



MAY 1984

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY
CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR:

May 15, Tuesday	The Mean vs. The Median: A Case Study in 4-R Act Litigation
May 16, 17 & 18	Short Course: Introduction to Survival Analysis (Registration Form Inside)
May 24, Thursday	Disclosure Avoidance and Releasing Strategies for Administrative Records
June 4-5, Mon-Tues	Short Course: Categorical Analysis of Data From Complex Sample Surveys (Fee-Event)
June 5, Tuesday	Area Frame Sampling: Developments and Prospects
June 12, Tuesday	Workshop on Presenting Statistical Papers
June 12, Tuesday	WSS-Annual Dinner (Fee-Event: Registration Form Inside)
June 30, Saturday	Personal Computers for Statisticians (Fee-Event)

Random Bits - Terry Ireland, President-Elect (1984-85)

It has been an exciting year for me. I have seen at first hand the dedication and effectiveness of a truly all-volunteer organization. It is my good fortune to begin the next year with the continuing support of many of the Board members who have worked so hard for WSS this year. This year's Board has done much to guarantee the continuing effectiveness of WSS. The Member-At-Large positions have become central to the work of WSS. The extension of their terms to two years reflects this. The Newsletter has been revised from its logo to the final paragraph -- more changes are in sight. Continuing Education has become a central part of the WSS program. With these changes in place we can continue to broaden our community network of statisticians with a special emphasis on bringing younger statisticians into WSS activities. Network is an interesting word. The computer people use it in a physical sense to describe the interconnection of computers. With the advent of the home computer, networks to connect them are springing up all over the Washington area. As statisticians we can bring to use these computer networks to communicate with each other. There is already one computer Bulletin Board dedicated to statistics. The George Washington University Department of Statistics is planning another. Not surprisingly, the early use of these Bulletin Boards is for sharing public domain statistical software. However, there are many other exciting possibilities. We can publish an electronic version of our newsletter. Special interest statistical groups -- networks of statisticians -- will meet, electronically. Knotty statistical problems can be presented, discussed, and solved, electronically. Data sets, statistical rules, and procedures can be shared, electronically. We have much to do to on this revolution in communication. Won't you join in?

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM CHAIRS

Agri. & Nat. Res.
Fred Vogel 447-3895

Methodology
Michael Cohen 334-2266

Phys. Sci. & Eng.
Seymour Selig 696-4314

Economics
Eva Jacobs 272-5156
Nancy Gordon 226-2669

Short Courses
Jim Carpenter 272-2271
Doug Samuelson 536-4756

Interprogrammatic
Wendy Alvey 376-0216
Fritz Scheuren 376-0216

Social and Dem.
Lee-Ann Hayek 357-1587
Richard Rockwell 212/557-9494

Pub. Health & Biostat
Mitchell Gail 496-4208
L. J. Wei 676-6359

Stat. Computing
Chap Gleason 633-3458
David Morganstein 251-8215

Employment: Evelyn R. Kay 331-1153

Newsletter: Julia Oliver 252-1676

TOPIC: The Mean vs. The Median: A Case Study in 4-R Act Litigation
SPEAKER: David Freedman, University of California, Berkeley
CHAIR: Robert Smythe, George Washington University
DISCUSSANT: Michael Stoto, National Academy of Sciences and Harvard University
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, May 15, 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: Room GH-035, Forrestal Bldg., 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
ABSTRACT: In a recent case brought under the 4-R Act, the railroads argued that this effective property tax rate should be equalized to the median of the rates for other taxpayers. However, the language of the statute compels the use of a weighted mean. The choice between the two measures of location is dictated not by their technical properties or the nature of the data, but by the statute which defines the objectives of the statistical operations. Before choosing an estimator we have to decide what parameter it is we are trying to estimate. This principle may seem obvious, but sad experience proves otherwise.

TOPIC: Introduction to Survival Analysis (Fee-Event)
SPEAKER: Gordon Lan, National Institutes of Health
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, May 16-17-18, 1984; 9:15AM-12:30PM
LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5
Interested individuals should see the enclosed Registration Form.

TOPIC: Disclosure Avoidance and Releasing Strategies for Administrative Records
SPEAKER: Fritz Scheuren, Internal Revenue Service
CHAIR: Joseph Gastwirth, George Washington University
DISCUSSANT: Nancy Spruill, Office of the Secretary of Defense & Brian Greenberg, Census
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, May 24, 1984; 1:00PM-2:30PM (Note special time)
LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5
ABSTRACT: Increasingly stringent disclosure requirements are being placed on public-use files released for statistical purposes. This is particularly true of files made available by such agencies as the Internal Revenue Service. The presentation will explore a simple but potentially effective disclosure masking technique based on a new application of group data techniques. Simulation results will be given and, theoretical considerations provided. The focus will be on the trade-offs which exist between high disclosure protection and adequate analysis.

TOPIC: Short Course: Categorical Analysis of Data From Complex Sample Surveys
SPEAKERS: J. Richard Landis and James M. Lepkowski
DATE AND TIME: Monday, June 4 and 5, 1984; 9:00AM-4:30PM
LOCATION: George Washington University
This is a Fee-Event that will be handled by a special mailing from ASA.

TOPIC: Area Frame Sampling: Developments and Prospects
SPEAKERS: Ron Freeso and Robert D. Tortora, U.S. Department of Agriculture
DISCUSSANT: David Chapman, Census Bureau
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, June 5, 1984; 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: Rm 3109 South Bldg., USDA, 12th & Independence Ave., S.W.
ABSTRACT: Many of the statistical series of the Statistical Reporting Service, USDA, are based on a national area frame survey. Continuing research is necessary to increase the precision of the estimates and to find area frame construction techniques which reduce the large cost of this sampling method. This paper outlines the historic development of the USDA area frame and discusses USDA research in interpenetrating samples, stratification, sampling design, and the use of remote sensing materials.

TOPIC: Workshop on Presenting Statistical Papers
SPEAKERS: Charles Alexander, Census and Wendy Alvey & Beth Kilss, IRS
CHAIR: Maria Gonzalez, Office of Management and Budget
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, June 12, 1984; 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: Internal Revenue Service Auditorium, 7th Floor, 1111 Constitution Ave., N.W.
ABSTRACT: The purpose of this Workshop is to aid participants in preparing and giving more effective presentations of their material. The session will focus on selection of material and oral delivery (Chip Alexander) and handouts and other visual aids (Wendy Alvey and Beth Kilss). The format is envisioned as an interactive Workshop and ample time will be provided for discussion. The speakers will also be glad to comment individually on examples of your work after the session, so feel free to bring along sample visual aids.

TOPIC: WSS-Annual Dinner (Fee-Event: Pre-Registration Form Inside)
TOPICS: Looking Ahead at the Bureau of Labor Statistics and
Looking Ahead at the Bureau of the Census
SPEAKERS: Janet Norwood, Commissioner, BLS and Jack Keane, Director, Census
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, June 12, 1984; 6:30PM
LOCATION: Blackie's House of Beef, 22nd Street at M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

TOPIC: Short Course: Personal Computers for Statisticians (Fee-Event)
SPEAKERS: Jim Carpenter, BLS and David Morganstein, WESTAT, Inc.
DATE AND TIME: Saturday, June 30, 1984; 9:00AM-4:00PM
LOCATION: Auditorium D-Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences, (USUHS) Bethesda, Maryland. (Special Fee-Event)
ABSTRACT: This is a special fee-event which will be handled by a separate mailing from ASA. Continuing Education credits will be offered.

CONSTITUTION AMMENDMENTS

All proposed ammendments to the Washington Statistical Society Constitution, which were distributed with the January 1984 Newsletter, have been approved by the membership. The ammended Constitution provisions on terms of office have been utilized for this year's Society Election. The current Board of Directors wishes to thank all Society members who participated in the Constitution Ammendment process.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS SEMINAR

TOPIC: Geographic Variability in Mortality Rates
SPEAKER: Dr. Robert K. Tsutakawa, University of Missouri
DATE AND TIME: Monday, May 7, 1984; 2:30PM-3:30PM
LOCATION: GAO Building, Room 2740, 441 "G" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
ABSTRACT: This seminar will discuss a Bayesian analysis of a mixed model for studying rare human events.
Please contact Sandra West at 523-1871 if you pian to attend.

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REGISTRATION FORM

WSS TUTORIAL

INTRODUCTION TO SURVIVAL ANALYSIS

SPEAKER: Gordon Lan, National Institutes of Health
 DATES: Wednesday, May 16; Thursday, May 17; and Friday, May 18, 1984
 PLACE: Room A-5, Martin Luther King Memorial Library, 901 G Street, N.W.
 COST: \$5.00 for WSS Members \$15.00 for WSS Non-Member
 (Affix Mailing Label as Proof of Membership)

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1984

9:15AM - 10:45AM Life Tables and some basic concepts
 11:00AM - 12:30PM Exponential and Weibull distributions

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1984

9:15AM - 10:45AM Linear Rank Statistics
 11:00AM - 12:30PM Generalized Wilcoxon and Savage statistics

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1984

9:15AM - 10:45AM Interim analysis of survival data
 11:00AM - 12:30PM Proportional hazards model

REFERENCE: "Survival Analysis" by Rupert Miller, Jr., John Wiley & Sons, 1981.

REGISTRATION: Registration must be received by May 7, 1984. Make checks payable to WSS and mail to Terry Ireland, 10023 Menlo Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, 301/859-6695.

NAME _____

WORK PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

JOB TITLE _____

(AFFIX MAILING LABEL AS PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP)

CHECK ENCLOSED \$5 MEMBER \$15 NON-MEMBER

HOW WILL YOU APPLY THIS COURSE TO YOUR WORK? _____

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS SEMINARS

TOPIC: An Evaluation of Model-Dependent and Probability-Sampling Inferences In Sample Surveys
SPEAKER: Morris H. Hansen, Senior Vice President, WESTAT
DISCUSSANTS: Keith Eberhardt, NBS; Robert Fay, Census Bureau; and Ralph Folsom, Research Triangle Institute
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, May 17, 1984; 1:30PM-3:30PM
LOCATION: Center Building, Room 7-32, 3700 East West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland
ABSTRACT: This paper concerns the inferences from a sample survey to a finite population. It contrasts inferences that are dependent on an assumed model with inferences based on the randomization consistency for finite population estimators. A numerical example is examined to illustrate the dangers in the use of model-dependent estimators even when the model is apparently consonant with the sample data. The paper concludes with a summary of principles that we believe should guide the practitioner of sample surveys finite population.

TOPIC: Assessment of Medical Technology: Impact on Health
SPEAKER: Peter Goldschmidt, Veterans Administration
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, May 24, 1984; 1:30PM-2:30PM
LOCATION: Center Building, Room 1-23; 3700 East West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland
ABSTRACT: This presentation will focus on the rationale for assessing health technologies, on the issues to be addressed, and on how such assessments may be made. The integration of technology assessment and health care practice will also be addressed.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices is the first of the month preceding the publication date. Send notices and requests to: Evelyn R. Kay, 520-22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 202/331-1153

JOB OPENINGS

Statistician IS 1529/1530 5/7 The Smithsonian Institution has an opening for a Junior Level Statistician in the Information Analysis Branch, Scientific Applications Division. This Branch provides statistical and mathematical consulting research to the entire Smithsonian community. Beginning level position for BA/BS with course work in statistics. Experience with FORTRAN, BMDP, SPSS preferable. Send SF-171 by 6/1/84 to the Smithsonian Institution, Office of Personnel Administration, 900 Jefferson Drive, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20560. Attention: MPA 84-225-5.

Computer Programmer GS 12/14 The Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) has an opening for an experienced computer programmer. Position requires knowledge of at least one major high-level computer language such as PASCAL or FORTRAN; ability to analyze technical problems; and knowledge of interactive computer system (such as DEC or VAX). Submit SF-171 and latest performance appraisal by 5/4/84 to: U.S. ACDA, Personnel Office, Room 5720, 320-21st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20451.

Research Associate The Division of Biostatistics, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), has an opening for a Research Associate with Master's level training in statistics or biostatistics. Applicants need a strong background in mathematics/statistics, knowledge of mainframe computer packages such as SAS and BMDP, and microcomputers. Salary \$17,000 to \$29,000. Send vitae to: David F. Cruess, Ph.D., Department of Preventive Medicine, USUHS, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, 202/295-3709.

Statistician Associate EAS-14 The Revenue Statistics Branch of the Finance Group, USPS has an opening for a Statistician Associate to assist in the development and maintenance of statistical information systems for various categories of domestic mail and special services. Must be competent in survey statistics and large-scale surveys, and have analytical skills and communication skills. Salary range: \$20,776 to \$27,216. Mail resume to U.S. Postal Service, VA 1347; Headquarters Personnel, Room 1813; 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20260-4264.

Statistician/Programmer The Claritas Corporation has immediate openings for persons with an MA in statistics or equivalent experience with at least five years of programming in FORTRAN, PL-II, PASCAL or COBOL as well as use of EMPD, SPSS or SAS type statistical systems. Experience with Census or similar aggregate data files is a strong requirement for this job. Send resume to: Elaine Barnes, Claritas Corporation, 1911 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

JOB APPLICANTS

Below is a brief description of the qualifications of applicants seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing these applicants should notify Mrs. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicants. All contact will be confidential.

Code Number: 84-05-01
Position Wanted: Consulting work in statistics/statistical systems analysis and data processing. No task too small. Reston/Fairfax/Tysons Corner.
Education: M.S. in Statistics; B.A. in Mathematics
Experience: Behavioral Science and Physical Science/Engineering Applications.
Areas of Interest: Analysis of Log Linear Data; Multivariate ANOVA; SAS

Code Number: 84-05-02
Position Wanted: Research Associate in social science field in Washington, DC area.
Education: Ph.D. in family social science with sociometric statistics, Iowa State University, 1984
Experience: Administration, Research Assistant with private and government funded surveys of families in United States and Central America and of family therapists. Data collection, management and analysis statistical packages.
Areas of Interest: Survey design and analysis: family social science; multivariate models with cross-sectional and longitudinal data; event history analysis.



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

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