will be a discussion of the work of the group in estimating the cost of health insurance programs.

When and Where: Wednesday, April 13, 1977, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Conference Room S5215 A, B, and C, New Department of Labor Building, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

- Topic: Estimate of Reliability in the Stress/Strength Model
- Speaker: Asit P. Basu, Department of Statistics, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri
- Chair: Harold Ascher, Naval Research Laboratory

Suppose Y is the strength of a component which is subject to a stress X . Then the component fails whenever the $X \geq Y$, and there is no failure when $X < Y$. In this paper the problem of estimating the reliability function $R = \text{probability}(X < Y)$ is considered. A survey of available results is presented and some new results are considered.

When and Where: Friday, April 15, 1977, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Martin Luther King Library, 9th and G. Streets, N.W., Room A-5 (Auditorium)

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

- Topic: Statistics for Allocation of Funds
- Chair: Maria E. Gonzalez, Statistical Policy Division, OMB
- Speakers: Wray Smith, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health, Education and Welfare
Eli Marks, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce
Charles Troob, National Institute of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare
- Discussant: Benjamin A. Okner, Congressional Budget Office

The Subcommittee on Statistics for Allocation of Funds, of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, sponsored by the Statistical Policy Division of the Office of Management and Budget, will report on the five case studies of Federal programs using statistical data to allocate Federal dollars to State and local areas. The Subcommittee has studied the implications of data errors and formula specifications on the allocation of funds.

When and Where: Tuesday, April 19, 1977, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Boutwell Auditorium, 7th Floor, IRS Building (1111 Constitution Ave., N.W.)
(Please use entrance at 1111 Constitution Ave., and bring a copy of this Newsletter to show the building guard.)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BIostatISTICS

- Topic: The National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council Twin Registry
- Chair: Gordon Allen, Biometrics Branch, National Institute of Mental Health
- Speakers: Zdenek Hrubec, Medical Follow-up Agency, National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council
- Robert J. Garrison, R. R. Fabsitz, and Manning Feinleib, Epidemiology Branch, Division of Heart and Vascular Diseases, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

Dr. Hrubec will discuss the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council Twin Registry as a research resource for medical-genetic and epidemiologic studies. The registry includes 16,000 pairs with both members being white male veterans. They were identified by screening certificates of white male multiple births during 1917-1927 in 41 States. Through records of the military services, of the Veterans Administration, and through questionnaires, it has been possible to determine the subjects' survival status, medical history, residence, and zygosity. Twins have been useful in assessing the degree of genetic determination by comparing the extent to which phenomena of interest are shared by members of identical twin pairs, fraternal twin pairs, and among other family members. Twin pairs selected because the members differ on a factor being studied permit an evaluation controlled for heredity, age, family background, and other environmental factors shared within twin pairs.

Mr. Garrison and his colleagues at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute will report on their use of the Twin Registry in a study of cardiovascular disease risk factors. Coronary heart disease risk factors were studied in 250 monozygous (MZ) and 264 dizygous (DZ) male veteran twin pairs, aged 42-56. All coronary heart disease risk factors studied showed significant correlations in both MZ and DZ twins. Substantial genetic variation was detected for height, blood pressure, glucose intolerance, uric acid, plasma triglyceride, and relative weight but little or no significant genetic variability was demonstrated for low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL) high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL), total plasma cholesterol or hematocrit. These findings suggest that familial aggregation results from genetic influences on blood pressure, glucose intolerance, uric acid, triglyceride and, possibly, obesity, while largely shared environmental factors contribute to familial similarities in HDL, LDL, total cholesterol and hematocrit.

When and Where: Tuesday, April 26, 1977, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Tower Building, 1401 K Street, N.W., Basement Conference Room.

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Topic: Federal Statistics Planning: OMB's "Framework"
Recommendations

Chair: Margaret Martin,
National Academy of Sciences

Speaker: Joseph W. Duncan,
Office of Management and Budget

Discussants: Robert Parke
Social Science Research Council

John Aiken, Federal Statistics Users' Conference

For the past two and one-half years, the Statistical Policy Division has been working on "A Framework for U.S. Federal Statistics: 1978-1989." Draft materials are now circulating for public review and comment. Informal comments have been contributed by many Federal agencies. The discussion will focus on the major recommendations of the Framework plan.

Background materials for the Framework are available from the Statistical Policy Division of the Office of Management and Budget. Several reports have also been published in the Statistical Reporter.

When and Where: Wednesday, April 27, 1977
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Boutwell Auditorium, 7th Floor
IRS Building (1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.)

(Please use entrance at 1111 Constitution Avenue, and bring a copy of this Newsletter to show the building guard.)

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Same time, same place, and believe it or not, same price as last year.

The annual dinner meeting of the Society is planned for June 2. Please mark your calendar now for this event. Full details will be presented in the next newsletter.

WSS CANDIDATES

The following have agreed to run for offices in the Washington Statistical Society for the 1977-78 season.

For Vice President and President-Elect

Thomas B. Jabine, Social Security Administration
Richard C. Taeuber, Commission on Federal Paperwork

For Secretary-Treasurer

Susan Miskura, Bureau of the Census

For Representatives-at-Large (Three to be Elected)

Jodie Allen, Mathematica Policy Research
Marvin Kastenbaum, Tobacco Institute, Inc.
Hubert Lilliefors, George Washington University
Richard Porter, Federal Reserve Board
Wray Smith, Health, Education and Welfare
Grace Yang, University of Maryland

For Methodology Section Program Chairman

Peter Bounpane, Bureau of the Census
John Dirkse, George Washington University

Ballots and brief biographical sketches of each candidate will be included in the May Newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: The Executive Board of the Washington Statistical Society would like to remind you that Article 5, Section 2 of the W.S.S. Constitution provides the members with the opportunity to nominate candidates for office other than those proposed by the Nominating and Elections Committee. The candidates may be nominated by petition of at least 2 percent of the members of the Society. (32 or more persons.)

The petition must be received by the Nominating and Elections Committee by close of business, April 15. Send petitions to:

Charles Jones
4710 Sharon Road
Temple Hills, Maryland 20031

NOTICE OF OPEN BOARD MEETING

The May 1977 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Washington Statistical Society will be an open meeting to which any interested Society member is invited to attend. Time will be allotted to a discussion of the business of the Society as provided for in Article 6 of the Constitution. This open meeting provides an opportunity for any member to raise issues or to make suggestions about the conduct of the business of the Society. (Any issue requiring membership approval will be addressed by mail ballot.)

When and Where: Tuesday, May 3, 1977, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Room 3000,
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. There are (rare) parking
spaces around the building and a pay parking lot on 6th St.

E M P L O Y M E N T C O L U M N

Notes to job applicants and to employers 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

J O B A P P L I C A N T

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:

National Center for Education Statistics
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202 202/245-8340

CODE NUMBER: 4-3-77

Education: B.A. (Math), M.A. (Stat), and all coursework (except continuous multivariate analysis) completed for PhD in Statistics

Fields of competence: Discrete multivariate analysis, linear estimation, sampling theory

Experience: 3-year graduate assistantship teaching mathematics and statistics courses

Salary level: GS-9 or equivalent

Type of employment: Government or private industry in Washington metro area

J O B O P E N I N G

Mathematical Statistician GS-1529-11/12/13 B/Manpower Information Systems U.S. Civil Service Commission
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This position involves the research, development, conduct, and analysis of quality assurance and quality control methods for government-wide automated personnel management information systems.

Incumbent must have had experience in development and application of sampling theory and a working knowledge of data-processing principles, techniques, and basic systems analysis and design. For further information, contact Stan Suser, Systems Management Section, 202/254-7786.