

Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter - November 1979

(Mailed 10/26/79)

November 7:	Inequalities - Some Theory with Applications in Probability, Statistics and Reliability
November 15: (12:30-2:00 p.m.)	Data Needs for Policy Analysis: The Case of the Council on Wage and Price Stability
November 15: (2:15-3:45 p.m.)	Housing Unit vs. Household as the Sampling Unit for a Medical Survey: A Comparison of the Cost/Bias/ Estimation Implications
November 28:	Exploring Record Linkage As a Source of Morbidity Data: The Health Maintenance Organization and Medicare Experience
December 3:	Lunch (at the Foreign Service Club) Soviet Population and Manpower Trends

Physical Sciences and Engineering Section/Cosponsored with the George Washington University, Department of Operations Research and Department of Statistics.

Topic: Inequalities - Some Theory with Applications in Probability, Statistics, and Reliability

Speaker: Ingram Olkin, Department of Statistics, Stanford University (currently at Institute of Mathematical Statistics, University of Copenhagen)

Chair: Nozer D. Singpurwalla, the George Washington University

When and Where: Wednesday, November 7, 1979, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., the George Washington University, Marvin Center, Room 410, 21st Street between H and I Streets, NW (Foggybottom Station in Metrol Blue Line)

A unified approach to obtaining a wide class of inequalities will be presented. Particular emphasis will be given to some statistical problems involving unbiasedness of tests, and ranking and selection models. In probability, some inequalities for entropy and independent Bernoulli trials will be discussed. In reliability, applications to k out of n systems will be considered.

Economics Section

Topic: Data Needs for Policy Analysis: The Case of the Council on Wage and Price Stability

Speaker: Jack E. Triplett, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chair: Joel Popkin, Joel Popkin & Company

Discussant: Sue Vroman, Department of Economics, Georgetown University

When: Thursday, November 15, 1979, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Where: Conference Room N-5437 C,D (fifth floor, north side) Department of Labor Building, 3rd and Constitution Avenue, NW (Metro Red Line, Judiciary Square Stop, 4th and D Street Exit, one block southeast)

The paper discusses the adequacy of available statistical series for the analysis of inflation and for designing an anti-inflation policy. The speaker was Assistant Director for Price Monitoring, Council on Wage and Price Stability, from January to September, 1979, and now is Assistant Commissioner for Research and Evaluation, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Public Health and Biostatistics Section

Topic: Housing Unit vs. Household as the Sampling Unit for a Medical Survey: A Comparison of the Cost/Bias/
Estimation Implications

Speaker: Brenda Cox, Research Triangle Institute, Research Triangle Park, NC

Chair: Earl Bryant, National Center for Health Statistics

Discussants: Gary Shapiro, Bureau of the Census, Evan Davey, Bureau of the Census

When: November 15, 1979, 2:15 - 3:45 p.m.

Where: Conference Room N-5437 C, D (fifth floor, north side) Department of Labor Building, 3rd and Constitution Avenue, NW

The possibility of reducing data collection costs for future medical care expenditure surveys by defining the sampling unit to be the housing unit instead of the household prompted this investigation of the cost/bias/estimation implications of the two data collection procedures. After defining the two designs and noting how they differed, the survey operations and data processing costs were estimated for the two designs. To ascertain the effect of not following movers when the housing

unit design is used, mobility rates were computed for various subpopulations and annual medical care utilization/expenditure distributions were contrasted for movers and nonmovers using data from the National Medical Care Expenditure Survey. For the housing unit design, methods were developed for estimating average annual utilization and expenditures and imputation/estimation strategies were suggested so that person based annual utilization/expenditure distributions could be approximated. The results of this investigation indicated that the bias of estimated distributions for the housing unit design was not large enough to preclude its use. However, projected cost savings were minor and overshadowed by anticipated data analysis complications so that the household design was preferred.

Public Health and Biostatistics Section

Topic: Exploring Record Linkage As a Source of Morbidity Data: The Health Maintenance Organization and Medicare Experience

Speakers: Christina Boesz, Office of Health Maintenance Organizations, Bruce Cohen, National Center for Health Statistics, Paul Eggers, Health Care Financing Administration

Chair: Frank Seubold, National Center for Health Services Research

Discussant: Daniel Walden, National Center for Health Services Research

When: Wednesday, November 28, 1979, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Where: Prince George's Plaza Center Building, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD, Rm. 7-32 (HRA Conference Room)

Uniform, comprehensive, and reliable data bases are essential to plan programs to meet the health needs of the nation and to evaluate their effectiveness. This program examines some of the generic problems in linking and utilizing record data for program evaluation and epidemiologic studies.

The first paper, "Obtaining Morbidity Data from Administrative Records: Some Lessons from the HMO Experience," by Christina Boesz, identifies the major record systems that are required to administer the HMO program, explains the concepts that guided the design of the system and discusses the utilization and limitations of the data that have been made available from the system.

In the second paper, "The HMO As a Setting for Epidemiologic Research: A Case Study" by Bruce Cohen, examines some of the issues in the analysis of morbidity and utilization data. Findings from his study of social class, morbidity and health services utilization in the Kaiser-Permanente Health Plan in California will be presented to provide a context for his comments.

The third and final paper, "The Use of Medicare Claims Data in Studying Utilization in a Health Maintenance Organization" by Paul Eggers, explores the use of Medicare administrative records in conducting a study of Medicare enrollees in the Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound.

Lunch Meeting at the Foreign Service Club

(Reservation Required)

Topic: Soviet Population and Manpower Trends

Speaker: Dr. Murray Feshbach, Fellow with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (on leave as Chief USSR population, Employment and Research and Development Branch, Foreign Demographic Analysis Division, U. S. Bureau of Census)

Chair: George Hall, Associate Director for Demographic fields, Census Bureau

The structure and dynamics of Soviet population and manpower trends are changing radically at the current time and will for the rest of the century. These changes include marked differences in regional birthrates, in mortality patterns (especially the unexplained rise in infant mortality observed during this decade), and in supply of labor force. A brief introduction to these patterns, their implications and the underlying statistics will be discussed.

When: Monday, December 3, 1979

Cash Bar 11:30 a.m.

Buffet Lunch 12:00 noon

Where: The Foreign Service Club, 2101 E Street, NW (about 4 blocks from the Foggy Bottom stop on the Metro Blue Line)

Reservations are \$6.75 per person, and must be made by November 28, 1979. Because space is limited, reservations will be accepted in order of receipt.

Name: _____ Send \$6.75 per person to:

Address: _____ Jim Carpenter
Rt. 1, Box 410
Jefferson, MD 21755

No. of Persons: _____ (Checks payable to Washington Statistical Society)

Help Wanted with the ASA Membership Survey

The ASA membership survey is at the coding stage and can use some additional assistance to code the responses. In February, 1979, the Board of Directors approved a modest budget for a survey of the ASA membership to examine the extent of participation in the profession and the association, especially by women and minorities; to derive basic descriptive characteristics of the membership in terms of education, income, and employment status; and to analyze income distributions and career development patterns, holding education, work experience, and hours worked constant.

With a budget calling for mostly volunteer labor and an overall response rate which has already gone over 80%, the Committee on Women in Statistics and the Committee on Minorities in Statistics, sponsors of the survey, need help beyond the current cadre of dedicated volunteers. For control and confidentiality purposes all coding is being done at the ASA Office—806 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 640.

Coding sessions will be on Saturdays—October 27, November 3, 10, 17, December 1, 8, 15— from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you can help on any or all of these Saturdays, for even a part of a session, *please call*:

- Dick Taueber, Chair of the Survey Committee, at 472-4415
- or
- the ASA Office (Dorothy Zimmerman) at 393-3253 and volunteer.

(Because of the building security system on weekends, we need to provide the security service with a list of the names of those who might want access on any of the Saturdays—by noon on the immediately preceding Friday. Also, a call to the ASA Office on Saturday would produce someone to come down and admit you to the building.)

Employment Column

Deadline for inserting notices is the 10th 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, D. C. 20202 (202)245/8340

Job Openings

Math Statistician Permanent position in survey design and analysis of data from complex sample surveys. Responsibilities include research on survey design methodology and statistical consulting with subject matter specialists and other mathematical statisticians. Applicants should have M.S. in statistics (or equivalent).
GS-1529-12/13

Survey Statistician Permanent position for highly qualified survey statistician. Incumbent will participate in all phases of an experimental sample survey to test innovative survey methods for estimating the national incidence and prevalence of cancer and the cost of cancer care. Other responsibilities include consulting with mathematical statisticians regarding sample surveys.
GS-1530-12/13

For above two positions, send Form 171 to Dr. Monroe G. Sirken, Center Building, Room 2-11, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20872.

Math Statistician Applicants must have ability to (1) work as a part of a multidisciplinary team on integrated studies; (2) design statistical sampling programs; (3) develop statistical (especially stochastic) models in the natural, social, and economic sciences; (4) do research in mathematical statistics on problems in water resources (independent research is required for GS-12). A knowledge of water resource systems is desirable, but not required. Send resume to Ivan C. James, II, Chief, Systems Analysis Group, Water Resources Division, 410 National Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA 22092. 703/860-6927. Refer to Geological Survey Vacancy Announcement 79-300. Closing date: November 5, 1979.
GS-1529-11/12

Notice to job applicants: This is a reminder that this column is intended for job applicants as well as for employers who have job openings. Anyone interested in inserting a notice should provide a brief statement covering the following topics: education, fields of competence, experience, salary level desired, and preferences, such as location, whether public or private, etc. To protect confidentiality, applicants are assigned a code number which employers use to identify job seekers. Applicants are notified of the employer's interest and initiation of further contact is left up to the applicant.

Please address correspondence to the SECRETARY — Rich Allen — P.O. Box 20002, Washington, D.C. 20024 (447-4896)

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