

SRDG NEWSLETTER

February 1978
Number 30

The Southern Regional Demographic Group is sponsored by Oak Ridge Associated Universities. The *Newsletter* is compiled and edited by William J. Serow, Tayloe Murphy Institute, University of Virginia.

SRDG News

Report on the 1977 Annual Meeting

The eighth annual meeting of SRDG was held at the Holiday Inn-Oceanbeach in Virginia Beach, October 19-21, 1977. More than 140 persons registered for the meeting, making it the largest in SRDG's history. More than 110 persons appeared on the program, which covered such topics as fertility, mortality, migration, data needs for fertility policy, the future population of the United States, studies in southern demography, the demography of developing nations, data applications, and the interpretation of demographic data. There was, in addition, an open forum dealing with the teaching of population geography at the undergraduate level. Special thanks are due to the local arrangements committee—Leon Bouvier and Jeanne Biggar—as well as to the staff of the Holiday Inn for their assistance. The 1977 program chairman was William Serow.

1977-78 Executive Committee

The expiration of the terms of Dudley L. Poston (University of Texas) and Jeanne C. Biggar (University of Virginia), president and vice president, respectively, of SRDG for the past two years, resulted in a change of SRDG officers. Individuals holding these positions are chosen by the executive committee according to the bylaws of SRDG. According to the results of the 1977 election of executive committee members, Gladys K. Bowles (U.S. Department of Agriculture) and William J. Serow (University of Virginia) were elected to the committee. Continuing

committee members are Anne S. Lee (University of Georgia), Leon Bouvier (U.S. Bureau of the Census), Richard A. Engels (U.S. Bureau of the Census), Philip L. Johnson (Oak Ridge Associated Universities), and Robert H. Weller (Florida State University). The executive committee for 1977-78 has appointed Bouvier and Lee to serve as president and vice president, respectively, for 1977-78.

In a related development, SRDG's secretary-treasurer Harry M. Rosenberg announced his resignation, effective at the close of the 1977 business meeting. Rosenberg's resignation was accepted, and Serow was appointed to the position. According to SRDG's bylaws, Serow's appointment created a vacancy on the executive committee; Rosenberg was appointed to fill this vacancy until the next scheduled election.

Nomination Committee Appointed

The executive committee has appointed the following members to serve as the nominating committee for 1977-78: Thomas J. Espenshade as chairman (Florida State University), Julia H. Martin (University of Virginia), and Thomas Ford (University of Kentucky). The committee has been charged with nominating at least six members of SRDG to stand for election for the three executive committee places that will become vacant next year. The positions consist of two three-year terms and one two-year term. The election will be a mail ballot to be conducted in 1978.

Cahill to Serve as 1978 Program Chairman

The executive committee announced the appointment of Edward E. Cahill (University of Tennessee-Chattanooga) to serve as program chairman for the 1978 annual meeting of SRDG. The 1978 meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, on October 11-13. Details of the program and calls for papers will be published in forthcoming issues of the *Newsletter*, but in the meantime Cahill asks all members to send him any comments or suggestions they might have regarding the program.

Dr. Edward E. Cahill
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Tennessee
at Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Executive Committee Meeting

In addition to its appointments for 1977-78, the SRDG executive committee conducted various other business at its meeting in Virginia Beach on October 21. Dudley Poston reported he had been asked to serve as a discussion leader for a luncheon roundtable at the 1978 PAA meeting. The theme of this roundtable will be the history of SRDG and its current role as an emerging regional demographic organization. Additional SRDG exposure at the PAA meeting will be in the form of a panel discussion on "Sunbelt Demography," which will be chaired by Robert H. Weller. This session will be cosponsored by SRDG and PAA.

The committee was informed that SRDG membership now stands at approx-

imately 250 and that the treasury has an unencumbered balance of approximately \$1000. While these data reflect continuing strength of SRDG, efforts are being made to broaden the membership base. Therefore, Jeanne Biggar's membership committee is preparing a letter to go to persons who receive the *Newsletter* but are not dues paying members.

A variety of publications are in various stages of preparation and will be available to the membership in the near future. The first SRDG occasional paper, *Perspectives on State Demographic Activities*, was published at the end of November. Other works include a membership directory and "Demographic Research in the South," a compilation of responses to SRDG's continuous survey of such activities. In addition, Weller reported that he anticipates delivery of a manuscript, tentatively titled *Population Change in the South*, to the publisher in the spring of 1978. This is a collection of papers stemming from several sessions at the 1976 SRDG annual meeting.

A variety of additional committee appointments were made. Richard Engels will chair a committee to deal with future occasional papers; Anne Lee and Gladys Bowles will constitute a committee to recommend changes in the bylaws to facilitate the transition between outgoing and incoming executive committees; and Robert Weller, Edward Cahill and Jeanne

Biggar will constitute a committee to consider the role of persons from non-academic institutions and small colleges and universities in the South in SRDG. This latter committee was formed in response to a directive to the executive committee made at the annual business meeting. All of these committees are scheduled to report to the executive committee during its mid-year meeting.

The committee also discussed a variety of possible meeting sites for the 1979 annual meeting, but a decision was postponed until the mid-year meeting. Members wishing to offer suggestions on meeting sites are requested to convey them to the secretary-treasurer.

Occasional Paper No. 1 Released

By this time, those individuals who paid SRDG dues for 1977 should have received a complimentary copy of SRDG's first occasional paper, *Perspectives on State Demographic Activities*. The 80-page book contains five individual papers dealing with various issues relating to state-level demographic activities in the South. The papers grew out of a session at the 1975 annual meeting. The papers include an overview of state-sponsored demographic activities in the South; the perspective of state government in demographic activities; issues in relating

to federal, state, and local governments; and an overview of federal-state cooperative activities in data gathering and dissemination. Further information on the occasional paper series is available from the secretary-treasurer. Members desiring additional copies and nonmembers wishing to purchase copies should send \$4.95 (plus 50¢ for postage and handling) to Information Services, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

An Invitation to Join the Southern Regional Demographic Group (SRDG)

The Southern Regional Demographic Group (SRDG) is an organization of university faculty and other specialists in demography and related fields. It was organized in 1970 under the auspices of Oak Ridge Associated Universities. Members of SRDG are interested in promoting demographic research and training. To be a voting member, one must indicate his interest to the SRDG secretary-treasurer (Dr. W. J. Serow, P.O. Box 6550, Charlottesville, VA 22906) with a remittance of annual dues (\$6 for a regular member and \$2 for student members. Members receive the *Newsletter*, discounts on other SRDG publications, as well as notice of the SRDG annual meeting and other related conferences, seminars, and workshops.

PAA News

SRDG Members to Assume PAA Offices

As a result of the 1977 election of officers of the Population Association of America, two members of SRDG assumed duties on January 1, 1978. Charles B. Nam of Florida State University, who served as SRDG's vice chairperson in 1974-75, was elected to the office of president-elect. Current executive committee member Anne S. Lee of the University of Georgia was elected to the PAA board of directors. Other persons elected to PAA offices include the following: Jacob S. Siegel, first vice president; David M. Goldberg, second vice president; Wendy H. Baldwin, Peter A. Morrison, and Robert G. Potter, members, board of directors; Kingsley Davis, Sidney Goldstein, and Valerie K. Oppenheimer, members, nominating committee; and Basil G. Zimmer, member, publications committee.

The South in the News

Southern Farm Population Continues To Decline

Estimates of the farm population of the United States for 1976 show that the number of southerners living on farms has declined to 2.9 million. This represents a decline of 24 percent from the 1970 level of 3.8 million. The decline in the South was substantially greater than that experienced by the other census regions during this period. The share of all farm residents living in the South has declined from 39 percent in 1970 to 35 percent in 1976. As recently as 1950, more than half the nation's farm population were southerners. Between 1975 and 1976 alone, the farm population of the South declined by nearly 300,000 persons, or 9 percent of the 1975 level. This decline was somewhat greater than the 7-percent decline experienced by the northeastern and north central regions. The farm

population of the West did not change significantly during the year.

Source: Vera J. Banks, "Farm Population Estimates for 1976," *Agricultural Economic Report*, No. 383, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Number of Southern Households Increases

The number of households in the South has risen by 20 percent since 1970 according to recent estimates by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. In 1976, 23.1 million of the nation's 73.3 million households were located in the South. The rapid increase in the number of southern households mirrored a similar increase in the West and exceeded the increases in the northeastern and north central regions. The increases in these regions are attributable not only to popu-

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lation redistribution towards the West and South, but also to a rapid increase in the overall rate of household formation and substantial increases in the number of primary individuals. Reflecting these changes, the average number of persons per household in the South was 2.91 in 1976, essentially the same as the national average (2.90). In 1970, there were 3.17 persons per household in the nation and 3.21 in the South.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census,

"Estimates of the Number of Households for States: 1975 and 1976," Series P-25, No. 710; and "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1970," Series P-20, No. 218.

Energy and Southern Growth

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta has reported in a recent study that the industrial composition of the southeastern economy suggests rising energy costs may have a stronger impact in the

South than on the nation as a whole. Heavy use of petroleum and natural gas will be discouraged, but southeastern industries are relatively dependent upon these fuel sources, compared with industry in other portions of the nation. In the short run, at least, fuel consumption will be shifted to nonpetroleum sources (especially coal), but coal-burning facilities are relatively scarce in the South. The increased costs associated with either conversion to coal or the increase of prices to absorb increasing energy costs are uncertainties that cloud definitive conclusions on the future of economic growth in the South.

Source: James T. Fergus, "Energy Dependence and Southeastern Economic Growth: An Input-Output Analysis," Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, *Economic Review*, September-October, 1977.

Higher Education Projections

Enrollments in postsecondary educational institutions in the South are projected to increase by 9 percent by 1985 according to a recent study by the Southern Regional Education Board. Comparable data for the entire nation show an increase of only 2 percent. In both cases, relatively large increases are expected between 1975 and 1985 (12 percent and 7 percent, respectively), followed by modest declines during the following quinquennium. Over the entire decade, total enrollment in southern institutions are forecast to rise by some 265,000. The total increase for the entire nation will be only 234,000, suggesting an absolute decline in nonsouthern enrollment. The reasons for the relative rise in the South are continuing population redistribution and relative increases in the rate of postsecondary enrollment among southerners. The report goes on to suggest changes in the composition of enrollment in terms of age, race, sex, full versus part-time enrollment, and type (two- and four-year, public, and private) of institution. Finally, the report suggests that the annual number of new faculty needed in all southern institutions will decline from 8800 in 1977 to 3600 in 1985. Copies of the complete report, "A Profile of Higher Education in the South in 1985," by David S. Spence are available for \$1.50 from Southern Regional Education Board, 130 Sixth Street, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30313.

(continued on page 4)

Demographic Research in the South

Key Topics: Education, Models

Area Focus: National, U.S.

Title: A Test of Demographic Accounting Methods with U.S. Data on Education

Principal Investigator: Abbott L. Ferriss

Institution: Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Sources of Support: National Science Foundation

Study Period: 6/1/76-2/28/78

Brief Description: A test of the applicability of the United Nation's proposed System of Social and Demographic Statistics to U.S. data on education to determine whether U.S. data are adequate to activate the model and to identify practical modifications in the educational statistical system and/or alternative models.

Key Topic: Fertility

Area Focus: The Nation

Title: The Realization of Family Size Goals by American Women

Principal Investigator: Robert H. Weller

Institution: Center for the Study of Population, Institute for Social Research, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Source of Support: Contract

Study Period: 1976-1978

Brief Description: This research examines the extent to which births to American women are wanted, the sociodemographic characteristics of women who have unwanted births, and the extent of timing failures among the various categories of women. It also examines the distribution of excess, congruent, and deficit fertility and compares the observed child-bearing history of various birth cohorts with their expected histories under various simulated conditions involving their stated number and timing desires.

The data were gathered as part of the first National Family Growth Survey. A report based upon the analyses will be published in *Vital and Health Statistics*.

Southern Rates of Unemployment Low

According to preliminary data for August 1977, the overall rate of unemployment for southern workers was 5.5 percent, somewhat lower than the national level of 6 percent. The lowest rate of unemployment occurred among workers living in the north central region, where only 5 percent were jobless. Rates of unemployment were about 7 percent in the northeastern and western portions of the nation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Within the southern region, overall unemployment was lowest in the east south central division (5 percent), followed by the west south central and south Atlantic divisions (5.5 and 5.8 percent, respectively). At the state level, unemployment ranged from below 5 percent in Oklahoma, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina to 7 percent or more in Louisiana, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

Source: "State and Metropolitan Area Unemployment: August 1977," U.S. Department of Labor, *News*, October 17, 1977.

Southern Growth Policies Board Meets in Oklahoma

The annual meeting of the Southern Growth Policies Board was held on October 17-19 in Oklahoma City, OK. Featured at the meeting were in-depth examinations of economic conditions and population changes in the South. A series of workshops on the theme of "Southern Conditions and Priorities" was also part of the meeting. Issues considered at the workshops included a look at fast-growing and declining cities, regional economic development, financial impacts on the South from federal formula changes, and the relationship of energy resources to southern growth. Further details are available from the Board at P.O. Box 12293, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

News Items

ORAU Report on Projections

Oak Ridge Associated Universities (sponsor of SRDG) has recently issued the proceedings of a conference held at Oak Ridge in 1975 dealing with the state of the art of small-area [population] forecasting as applied to the problems of planning. The proceedings are divided

into three major sections: the first contains two overview papers describing the general nature of alternative projecting techniques and sources of data; the second describes three methods (mathematical extrapolation, cohort-component, and labor market models) in somewhat greater detail; the third and final section discusses the applications and necessities of small-area forecasting with particular reference to the energy, education, transportation, and health care sectors. Copies of the report are available from ORAU at P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Data File on Family Growth

A public-use computer data file from the 1973 Survey of Family Growth-Cycle 1 (NSFG-1) is now available from the National Center for Health Statistics for \$500. NSFG-1 is comparable to the earlier Growth of American Families and National Fertility Surveys. For further information, contact John E. Patterson, Director, Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782, (301-436-8731).

Population/Food Fund Announces Conferences

The Population/Food Fund announces two conferences dealing with global population issues to be held in 1978. These conferences are part of the Capon Springs Public Policy Series. The first conference, dealing with population and food policy, will be held at the International Inn in Washington, D.C., on February 22-24. The second, which will be concerned with resource and environmental policy, will be held at the same location on September 13-15. Further details on both conferences are available from Dr. Eliot Glassheim, Box 255 University Station, Grand Forks, ND 58202.

The Mental Health Demographic Profile System

The National Institute of Mental Health has developed the Mental Health Demographic Profile System (MHDPS) to make the decennial censuses of population and housing more useful for planning mental health and health services, basic research, and monitoring public programs. MHDPS provides social indicators such as socioeconomic status, ethnic composition, household and family structure, housing conditions, and indices of community instability. Tables and analyses

may be provided for mental health catchment areas and other user-defined units of geography, as well as traditional census geographic units. For additional information, contact Dr. Harold F. Goldsmith or Dr. David J. Jackson at Mental Health Study Center, 2340 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, MD 20783.

Data on Drug-Involved Mortality

The Institute of Behavioral Research at Texas Christian University announces the availability of data showing the relationship between demographic variables and drug-related deaths. Questions such as seasonal variation in drug-related deaths, racial composition of cities, and migration status may be addressed through secondary analysis of two data sets collected from the files of medical examiners in nine major American cities, including Dallas, Miami, and Washington. Further details may be obtained from Ms. Guelma Hopkins, The Drug Abuse Epidemiology Data Center, Institute of Behavioral Research, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129.

Nominations Sought for Myrdal Prizes

The Evaluation Research Society has announced that it will honor, through its Myrdal Prizes, three distinguished leaders in the field of evaluation: one from government, another from the sciences, and a third from the human services field. The three awards honoring Alva Myrdal, are based on these criteria. In government, the prize is awarded for creative and original leadership in the conceptualization and sponsorship of new intellectual work in the field of evaluation. In science, the prize is given to the individual having made a significant contribution to advancing the conceptualization or development of methodologies used in evaluation research. In human services delivery, the prize is given to the individual who has done the most to upgrade service delivery through the application of evaluation. Nominations are solicited for each of these prizes. Further information is available from the Chair of the Myrdal Prizes Committee, Dr. John R. Barry, Department of Psychology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. Deadline for nominations is May 1, 1978.

Short Courses Offered in Health Statistics Training and in Census Data Use

Short courses in health statistics and in census data use have been announced for the period January–March by the National Center for Health Statistics and by the Bureau of the Census.

Most of the NCHS courses are tuition-free. Students provide their own transportation, housing, and living expenses. Additional information is available from the Applied Statistics Training Institute, National Center for Health Statistics, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 2-63, Hyattsville, Md. 20782,

(301) 436-7047.

Census user training activities are arranged through the User Training Branch, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, (301) 763-5293.

Course dates, titles, sponsoring agency, and location are listed below:

Publications

Federal Agencies

Bureau of the Census(GPO)

Series P-20: Population Characteristics

"Household and Family Characteristics: March 1976," No. 311, \$3.20.

"Marriage, Divorce, Widowhood, and Remarriage by Family Characteristics: June 1975," No. 312, \$1.05.

"Households and Families by Type: March 1977" (advance report), No. 313, 35¢.

Series P-25: Population Estimates and Projections

"Estimates of the Population of the United States and Components of Change: 1940 to 1976," No. 706, 45¢.

"Estimates of the Population of Counties and Metropolitan Areas: July 1, 1974, and 1975," No. 709, \$2.90.

"Estimates of the Number of Households for States: 1975 and 1976," No. 711, 35¢.

Series P-26: Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates

This series contains final population estimates for 1975 and provisional estimates for 1976 for each county and county equivalent in the United States. There is one report for each state, numbered 76-1 (Alabama) through 76-50 (Wyoming). Each report is available for 35¢.

Series P-60: Consumer Income

"Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1976" (advance report), No. 107, 90¢.

Series H-150: Annual Housing Survey, 1975

Part F, "Financial Characteristics by Indicators of Housing and Neighborhood Quality: 1975," \$5.75.

1974 County Business Patterns and Census of Agriculture—State Volumes.

These volumes are now becoming available. The general GPO stock number for both series is 003-24-(number).

January

9-13	NCHS	Health Program Planning and Evaluation	New Orleans
16-20	NCHS	Measurement and Analysis of Vital Statistics	Los Angeles
19-27	NCHS	Research Methods in Evaluation of Health Programs	Denver
23-26	Census	Intergovernmental Seminar on Accessing Federal Statistical Resources	Washington
30-2/3	NCHS	Concepts and Principles of Medical Classification	Los Angeles

February

6-8	Census	Census Bureau Geography, Geocoding, and Geographic Base Files	Washington
6-10	NCHS	Demographic Analysis I	Seattle
13-17	NCHS	Data Sources for Cost Analysis of Health Programs	New Orleans
15	Census	Introductory Workshop on Locating Census Bureau Data in Printed Reports	Atlanta
27-3/1	NCHS	Microfilm for Vital Records	Seattle
27-3/2	Census	Seminar for Librarians on Accessing Statistical Resources from the Census Bureau and other Selected Federal Agencies	Washington

March

6-10	NCHS	Quality of Data for Health Planning	Research Triangle
6-10	NCHS	Health Survey Sampling Methods	Los Angeles
13-17	NCHS	Information Methods for Health Planning	Research Triangle
13-17	Census	Introduction to Methods of Making Population Estimates	Oklahoma City
20-21	Census	Using Census Bureau Data to Meet Federal Statistical Requirements	Washington
28	Census	Introductory Workshop on Locating Census Bureau Data in Printed Reports	Ann Arbor
30	Census	Introductory Workshop on Locating Census Bureau Data in Printed Reports	Chicago

Job Mart

In an effort to promote communication between members, the *Newsletter* will carry notices of job openings and applicants as a regular feature. Interested employers and employees are invited to send a brief (50 words) description of their availability to the editor. All such material is subject to editing to fit space requirements. The editor makes no guarantee of the accuracy of listings received.

Vacancy

Opening for economist-demographer at the assistant professor level anticipated for the academic year 1978-79; may be continued subject to budgetary authorization. Position entails half-time teaching (one course per quarter) in the Department of Economics and half-time research in the Center for the Study of Population. Prefer candidates whose teaching interests include labor force and macro-economic-demographic relations and whose research interests are on the economic consequences of population trends. Application should include a curriculum vitae and names and addresses of references. An equal opportunity employer. CONTACT: Professor Thomas J. Espenshade, Center for the Study of Population, Institute for Social Research, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.

Publications Key

(VHS) *Vital and Health Statistics* is available from the National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

(GPO) Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Questions, comments, and suggestions about the *Newsletter* should be addressed to Dr. William J. Serow, Editor, *SRDG Newsletter*, Tayloe Murphy Institute, University of Virginia, P.O. Box 6550, Charlottesville, Virginia 22906.

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