

SRDG NEWSLETTER

The Southern Regional Demographic Group, Inc. is a scientific and educational corporation operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is comprised of persons with professional interests in demography and population studies. The Newsletter is compiled and edited by Stanley K. Smith, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida.

CALL FOR PAPERS

All SRDG members and other interested persons are invited to submit papers for presentation at the 1983 SRDG meeting to be held October 19-21 in Chattanooga. The theme of this meeting will be "Federal Statistics: Believable? Accessible?" Papers dealing with any topic of general demographic interest will be considered, although preference will be given to those focusing on federal statistics. Persons wishing to have a paper considered for inclusion in the program should send two copies of a one-page abstract with the author's name, address and telephone number to Daniel O. Price, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, Greensboro, NC 27412. Members are reminded of the SRDG policy limiting each participant to one formal presentation at the annual meeting. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is May 31, 1983.

DATA AND SOFTWARE EXCHANGE

Beginning with the next issue, the Committee on Applied Demography will be sponsoring a section of the Newsletter devoted to data and software exchange for SRDG members. Although the primary focus of the exchange will be on data and software available for microcomputers, mainframe users will not be excluded. The term "software" should be liberally interpreted. Long and complicated SPSS routines, for example, may be of as much interest as programs written in more "sophisticated" languages. Similarly, an elementary microcomputer program that calculates simple descriptive statistics may be extremely helpful to someone just beginning to program, even if it does not run on his or her particular system. We hope this exchange will help eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort in locating and entering data, and that communication between the originators and the users of data sets will make users more aware of any peculiarities or problems in the data.

Two committee members have agreed to act as reporters for the exchange. Dave Jackson of the National Institute of Mental Health will be gathering information in the software area, and Mike Spar of the University of Virginia will be doing the same for data. They will be concentrating on a particular subject and/or geographical area for each issue of the Newsletter and you may expect a telephone call from one or both at any time. They have agreed to take on a time-consuming and difficult job, and the Committee on Applied Demography hopes you will support their efforts if and when they contact you. They cannot possibly contact everyone on the membership list, however, so your self-generated contributions are earnestly solicited. Dave Jackson's address is 607 Brookwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21229, telephone (301) 436-6254. Mike Spar's address is Tayloe Murphy Institute, 2015 Ivy Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903, telephone (804) 971-2661. Dave and Mike will also accept want ads for data and software from potential users of the exchange. Be sure to include cost estimates for tapes and diskettes. For further information please contact Dave, Mike or Julie Martin, chair of the Committee on Applied Demography.

SEARCH FOR NEW EDITOR

A committee to search for a new editor for the SRDG Newsletter will be appointed at the April meeting of the Board of Directors. The new editor will assume responsibilities beginning with the issue for November, 1983. For information regarding the exact nature of the duties required, please contact Stan Smith, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 221 Matherly Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, telephone (904) 392-0171. Anyone wishing to be considered for this position is urged to contact William J. Serow, Center for the Study of Population, 659 Bellamy Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, telephone (904) 644-1762.

NOMINATIONS FOR SRDG POSITIONS

The SRDG nominations committee, composed of Ken Shin (University of South Carolina), Vera Banks (U.S. Department of Agriculture) and Mohamed El-Attar (Mississippi State University), has nominated the following persons to stand for election to SRDG offices:

President-Elect

- 1) Thomas R. Ford, University of Kentucky
- 2) William J. Serow, Florida State University

Board of Directors

- 1) Kenneth Manton, Duke University
- 2) Julia H. Martin, University of Virginia
- 3) John Reid, Howard University

The election will be held this summer and those elected will take office in October 1983, the President-Elect serving one year before becoming President and the members of the Board of Directors serving three years. Under the provisions of the SRDG constitution, additional nominations may be made by members of the SRDG. Additional nominations must be in the form of a petition; must bear the signatures of at least ten active members of the SRDG; must include a letter from the nominee indicating his/her willingness to stand for election; and must be received by the secretary/treasurer of the SRDG prior to April 1, 1983. The nomination petition must explicitly state the position for which the nomination is being made. Petitions may be sent to William J. Serow, Center for the Study of Population, 659 Bellamy Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306.

SRDG BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of the SRDG will be meeting in April. If you have an item you would like to have the Board consider, please contact President Jeanne Biggar at (804) 924-7293 or Secretary-Treasurer Bill Serow at (904) 664-1762 prior to April 1. The input of SRDG members is encouraged and will be gratefully received.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

The Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin recently announced the addition of four faculty research associates. The new associates are Ellen Brennan, Assistant Professor of Anthropology; Gilberto Cardenas, Assistant Professor of Sociology; Marvin Eisen, Assistant Professor of Physical and Health Education; and Dowell Myers, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Planning. There are also two NICHD post-doctoral fellows at the Population Research Center this year: Eric Fredlund, an anthropologist from Pennsylvania State University and Ruth Cullen, a sociologist from Fordham.

NEW SOURCE OF RESEARCH FUNDS

An amendment to the Small Business Act requires all agencies of the Public Health Service and certain other federal agencies to set aside a specified amount of their research and development budgets for a Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program. The purpose of this legislation is to stimulate technological innovation and use small businesses to meet federal research and development needs. This provides an opportunity for small research firms (which may be as small as one person) to obtain funding for various kinds of demographic and health research. Potential research topics of special interest to demographers include fertility, infertility and reproductive sciences; development of contraceptives; evaluation of efficiency and safety of contraceptive methods; estimating and projecting the growth, distribution and characteristics of populations; the impact of population change on health and well-being; nutrition and early childhood development; mental retardation; and child and adolescent development.

This program is an exceptional opportunity for demographers--particularly those interested in applied topics--to tap into a substantial pool of research funds. NICHD by itself plans to make approximately 10 awards this year, with an average value around \$40,000. The amount of money available in future years will be even greater. The deadline for initial applications is March 15, 1983. Getting involved in the process before this deadline greatly increases the probability of receiving funding for a project. For further information please contact Jeff Evans at (301) 496-1174.

SRDG MEMBERS ELECTED TO PAA POSITIONS

A number of SRDG members have been elected to positions of leadership in the Population Association of America. Leon Bouvier (Population Reference Bureau) was elected to the Board of Directors, Dudley Poston (University of Texas) was elected to the Nominating Committee and Thomas Espenshade (Urban Institute) was elected to the Committee on Publications. Their terms began January 1, 1983. Our congratulations go to these members.

NEW SERIES FROM CENSUS BUREAU

The Census Bureau has introduced a new series of instructional aides designed to help students learn how to use data from the 1980 census. Called "Census 80 Product Primers" these publications will describe the content of major 1980 census products, give tips on how to use these products and provide exercises and charts. The first primer is already published and others are being prepared. For further information please contact the User Training

Branch, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233; telephone (301) 763-2370.

CENSUS BUREAU TRAINING COURSES

The Bureau of the Census is again offering a series of training courses for data users, as summarized below. For additional information on these courses please contact the Data User Services Division, User Training Branch, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, telephone (301) 763-1510. Application and payment must be received four weeks prior to the start of the course. Acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

1) Microdata from the 1980 Census.

Microdata files offer unidentified individual census records on computer tape for samples of households and persons. This course covers the geographic areas identified, data items on the files, data processing considerations, sampling variability and how these files may be used in a variety of applications. It will be offered February 24 in Washington, D.C., April 13 in Pittsburgh, May 10 in Atlanta, May 24 in Dallas and May 26 in San Francisco. Fee is \$25.

2) 1980 Census Data: An Intermediate Workshop.

This course deals with identifying, locating and analyzing data from the 1980 census. It covers map reading; using table finders and technical documentation to locate data; calculating derived variables and such basic analytic measures as means, medians and ratios; and data applications, including planning, market analysis and EEO compliance activities. This course assumes that participants have basic knowledge of 1980 census geography, content and products. It is offered May 3-4 in Washington, D.C. and June 23-24 in Los Angeles. Fee is \$50.

3) Population Projections Methodology: An Introduction.

This course provides an introduction to various methods used to produce population projections; special emphasis is placed on the cohort-component technique. It will be held from June 20-24 in Boston. Fee is \$125.

4) The Aging Population: A 1980 Census Workshop.

This workshop is designed for planners, analysts, administrators and others who need data to plan and provide services for the aging population. It includes a profile of the aging population and information on 1980 census products. Written exercises are used to tabulate data specific to the interests of each

participant. This workshop will be held on March 10-11 in Detroit and May 18-19 in Los Angeles. Fee is \$50.

5) Census Bureau Statistical Resources for Libraries.

This seminar helps documents and reference librarians locate detailed information on the programs, products and services of the Census Bureau. It will be held from April 19-22 in Washington, D.C. Fee is \$100.

6) Population Estimates Methodology: An Introduction.

This course is designed for employees of state or local governments who need to increase their knowledge of population estimates methodology. Lectures, discussion and laboratory work are used to provide a working knowledge of methods used for making estimates of states, counties, cities and small areas. This course will be held on May 16-20 in Chicago. Fee is \$125.

7) 1980 Census Computer Tape Files.

This course provides a technical introduction to 1980 census tape files for users with some computer background. It focuses on summary statistics, public-use samples and GBF/DIME files, covering availability, subject content, geographic coverage and software. It will be held on April 13-15 in Seattle. Fee is \$75.

SURVEY OF SURVIVOR FAMILIES

The 1978 "Survey of Survivor Families with Children" data file is now available for public use. A codebook and summary of preliminary findings have been published. For further information please contact the Department of Commerce, National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161.

SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGISTS MEET

The annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society will be held April 6-9 in Atlanta. A number of sessions will be of interest to demographers, including:

--"Demography: Migration." Daphne Spain, Charlottesville, VA.

--"Population and Development Policies in Third World Countries." Michael Micklin, Batelle Human Affairs Research Center.

--"Demography: Fertility and Mortality." Charles Warren, Center for Disease Control.

For additional information please contact John Ballweg, College of Arts and Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 20461, telephone (703) 961-5779.

COMMENTARY

The third year of SRDG as an independent organization began on a firm foundation, and with a creative view of the future. Nearly half of the membership participated in the annual meeting at Greensboro. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Serow reported that the SRDG is now financially secure. President Anne Lee appointed a committee to search for new ways in which the society may serve its membership. Abbott Ferris, chair of that committee, expects to complete the report of recommended directions before the Board meets at the PAA meeting in Pittsburgh. A summary of that report will be published in a future Newsletter. The 1983 Local Arrangements Chair, Edward Cahill, has organized the meeting in Chattanooga, and President-Elect Daniel Price has plans for the program underway.

This promises to be a better year for the acquisition of 1980 Census Data. The completion of the Bureau of the Census publication schedule, the broadened access to computers, and the emerging recognition of the importance of applied demography to public planning, challenge most professional demographers to busy days ahead. Nevertheless, this is also a year of limited funding for demographic analyses.

President Anne Lee pointed out last year that the SRDG could become a valuable center for establishing research networks among professional demographers at various institutions in our region. While SRDG occasional papers have published the work of several demographers in the region, we have not as yet successfully facilitated any inter-institutional research designs. Such team research could enhance

funding possibilities for the researchers involved as well as give a new type of vitality to the SRDG as a professional society. Any proposals for fostering such inter-institutional research will be considered seriously by the Board of Directors.

Jeanne C. Biggar
President, SRDG

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

All SRDG members are invited to submit items for publication in the Newsletter. Items may include information on job openings; movement of members from one job to another; announcements of seminars, workshops or meetings; and information on new sources of data and new publications. The deadline for submitting items for the May issue is April 25. Please send all items to Stanley K. Smith, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 221 Matherly Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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Center for the Study of Population
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

ANNE S. LEE
165 TIPPERARY ROAD
ATHENS, GA 30606