

Applied Demography

Population Association of America

Applied Demography Interest Group Newsletter

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR! 2003 PAA ACTIVITIES

By Stanley Smith, University of Florida
Chair, PAA Committee on Applied Demography

The annual meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) will be held in Minneapolis (at the Hilton Minneapolis) from April 30 to May 3, 2003. The Committee on Applied Demography (CAD) is planning a number of activities during our time in the Twin Cities. We invite you to attend any or all of these activities and to share this information with colleagues or students who might have an interest in applied demography:

Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 30, 4:00-6:00 PM
Directors Row 4 (Third Floor)

We will discuss the applied demography sessions scheduled for this year's PAA meeting, ideas for sessions at next year's meeting, ways to make the PAA and CAD more useful to applied demographers, and a variety of other topics. This meeting is open to all interested persons.

Reception

Thursday, May 1, 6:30-8:00 PM
Duluth Room (Third Floor)

Sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Population Reference Bureau, this reception will feature—in addition to food and drink—a panel discussion on “Careers in Applied Demography.” Panelists will include Shelley Lapkoff (Lapkoff and Gobalet Demographic Research), Peter Morrison (Peter Morrison, RAND), Martha McMurray (Minnesota State Planning Agency), Bill O'Hare (Annie E. Casey Foundation), and Signe Wetrogan (U.S. Census Bureau). The reception will provide an opportunity for graduate students and recent graduates to learn more about job opportunities in applied demography. It also will be a chance for current practitioners to exchange ideas and swap “war stories” with other demographers.

Applied Demography Breakfast

Friday, May 2, 7:00-8:20 AM
Conrad A (Second Floor)

Jay Siegel will be the featured speaker, discussing “Official Multilingualism in the United States: Where Is It Going?” As a former PAA president, Jay has a vast storehouse of knowledge based on his career as a teacher, researcher, writer, and policy maker. This breakfast is open to everyone, but requires a ticket purchased at registration (\$20).

Selected Sessions of Interest

The following PAA sessions may be of particular interest to applied demographers:

Thursday, May 1

8:30-10:20 AM – “Communicating Results to Decision-Oriented Audiences: Practical Approaches and Lessons Learned.”

10:30 AM-12:20 PM – “Confidentiality, Privacy and Ethical Issues.”

1:30-3:20 PM – “The Demography of Race and Ethnicity in the Twenty-First Century.”

3:30-5:20 PM – “GIS and Spatial Models.”

Friday, May 2

8:30-10:20 AM – “Beyond the Basics: Estimating and Projecting Characteristics Other than Age, Sex and Race.”

10:30 AM-12:20 PM – “Small Area Population Estimates and Projections.”

12:30-2:20 PM – “Race and Identity in the 2000 Census.”

12:30-2:20 PM – “Innovations in Population and Household Forecasting.”

Saturday, May 3

8:30-10:20 AM – “Demography and Public Policy.”

10:30 AM-12:20 PM – “The American Community Survey: Current Status and Future Prospects.”

WASHINGTON UPDATE: FEDERAL STATISTICS IN THE FY2004 BUDGET

By Edward J. Spar
Executive Director, Council of Professional
Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)

Overview

It's that time of year again to take a look at what's happening with federal statistical budgets. At one point I thought we might have FY2004 data without knowing what FY2003 looked like. Fortunately that's not the case. As you can see from the table (see below), agencies finally did receive their allocations for FY2003. Although things looked dire for this year, the statistical agencies did receive much of what they asked for. Indeed, the continuing worry—the American Community Survey—managed to receive enough funding to continue with the 750,000 sample and the 31-test site program. In general, the funding levels for FY2004 that have been proposed for the principal statistical agencies provide increases over the resources appropriated in FY2003.

Bureau of the Census

For FY2004 funding is requested for the Census Bureau's economic and demographic programs and for a re-engineered 2010 Census. For the Census Bureau's economic and demographic programs, funding is requested to: (1) support the completion of the data processing activities and product preparations associated with disseminating results of the 2002 Economic Census and the Census of Governments; (2) improve measurement of services by expanding key source data for critical quarterly and annual estimates of our nation's Gross Domestic Product; (3) offer electronic reporting for almost 100 current economic surveys; (4) provide computing capacity required for mission critical data products in the event of a disaster; and (5) implement the first new samples based on 2000 Census data for ongoing federal household surveys that gather data on topics such as crime, employment, and health. For 2010 Census planning, funding is requested to continue to: (1) conduct extensive planning, testing, and development activities to support a re-engineered 2010 Census; (2) correct the

Principal Federal Statistical Agencies (Total direct funding in millions of dollars.)

	FY2002 (Actual)	FY2003 (Estimate)	FY2004 (Request)
Bureau of the Census			
Current Programs	\$ 169.3	\$ 183.0	\$ 220.9
Periodic Programs	363.9	413.3	453.2
Survey of Program Dynamics	10.0	10.0	10.0
Children's Health Insurance Program	10.0	10.0	10.0
Bureau of Labor Statistics	474.6	492.2	512.3
Bureau of Economic Analysis	56.6	65.5	78.3
Statistics of Income, IRS	35.4	36.8	38.1
National Agricultural Statistics Service	88.4	97.5	108.5
Census of Agriculture	25.4	41.0	25.3
Economic Research Service, USDA	67.2	68.7	76.7
Energy Information Administration	78.4	80.1	80.1
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) 1/	126.8	125.9	124.6
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) 2, 3/	85.0	95.0	95.0
Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) 2/	32.3	32.1	35.8
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)	30.8	30.5	35.5
Science Resource Studies, NSF 2/	16.3	25.7	26.7

Notes:

1/ Funding levels shown for NCHS include \$23.3 million in FY2002, \$125.9 million for FY2003, and \$52.0 million for FY2004 from Public Health Service Evaluation Funds

2/ Funding levels shown for NCES, BJS, and SRS do not include S&E from other departmental sources.

3/ Funding levels for NCES do not include funding for the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Source: COPAFS (March 2003).

accuracy of map feature locations in 600 of the nation's 3,232 counties; and (3) implement the American Community Survey to collect current "long form" data instead of using a long form in the 2010 Census.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

For FY2004, work will continue to extend Producer Price Index (PPI) coverage for the first time to the construction sector of the U.S. economy and to enhance service sector coverage; to develop new industry labor and multi-factor productivity series for the service-producing sector; and to improve the statistical quality of Local Area Unemployment Statistics. BLS will continue its activities to modernize the computing systems for monthly processing of the PPI and U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes, and to improve both programs' indexes. The budget request includes a program increase to fund two Current Population Survey (CPS) supplements on key labor force issues. Work will continue on two new surveys: the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey and the American Time Use Survey. BLS will also continue work to fundamentally change the way the Consumer Price Index is revised and updated.

Bureau of Economic Analysis

For FY2004 funding is requested to move forward with critical improvements to the nation's economic accounts to: (1) accelerate the release of some of the nation's most important economic statistics to dramatically increase their usefulness to policy makers, business leaders, and other users; (2) update the U.S. Balance of Payments to recognize derivatives and other new financial instruments, and to meet U.S. statistical obligations to international organizations; (3) improve the economic accounts by acquiring monthly real-time data from private sources to fill data gaps in current measures; and (4) conduct a quarterly survey of large and volatile international services such as telecommunications, finance, and insurance.

Statistics of Income, Internal Revenue Service

Major program changes and new activities planned for FY2004 include (1) continued acquisition and installation of hardware that

will provide the capability to load the SOI population files online to provide for longitudinal analysis for the individual income tax return SOI panel files; (2) continued expansion of the amount of data available for electronic dissemination through the IRS Internet home page.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

The FY2004 budget proposal includes decreases for cyclical activities associated with the Census of Agriculture program and department-wide savings associated with consolidated buys for infrastructure and office automation. Increases include the first phase of restoration and modernization of the core agriculture estimates program; partial data acquisition costs associated with ensuring statistically defensible survey precision for small area estimates; further advancements in infrastructure and electronic data reporting under NASS's e-Government plan; and pay costs. The reduction for the Census of Agriculture reflects the decrease in activity levels realized in FY2004 due to the cyclical nature of the 5-year Census of Agriculture program. The available funding allows for final analysis, summary, and dissemination of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, scheduled for release in February 2004. The funding also supports two follow-up activities of the Census of Agriculture, the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey and the Census of Horticultural Specialties.

Economic Research Service

For FY2004 funding is requested to: (1) strengthen the economic information and analytical bases for genomics research, application, and education program decisions; and (2) develop the Security Analysis System for U.S. agriculture.

Energy Information Administration

For FY2004 funding is requested to: (1) improve the data quality of natural gas and electricity surveys; (2) redesign petroleum surveys to reflect new fuel standards; (3) complete the update of the 20-year-old survey designs for residential and commercial building energy consumption based on the 2000 Census; (4) integrate the operation of the Weekly Natural Gas Underground Storage Survey as an

ongoing EIA activity; and (5) continue development and operation of the Voluntary Greenhouse Gases survey to support the President's Initiative on Greenhouse Gases.

National Center for Health Statistics

For FY2004 funding is requested to: (1) maintain and rebuild several core data collections, including the National Health Interview Survey, which is undertaking a multi-year effort to identify the sample for household surveys for the next decade and to overhaul the basic systems through which data are collected, processed, and made available to users; (2) support the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, through which health information is obtained by direct physical examinations and laboratory test; and (3) development of a fully electronic, web-based vital statistics systems that would involve initial recording of birth and death certificates via electronic systems in hospitals and funeral homes, with secure, encrypted Internet transmission to state authorities and NCHS for translation into aggregate statistics.

National Center for Education Statistics

In FY2004 funding is requested to: (1) support new data collection for the Schools and Staffing Survey, the principal source of information on the characteristics of America's schools and the teachers and principals who work in them; (2) expand survey designs for the Study of Students and Faculty, the National Household Survey, and the October supplement to the Current Population Survey; (3) continue U.S. participation in data collections and analyses that depict international educational performance and permit comparison of United States' educational progress with those of other countries; (4) continue support for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Program and its role in the No Child Left Behind Act; and (5) improve electronic data collection and dissemination efforts.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

For FY2004, funding is requested to enhance and maintain core statistical programs, including: (1) the National Crime Victimization Survey, the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization, which plans to automate household data collection; (2)

cyber crime statistics on the incidence, magnitude, and consequences of electronic and computer crime; (3) law enforcement data from over 3,000 agencies on the organization and administration of police and sheriffs' departments; (4) nationally representative prosecution data on resources, policies, and practices of local prosecutors; (5) court and sentencing statistics, including federal and state case processing data; and (6) data on correctional populations and facilities from federal, state, and local governments.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

The BTS FY2004 budget reflects a reauthorization proposal that sharpens the agency's focus. Activities will revolve around five core data programs and two cross-cutting research programs. The data programs will develop useful, timely, and reliable freight, travel, economics, airline, and geospatial data. The research programs will develop and publish key indicators of national transportation system performance and improve statistical methods to address transportation-specific problems. Planned outputs for 2004 include: *Freight and travel flow*—replace infrequent, incomplete freight and passenger flow surveys with continuous data collection programs that fill critical gaps. *Measurement*—develop reliable indicators of transportation system performance. *Economic analysis*—explain how transportation activity, investment and disruption impact the larger economy. *Geospatial data*—map transportation and related data for planning, policy, and homeland and national security. *Airlines statistics*—deliver timely data and analysis on airline activity, performance, and financial condition.

Sciences Resource Studies, National Science Foundation

Priorities for FY2004 build on prior efforts to improve the quality, relevance, and timeliness, and accessibility of SRS products, continue the redesign of major components of SRS data collections, and implement such redesigns. SRS will begin data collection of the National Survey of College Graduates 2003. Data collection will continue through much of FY2004 and initial data processing will also be undertaken. During FY2003, efforts to improve and redesign the Survey of Research and Development Expenditures at Universities and

Colleges and the Survey of Graduate Students and Post Doctorates in Science and Engineering continued. Improvements to both surveys will be implemented on an ongoing basis during FT 2004 concurrent with major multi-year redesign efforts for both surveys. In FY2004, SRS will begin a comprehensive study of the feasibility of developing a new ongoing survey to collect information about individuals in post doctorate positions. SRS will continue in FY2004 to conduct other survey and analytical activities that produce the information for carrying out the NSF statutory mandate, for meeting the Tools strategic outcome goal of providing “broadly accessible, state of the art and shared research and education tools,” and for developing Science and Engineering Indicators and Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering. In FY2004, SRS will continue to explore options for the redesign of an ongoing mechanism to obtain current information on public attitudes toward science and engineering for inclusion in the Science and Engineering Indicators report.

UPGRADES TO THE CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY WEBSITE

By Rachel A. Gordon, University of Illinois

The Child and Family Policy website (www.igpa.uillinois.edu/cfp) at the University of Illinois at Chicago has been upgraded. The mission of the website is to centralize information about pursuing a career in child and family policy. We cover the diversity of such careers, which can be pursued across private, non-profit, academic, and government settings and can begin with formal training or through experiential learning in internships, fellowships, volunteer positions, or jobs at all life stages. PAA members may use the site either to post information about their programs and openings or to search for such opportunities. In the academic section, the site includes public policy, social work, applied sociology, and applied developmental science programs. Information can be posted about

degree-granting programs, faculty searches, and post-doc openings, among others. The site is funded through institutional support and foundation grants (from the Foundation for Child Development and the William T. Grant Foundation). It is wholly non-commercial—no fees are charged and nothing is sold.

CASEY FOUNDATION UPDATES CENSUS DATABASE ON CHILDREN

By Mark Mather and Kelvin Pollard, Population Reference Bureau

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has updated their interactive online database to highlight data on children and families from the 2000 Census. The KIDS COUNT website includes social and economic data on children from the 2000 Census for states, counties, cities (population greater than 100,000), congressional districts, American Indian/Alaska Native/Hawaiian Home Lands, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and New England towns.

The data are from the 2000 Census long form, which was sent to one-sixth of all households nationwide.

Among the topics included are:

- Income and poverty
- Parental employment
- Education
- Language
- Disability
- Neighborhood characteristics

The data add to the statistics already on the website, which come from the 2000 Census short form that was sent to all U.S. households.

For more information: The KIDS COUNT website is available at www.aecf.org/kidscount/.

BERNAN ANNOUNCES BOOK PUBLICATION

Patricia C Becker, Editor: *A Statistical Portrait of the United States: Social Conditions and Trends.*

A Statistical Portrait presents a wide range of authoritative statistics accompanied by charts, tables, and graphics. These research aids, along with insightful narrative analysis, paint a compelling and sometimes surprising portrait of social and economic trends over the past 25 years. Each chapter covers a different topic relating to life in the United States: population; education; labor force; voting; health; households and families; crime and criminal justice; income, wealth and poverty; leisure, volunteerism, and religiosity; government; and housing. This 450-page hardcover is available for \$147 from www.bernan.com, ISBN 0-89059-584-4.

AMERISTAT WEBSITE UPDATED WITH NEW CENSUS INFORMATION

By Mark Mather and Kelvin Pollard, Population Reference Bureau

The Population Reference Bureau, along with Bill Frey and his colleagues at the University of Michigan's Social Science Data Analysis Network, have updated the AmeriStat website (www.ameristat.org) with data on marriage and families from the Census Bureau's March 2002 Current Population Survey. The site includes updated articles and data on female-headed households, people living alone, marriage and earnings, and other topics. The website also includes new data from the 2000 Census and updated fertility and mortality data from the National Center for Health Statistics.

AmeriStat is designed to provide web surfers with instant summaries—in graphics and text—of the demographic characteristics of the U.S. population. (Visitors to AmeriStat also are provided links to other websites for additional, more detailed information.) Besides the 2000 Census, other topics on the website include:

- Children
- Education
- Labor/Employment
- Fertility
- Foreign-Born
- Income/Poverty

- Marriage/Family
- Migration
- Mortality
- Older Population
- Estimates/Projections
- Race/Ethnicity

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY **Research Associate**

The Population Reference Bureau seeks an individual who will be responsible for collecting, compiling, analyzing, and reporting data and research about U.S. children and their families.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Analyze state-level data from the federal statistical system (including Census 2000, vital statistics, and major national surveys) to produce trends data on indicators of child and family well-being, with documentation, short explanatory articles, and relevant links, for KIDS COUNT website.
- Contribute to new Center for Information on Rural Children and Families, by SAS programming; producing tables, figures, and graphs on demographic, economic, and social trends and differences; and writing and editing short articles for web and print publications.
- Serve as member of PRB Information Services team, responding to inquiries on demographic topics from press, officials, and general public, and organize PRB seminar series.
- Contribute to other PRB research and public information projects on U.S. population trends and their implications.

Qualifications:

- Masters degree in sociology, economics, demography, public health, public policy or related fields; Ph.D. preferred.
- Experience working with demographic and economic data.
- 2+ years research experience, ideally on topics related to the status and welfare of children and their families.
- Good working knowledge of the federal statistical system (particularly decennial census, American Community Survey, Current Population Survey, vital statistics, and other sources).
- Good written and oral communications skills.
- Demonstrated proficiency in using word processing, database, and statistical software (preferably SAS) to describe, summarize, and analyze data.
- Ability to work independently but in collegial fashion.

Salary & Benefits: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. PRB has an excellent benefits package, including generous health, leave, and retirement plans. The level of experience in domestic issues will determine salary and grade level.

Applications: Please send resume with salary requirements to HR Specialist, Population Reference Bureau, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20009, USA, or fax to 202-328-3937.

LOOKING BACK AT ATLANTA...SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF PAA 2002

All photos by Kelvin Pollard, Population Reference Bureau.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000 AND CENSUS 2010 Highlights from Annual Breakfast Talk

At the annual breakfast talk of the Committee of Applied Demography (CAD), Bill Barron, former Acting Director of the U.S. Census Bureau (now with Princeton University), discussed the 2000 census and plans for the 2010 headcount.

Among the highlights:

- Dr. Barron praised the efforts of the Bureau's Population Division towards making the 2000 census "the most successful in history."
- Dr. Barron talked about the Bureau's decision not to adjust the 2000 census for undercount, noting problems with the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation (ACE) results. He defended the use of Demographic Analysis in assessing the accuracy of the census, and promised that research on the ACE would continue.
- According to Dr. Barron, the 2000 experience called attention to the need for a better way to take a census. He cited in particular the planned efforts for 2010, of which the American Community Survey would be a major focus.
- Dr. Barron concluded his talk by stating that the nation's federal statistical system needed to be about "speaking the truth" about the country.

CAD would like to thank Dr. Barron for providing a very informative discussion.

Photos from the PAA Annual Mixer and the Applied Demography Interest Group Reception.

The Committee on Applied Demography thanks the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Population Reference Bureau for their sponsorship of the Applied Demography reception.



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