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NEWSLETTER—NOVEMBER 1978 (Mailed October 26)

- November 8: A Survey of Current Problems and Recent Developments in Seasonal Adjustments
- November 9: Six-City Study on the Health Effects of Air Pollution
- November 15: Progress and Prognosis for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
- November 16: Air-Pollution and Human Health
- November 20: (TENTATIVE) Consequences of Auto-Correlation in Regression
- November 27: Splines and Related Functional Estimators in Statistics

METHODOLOGY

- Topic:** A Survey of Current Problems and Recent Developments in Seasonal Adjustment
- Speakers:** William P. Cleveland, Duke University, Senior Research Fellow of the American Statistical Association, Bureau of the Census
- Chair:** Stella Bee Dagum, Director of Seasonal Adjustment and Time Series Research Staff, Statistics Canada, visiting senior consultant at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of the Census
- Discussants:** Allan H. Young, Deputy Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Frank de Leeuw, Chief Statistician, Bureau of Economic Analysis

The first paper discusses the widely used seasonal adjustment of economic time series using a computer program originated and revised several times at the Bureau of the Census under the direction of Julius Shiskin. It is generally acknowledged that the program performs well for

many series, particularly in making historical adjustments. Recent close attention by policy makers to seasonally adjusted series has made its problems with current adjustments more evident and justifies a new assessment of its rationale and possible alternatives.

The second paper presents a survey of recent advances in the seasonal adjustment of time series, including ARIMA models and signal extraction methods, improvements in X-11, regression methods, robust methods, and seasonal adjustment in a multivariate context. A copy of the paper is available from the author, 452-3895.

When: Wednesday, November 8, 1978, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Where: GAO Auditorium, 7th floor, GAO Building, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.
Follow map on either side of elevators (Metro Red Line, Judiciary Square Stop, F Street exit—walk through Pension Building)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BIOSTATISTICS

Topic: Six-City Study on the Health Effects of Air Pollution

Speaker: Dr. Yvonne Bishop, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health

Chair: Dr. Earl Pollack, Biometry Branch, National Cancer Institute

Discussant: Dr. Emanuel Landau, American Public Health Association

A large epidemiologic study of the health effects of air pollution on humans is being carried out in six cities in six different states with differing air quality. Central satellite monitoring and personal dosimeters are being used to evaluate dose. Questionnaires and lung function measures are being used to evaluate health effects. Statistical problems of standardizing measures of health effects and preliminary findings will be presented.

Time: Thursday, November 9, 1978—12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Place: IRS Auditorium, 7th Floor, 1111 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Topic: Progress and Prognosis for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

Speakers: Paul Planchon, Division of Statistics, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Roger Herriott, Population Division, Bureau of the Census

Chair: Dr. Charles A. Lininger, Survey Research Consultant, Old Greenwich, Connecticut

Discussant: Professor Martin David, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin, Madison

HEW, with its major income-tested and income-security programs, has an on-going need for information on income and other related data. Recognition of the limitations of current income statistics has led to numerous suggestions to establish a new income survey. For the past 2½ years, a special HEW staff group, in collaboration with the Social Security Administration and the Bureau of the Census, has been involved in an income survey development program. This WSS session will review the proposed Survey of Income and Program Participation, its current status, its accomplishments and problem areas and plans for the next few years.

Time: Wednesday, November 15, 1978, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Place: Main Floor Auditorium in the Hubert H. Humphrey, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. (Metro Blue Line, Federal Center, S.W., stop)

ECONOMICS

Topic: Air Pollution and Human Health

Speaker: Dr. Eugene Seskin, Resources for the Future

Chair: Dr. Ivy E. Broder, American University

Can air pollution be linked directly to higher death rates in America's cities? What health hazards does it entail? Sudden rises in air pollution levels have long been known to be lethal, but what about prolonged exposure to everyday air pollution? Lester Lave and Eugene Seskin address those issues in their recent book, *Air Pollution and Human Health*. From detailed comparative statistics analyzed over a ten-year period for most of the major U. S. metropolitan areas, they estimate the association between air pollution and mortality rates. Although several air pollutants are analyzed, the major focus is on the concentrations of sulfates and suspended particulates in the atmosphere. A number of other factors are also controlled, including age distribution, racial composition, income, and climate. Using carefully controlled statistical analyses of both cross-sectional and time-series data for a large number of U. S. metropolitan areas, they conclude that the benefits associated with a substantial abatement of so-called "stationary sources" such as factories and power plants, are greater than the costs of such abatement.

Time: Thursday, November 16, 1978, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Place: GAO Auditorium, 7th floor, GAO Building, 441 G Street, N.W. (Metro Red Line, Judiciary Square Stop, F Street Exit--walk one block north)

METHODOLOGY

(Jointly with the National Bureau of Standards)

(TENTATIVE)

- Topic:** Consequences of Auto-Correlation in Regression
- Speaker:** Prof. James Durbin, London School of Economics
- When:** Monday, November 20, 1978 (Time not finalized)
- Where:** Commerce Building or National Bureau of Standards

(Call Cliff Spiegelman of the National Bureau of Standards [Tel: 921-3651] to find out the exact time and place.)

PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

- Topic:** Splines and Related Functional Estimators in Statistics
- Speaker:** Dr. Edward J. Wegman, Office of Naval Research
- Chair:** Seymour M. Selig, Office of Naval Research

Spline functions arose as a draughtsman's tool for drawing smooth curves through data. Spline functions are particularly appropriate in fitting a smooth non-parametric functional to noisy data. Several types of splines will be discussed and applications to non-parametric probability density and spectral density estimation will be surveyed. Finally, we will discuss briefly the relationship of the spline to isotonic regression estimators.

When: Monday, November 27, 1978, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Where: IRS Auditorium, IRS Building, 7th floor. (Please use the entrance at 1111 Constitution Avenue, and bring a copy of this newsletter to show the building guard.)

NEW SECRETARY-TREASURER

Harold Nelson has resigned from the post of Secretary-Treasurer because of personal business which requires him to be away from the Washington area for an extended period. Under the provisions of Article 4, Section 6 of the WSS Constitution, the Board of Directors has elected Ms. Nancy Dearman of the National Center for Education Statistics to serve as Secretary-Treasurer for the remainder of Mr. Nelson's term of office.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices is the 12th of the month preceding the publication date

Send notices and requests to:
Evelyn R. Kay
National Center for Education Statistics
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202 202/245-8340

J O B O P E N I N G S

Statistician (Social Science)
GS-1530-9/11/12 LEAA

Directs the development, execution, and analysis of on-going complex national census of juvenile detention and correctional facilities; directs the archival effort to (1) identify data bases to be placed in the archive, (2) process the national criminal justice baseline file, (3) develop training courses, and (4) direct the overall operation of computer operations and data sources; reviews proposals for specific research or evaluation efforts; determines and develops methods for compilation, tabulation and presentation of statistical data from special surveys or unpublished data from prior operations or surveys.

Send SF-171 to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20531. Attention: Statistics Division, Dr. Charles Kindermann. (202) 376-2622.

Statistician (Health)
GS-1530-9 CPSC

For a person interested in applying statistical techniques to accident prevention, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has an active program with varied assignments: survey design, sampling, data retrieval (programming training available), data analysis, contract monitoring. Promotion potential to GS 12. Civil Service rating necessary. Send SF-171 to Mrs. Paula Present, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 5401 Westbard Avenue, Bethesda, Md., 20207, room 632.

Statistician/Programmer
to mid-twenties

The United States Senate has a requirement for a statistician/programmer to perform statistical analyses for Committees and members of the Senate. Activities include analyses of secondary data and the design and analysis of surveys. A background in economics is helpful. Experience with PL/1, FORTRAN, COBOL, and/or SPSS is essential; IBM 370 experience is desirable. Substantive topics vary widely. While only statistical and data processing expertise are required, a substantive input on the various projects is possible and encouraged.

Send resume to Jim Estep, Room G-116, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senate Computer Center, Washington, DC 20510. 202/224-7062.