



WSS NEWS

February 2003

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS) Confidentiality Seminar Series

BTS is inaugurating a seminar series on confidentiality. The recent passage of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2002 prompted this seminar series. CIPSEA provides a clear and consistent standard for the use of confidential statistical information as well as safeguards to ensure that data provided under a pledge of confidentiality are used only for statistical purposes.

The first seminar in this series will be given by Dr. Nancy Kirkendall, Energy Information Administration (EIA), on Wednesday, February 12, (see details inside) and will provide an overview of CIPSEA. She will also introduce the statistical methods used to protect the confidentiality of data released as tables and microdata files. The next two seminars will elaborate on the statistical disclosure limitation methods used for tabular data and for public use microdata. Future seminars will describe approaches used by statistical agencies to enhance researcher access to confidential statistical data under special settings or conditions (such as Research Data Centers), the role of a Confidentiality Officer, and the activities of a Disclosure Review Board.

Besides providing U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) staff an introduction to CIPSEA, other audiences for this series include:

1. Federal programs that already collect data under a pledge of confidentiality and are interested in learning about what methods other agencies use to protect tables/microdata produced from the confidential data. This series would introduce new methods of protecting confidential data released as either tables or microdata.
2. Federal offices that have Institutional Review Boards (IRBs). One of the criteria for approval of research by an IRB is that: "When appropriate, there are adequate provisions to protect the privacy of subjects and to maintain the confidentiality of data" (49 C.F.R. 11.111(a)(7)). This seminar series will also be of interest to those units within DOT that have an IRB.

These seminars are open to all.

WSS and Other Seminars	
(All events are open to any interested persons)	
February 11	Tues. The Statistical Administrative Records System and Administrative Records Experiment in 2000: System Design, Successes, and Challenges
BTS Confidentiality Series Seminars	
12	Wed. Overview of New Legislation Protecting the Confidentiality of Statistical Information and Statistical Disclosure Limitation Methodology
13	Thur. Some Advances in ARIMA-Model-Based Decomposition of Time Series (Including Seasonal Adjustment)
19	Wed. The NASS Question Repository System
19	Wed. Evaluation Results of an Administrative Records Census Experiment
March 19	Wed. Improving the Quality of Surveys

Also available on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss>

Announcements

SIGSTAT Schedule: February 2003 to May 2003

February 12, 2003: PROCs MI & MIANALYZE in SAS/STAT (<http://www.sas.com>)

SAS/STAT software, Version 8, introduces the experimental MI and MIANALYZE procedures for creating and analyzing multiply imputed data sets for incomplete multivariate data. Multiple imputation provides a useful strategy for dealing with data sets with missing values. Instead of filling in a single value for each missing value, Rubin's (1987) multiple imputation procedure replaces each missing value with a set of plausible values that represent the uncertainty about the right value to impute. These multiply imputed data sets are then analyzed by using standard procedures for complete data and combining the results from these analysis. No matter which complete-data analysis is used, the process of combining results from different imputed data sets is essentially the same. This results in statistically valid inferences that properly reflect the uncertainty due to missing values.

The MI procedure is a multiple imputation procedure that creates multiply imputed data sets for incomplete p-dimensional multivariate data. It uses methods that incorporate appropriate variability across m imputations. Once the m complete data sets are analyzed using standard SAS/STAT procedures, PROC MIANALYZE can be used to generate valid statistical inferences about these parameters by combining the results.

March 12, 2003: R Graphics (<http://www.r-project.org>)

Brian Monsell will demonstrate how to generate graphs using the R statistical package (such as time series plots and Trellis graphs), and show off some of his favorite "stupid R tricks."

April 9, 2003: SAS 9.0 (<http://www.sas.com>)

Linda Atkinson will present a demo of the latest release of SAS.

May 14, 2003: SAS/IML Workshop 2.0 (<http://www.sas.com>)

SAS/IML Workshop is a graphical user interface and extension of SAS/IML software that enables you to explore data interactively using standard statistical graphics and tables. IML Workshop provides an integrated development environment for writing, debugging, and executing IML

programs. IML Workshop also implements the IMLPlus programming language, which is an enhanced version of the IML programming language. IMLPlus provides new language features such as the ability to call SAS procedures and external C/Fortran/Java functions. IML Workshop requires a PC running the Microsoft Windows operating system.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the CPCUG, the Capital PC User Group, and WINFORMS, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from 12:30 to 1:30. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the SIGSTAT website, <http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>.

Notice about Seminars at the Bureau of Labor Statistics

A new list of attendees of WSS seminars at the Bureau of Labor Statistics began January 2, 2003 (the previous list will be discarded). If you plan to attend a seminar at BLS, you will need to do one of the following at least by noon 1 day ahead: (1) e-mail name, affiliation, and name of seminar to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') or (2) call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Finally, bring a photo ID. NOTE: Once on the list, you need not contact BLS for subsequent seminars through March 31, 2003.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the April 2003 WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than February 25, 2003. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Abstract

Title: The Statistical Administrative Records System and Administrative Records Experiment in 2000: System Design, Successes, and Challenges

Speaker: Dean Judson, U.S. Census Bureau

Discussant: John Czajka, Mathematical Policy Research, Inc.

Chair: Pat Cantwell, U.S. Census Bureau

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 11, 2003, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Conference Room 7, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see notice at the end of this announcement.

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

Abstract: The purpose of this presentation is to document the scope of administrative records use at the Census Bureau both historically and currently, and to describe the Statistical Administrative Records System (StARS) and Administrative Records Experiment in 2000 (AREX 2000). This presentation is an introduction to these two attempts to simulate an "administrative records census", and serves as an introduction to the following presentation, which will focus on evaluation. I first describe the StARS design for 1999 and 2000, describing challenges in using administrative records data, then describe the specific aspects of the administrative records experiment. I conclude by describing how the demographic results of the StARS and AREX experiments compare to national, state, and county level Census 2000 data.

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NCI Statistical Colloquia

The National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Prevention sponsors a monthly Statistical Colloquia Series. This season's schedule should be of interest to many of you. Check the website below for updates including abstracts as they are posted. Address: Executive Plaza North; Conference Room G (usually); 6130 Executive Boulevard Rockville, Maryland. Bring photo ID, and check in with the guards at the entrance.

date	speaker	topic
02/05/03	Joseph Ibrahim	Bayesian analysis of gene expression micro-arrays
03/05/03	Robert Gentleman	Preprocessing and analysis of gene expression microarrays
04/02/03	Sue Marcus	Selection bias in the design of randomized clinical trials

For Additional Information
Office of Preventive Oncology
301-496-8640

On the Web
DCP Stat Series:
<http://www3.cancer.gov/prevention/pob/fellowship/colloquia.html>

Program Abstract

BTS Confidentiality Series Seminars

- Title:** Overview of New Legislation Protecting the Confidentiality of Statistical Information and Statistical Disclosure Limitation Methodology
- Presenter:** Nancy Kirkendall, Director, Statistical Methods Group, EIA
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 12, 2003, noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Location:** US Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, 400-7th St., SW, Room 6200, Washington DC (L'Enfant Plaza Metro Stop -- follow signs to the Department of Transportation exit at 7th and D Streets, SW). Please use Southwest entrance of the building (see Notice at the end of this announcement).
- Abstract:** In December 2002 President Bush signed into law HR 2458 the E-Government Act of 2002. Title V of this Act, the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2002, provides uniform safeguards to protect the confidentiality of information provided by the public for statistical purposes regardless of which agency collects the data. The speaker will give an overview of CIPSEA, describe the impact of CIPSEA on EIA, and discuss the questions that EIA sent to OMB about CIPSEA.
- Dr. Kirkendall will also provide an introduction to statistical disclosure limitation methodology. OMB's Statistical Policy Working Paper (SPWP) #22, "Report on Statistical Disclosure Limitation Methodology," will serve as the foundation. The speaker chaired the subcommittee that authored SPWP # 22.

Notice about BTS Confidentiality Series Seminars

All visitors to the Department of Transportation's Nassif Building, 400-7th St., SW, Washington, DC; (L'Enfant Plaza Metro Stop -- follow signs to the Department of Transportation exit at 7th and D Streets, SW) should enter at the Southwest entrance. Please bring a photo ID (federal employees must have federal ID). Procedures differ depending on the employer:

For federal employees: Please show your federal ID to the guard at the Southwest entrance, go through security, and then proceed to the seminar room (the first number indicates the floor that the conference room is located).

For non-federal identification: DOT security procedures require BTS to provide a list of attendees who are not federal employees prior to the seminar. Therefore, if you plan to attend the seminar and are not employed by the federal government, please provide your name, name of employer, and phone number to either Neil Russell (neil.russell@bts.gov) or Virginia de Wolf (virginia.dewolf@bts.gov) by COB of Tuesday, February 7. On the day of the seminar, please report to the Southwest entrance of the Nassif Building at 11:45 am so that you can be escorted to the seminar room.

Program Abstract

- Topic: **Some Advances in ARIMA-Model-Based Decomposition of Time Series (Including Seasonal Adjustment)**
- Speakers: Agustín Maravall, Bank of Spain
- Discussant: Keith Ord, Georgetown University
- Chair: David Findley, U.S. Census Bureau
- Date/Time: Thursday, February 13, 2003; 12:30 - 2:00 PM
- Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 10, Postal Square Building (PSB), 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. Please use the First St., NE, entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see "Notice" at the end of this announcement.
- Sponsor: Economics Section

Abstract: In the early 1980s, a new approach to seasonal adjustment was suggested, namely, the Arima-model-based (AMB) method (Burman, 1980; Hillmer and Tiao, 1982; among others). The method consisted of, first, identifying the Arima model for the observed series; second, decomposing the model into (unobserved) trend-cycle, seasonal, and irregular components, which also follow Arima-type models; and third, estimating the components by means of the Wiener-Kolmogorov filter extended to non-stationary series.

Twenty years later, the approach seems to have come of age. The presentation will describe some of its main features and illustrate how it can answer questions relevant for the analyst, and for economy-watchers and policy-makers.

Two extensions of the approach to fields different from seasonal adjustment will also be presented. One, to business-cycle estimation, will illustrate the complementarity of "ad-hoc" and AMB filtering. The second, to quality control of data, will illustrate application of the automatic regression-ARIMA model identification procedure on a very large scale (perhaps millions of series).

Notice

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e-mail name, affiliation, and name of seminar to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after "wss") by noon 1 day ahead or call 202-691-7524 at least 2 days ahead and leave a message. Finally, bring a photo ID.

Program Abstract

Topic: The NASS Question Repository System

Speakers: Daniel G. Beckler, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2003, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Room 7

Sponsor: WSS Data Collection Methods Section

Abstract: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys annually on the nation's farmers and agribusinesses. For most surveys multiple questionnaire versions are needed to address differences in agriculture between states. The questionnaires also need to be developed for multiple data collection modes: mail, telephone/CATI, and most recently the World Wide Web. In order to efficiently create the numerous questionnaires needed for all of the survey, state and mode combinations, NASS is developing a client-server based Question Repository System (QRS). The QRS includes a user interface to build properly formatted questions for the various modes; these questions are then stored in a database. The stored questions are then retrieved and used to build questionnaires, which may be saved, printed or ported to a Web server. This seminar discusses the capabilities and some technical details of the QRS.

A new list of attendees of WSS seminars at the Bureau of Labor Statistics begins January 2, 2003 (the previous list will be discarded). If you plan to attend a seminar at BLS, you will need to do one of the following at least by noon 1 day ahead: (1) e-mail name, affiliation, and name of seminar to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') or (2) call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Finally, bring a photo ID. NOTE: Once on the list, you need not contact BLS for subsequent seminars through March 31, 2003.

EMPLOYMENT

SENIOR COMPUTER SCIENTIST/STATISTICIAN RESEARCH POSITION

Applications and nominations are invited for one senior research position in computer science or statistics at the U.S. Census Bureau in the Washington, D.C. area. The senior position of Principal Researcher involves research, consulting, and directing the work of less experienced researchers. It requires a Ph.D. in computer science, statistics, or a closely related field and a substantial record of original research in information retrieval, data analysis, data mining, data visualization, and graphical display of data, including publications. The 2002 salary range is \$78,265-\$119,682 depending on qualifications and experience.

The selected individual will serve as Principal Researcher and Technical Leader of the Computing Research Group of the Statistical Research Division and oversee multiple related projects led by other researchers. The individual will have knowledge of statistics, possess outstanding competence, and demonstrate ability to initiate and perform research and development activities in the areas listed above. Products of this position are research efforts and applications affecting data products from all of the Census Bureau's censuses and sample surveys. The researcher also provides consultation, training, and documentation of methods and software developed and so must have good communication and personal skills.

For further information or to start the application process, please contact Rob Creecy, Statistical Research Division, Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-9100 or rob.creecy@census.gov, or call 301-457-4972. U.S. citizenship is required

Program Abstract

- Title:** Evaluation Results of an Administrative Records Census Experiment
- Speakers:** Harley Heimovitz and Mark Bauder, U.S. Census Bureau
- Discussant:** John Czajka, Mathematical Policy Research, Inc.
- Chair:** Pat Cantwell, U.S. Census Bureau
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 19, 2003, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Conference Room 10, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see notice at the end of this announcement.
- Sponsor:** WSS Methodology Section
- Abstract:** The Administrative Records Experiment in 2000 (AREX 2000) was an attempt to simulate an administrative records census using data from seven federal databases, supplemented by field and processing operations. This presentation describes the results of the AREX 2000 evaluations, comparing county, tract, block, and household tallies between administrative records and Census 2000 results. The evaluations focused on two key issues important to the Census Bureau and federal program administrators: Can administrative records data be used to develop small area, intercensal estimates of the population and its composition? To what extent can administrative records data substitute for costly non-response followup operations in a decennial census?
- The evaluations compare alternative enumeration methods and assess our field, processing, and imputation operations. We present tabular, model, and geospatial support that administrative records provide good estimates of Census counts at larger geographies, with greater accuracy using the "bottom-up" enumeration method. The results also suggest that administrative records addresses and households have potential use in the nonresponse followup or imputation phase of a traditional census. AREX processing deficiencies are investigated and confirm known problems in identifying selected demographic groups. Identifying these deficiencies has allowed us to revise and improve our methodology.

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Program Abstract

Title: Improving the Quality of Surveys

Speaker: David Marker, Westat

Discussant: Steven B. Cohen, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Chair: Amrut Champaneri, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 19, 2003, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Conference Room 1, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see Notice at the end of this announcement.

Sponsor: WSS Quality Assurance and Physical Sciences Section

Abstract: There have been a number of conferences in the last few years focusing on improving the quality of surveys (Stockholm and Ottawa in 2001, Copenhagen in 2002). There are a great many ways to improve the quality of surveys, too many to be covered in one presentation. This keynote presentation from the International Conference on Improving Surveys will focus its discussion on three general topics: response rates, technological changes, and continuous improvement, particularly through communications. Improving response rates has been the topic of numerous papers and conferences. Surveys are being dramatically altered by changes in technology. We discuss three types of technological change, the Internet, mobile telephones, and handheld computers. Communication has not commonly been discussed, but is fundamental to successfully improving surveys.

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EMPLOYMENT

Statistician

The Aviant Group is a provider of contract staffing to Fortune 100 - 1000 companies in the Engineering and IT arenas. We are seeking a Part Time Ph.D. statistician with experience in clinical trials. This is for the NHLBI project at the National Institutes of Health. Required Skills: Ph.D. , Clinical Trials experience, experimental analysis, and the use of survival curves.

Contact:

Michael Thornton
Sr. Technical Career Consultant
The Aviant Group
Office Phone: 877 418-3737 or 703-506-8399 ext.224
Fax: 703 506-8388
<mailto:ThorntonM@aviant.com>
<http://www.aviant.com>
Are you a Wizard? Go see: <http://www.aviant.com/challenge.html>

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson.ipr@verizon.net or (703) 979-1191.

U. S. CENSUS BUREAU

TIME SERIES RESEARCH POSITION

Applications and nominations are invited for one senior and one or more junior or intermediate research positions in time series analysis at the U.S. Census Bureau in the Washington D.C. area. The senior position of Principal Researcher is in the Statistical Research Division and involves research, consulting, and directing the work of less experienced researchers. It requires a Ph.D. in Statistics or a closely related field and a substantial record of original research in time series analysis including publications. The 2002 salary range is \$78,265-\$119,682 depending on qualifications and experience. The other positions require at least a Master's degree in Statistics or a closely related field, course work in time series analysis, significant statistical computing experience, and ability to conduct research. The 2002 salary range is \$46,469-\$73,269 depending on qualifications and experience.

The Census Bureau's methods and software for time series modeling and seasonal adjustment are used world-wide in government, industry, and academia. The available positions are on the staffs responsible for the further development, testing, training, and support of such methods and software for the Census Bureau's many economic surveys. Research topics of current interest include state space modeling with sampling error components; non-Gaussian modeling for signal extraction; statistical graphics and other diagnostics for seasonal adjustment; automatic selection methods for ARIMA models, regressors and outlier treatments; and issues involved with the seasonal adjustment of short time series. The researchers also provide consultation, training, and documentation of methods and software developed and so must have good communication and personal skills.

For further information or to start the application process, please contact David F. Findley, Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233-9100 or david.f.findley@census.gov, or call 301-457-4983. U.S. citizenship is required.

U S A B I L I T Y

RESEARCH POSITION

Applications and nominations are invited for one senior or intermediate research position in usability at the U.S. Census Bureau in the Washington D.C. area. The senior position of Principal Researcher involves research, consulting, and directing the work of less experienced researchers. It requires a Ph.D. in Psychology or a closely related field and a substantial record of original research in human-computer interaction including publications. The 2002 salary range is \$78,265-\$119,682 depending on qualifications and experience. An intermediate level position would require a Ph.D. in Psychology or a closely related field and significant consulting and research in the behavioral sciences. The 2002 salary range is \$55,694-\$86,095 depending on qualifications and experience.

The Census Bureau's Usability Laboratory maintains an active program of human-computer interaction research and service for Census Bureau applications. The Usability Laboratory sponsors and conducts research to discover good design principles and evaluation methods for human-computer interactions. We put the principles and methods into practice by constructing and evaluating user interfaces that maximize human capabilities and satisfaction. Recent service projects have focused on the design and evaluation of user interfaces to electronic questionnaires, knowledge databases, and data dissemination web sites at the Census Bureau. We assist projects in implementing the user-centered design process, including user profiling, task analysis, setting usability goals, creating design guidelines, quick testing of early prototypes, expert or heuristic reviews, usability testing, and post-release performance monitoring. Recent R&D efforts have addressed remote usability testing, guidelines and style guides, eye tracking, map-based interfaces to statistical data, navigating electronic questionnaires, error messages for electronic questionnaires, and response rates to surveys with web questionnaire options. The researcher must have good communication and personal skills.

For further information or to start the application process, please contact Kent Marquis, Human Factors and Usability Research Group, Statistical Research Division, Census Bureau, Washington, D C 20233-9100 or kent.hammond.marquis@census.gov, or call 301-457-4719. U.S. citizenship is required.

The Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer .



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