

# SRDG NEWSLETTER

The Southern Regional Demographic Group 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.

### CALL FOR PAPERS 1986 MEETING

The Southern Regional Demographic Group will hold its annual meeting in Baltimore on October 15-17, 1986. A number of special sessions and workshops are being planned, with details to follow in the summer issue of the newsletter.

Anyone wishing to present a paper at the Baltimore meeting should send an abstract of the paper or, if possible, the paper itself to:

W. Parker Frisbie  
Population Research Center  
1800 Main Building  
The University of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78712

NOTE: The deadline for submitting papers or abstracts is July 1, 1986.

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### NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The SRDG Board of Directors met in San Francisco on April 3, 1986 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Several matters were considered.

#### A New Newsletter Editor

Cliff Patrick, who has served as editor of the SRDG Newsletter for several years, asked the board to search for a new person to take over the editorship. Since joining the Health Services Research Program of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, he has found it increasingly difficult to collect and edit materials for the Newsletter. With the Board's approval, President Jeffery Evans asked Isaac Eberstein of Florida State University to be editor, and he agreed to the task. The next two issues of the Newsletter will be edited jointly by Cliff and Isaac, after which the latter will become the regular editor.

#### !A NEW NAME IN THE WORKS FOR SRDG!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, members present at the SRDG business meeting in Austin voted to change the name of the Southern Regional Demographic Group and asked the ad hoc committee on the name change to recommend alternative names to the Board of Directors. At its San Francisco meeting the board considered several possibilities, and the majority favored "Southern Demographic Association" as the new name for the Group. Group members must vote on the change at the next business meeting, which will be in Baltimore, and if the change is approved there, the issue will be submitted to all the members for approval or disapproval by mail ballot.

#### New Directory in Preparation

Ben Bradshaw, Secretary-Treasurer, reported that a new directory for SRDG is in preparation. A directory questionnaire was inserted in the last Newsletter. Response has been quite good, but another is included in this issue for those members who may not have received one or who have not returned the earlier copy. Information from all questionnaires received to date has been entered into a directory program.

#### Arrangements for 1987 and 1988 Annual Meetings

As announced earlier, the 1987 annual meeting of SRDG will be in Atlanta. Gladys Bowles, local arrangements chair, and Ann Lee have diligently sought hotel accommodations. At their recommendation, the Board of Directors approved Ramada Inn Central in Atlanta as the meeting hotel. Dates for the meeting and other details will be announced later.

The Board also approved San Antonio as the site for the 1988 meeting. Ben Bradshaw was authorized to search for a suitable hotel.

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#### APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY & LAW WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR ANNUAL MEETING

A workshop on demographic applications in legal and regulatory affairs will be presented on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 15, 1986, just prior to the SRDG annual meeting in Baltimore. The workshop is sponsored by the SRDG Committee on Applied Demography. Registration and program information will be sent to Group members in the next few months.

#### =Applied Demography Conference to be held at Bowling Green=

A conference on Applied Demography will be held on September 26-27, 1986, at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. Five sessions are scheduled dealing with technical and administrative issues of interest to demographers in business and state and local government. The plenary session will feature a panel discussion on relationships among academic, business, and state and local demographers. For more information contact either David Swanson or Jerry Wicks, Department of Sociology, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403, or telephone (419) 372-2294.

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#### Editor's Note

Federal data and funding are both important to SRDG members. We are users of the data and many of us rely on federal funding for either research or training activities. Therefore, I am devoting this issue primarily to key issues which may affect the work which we do as demographers. These involve OMB Circular A-130, "Management of Federal Information Resources." I have provided a brief description of two aspects which are of interest to us,

namely, collection of Federal statistics and dissemination of data followed by an interview on its possible impact.

Cliff Patrick, Editor

SPECIAL REPORT: OMB Circular A-130

On December 12, 1985, OMB Circular No. A-130, "Management of Federal Information Resources," was published in final form by the Office of Management and Budget. The Circular, which implements provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 as well as other statutes, executive orders, and policies, has been the subject of considerable debate and controversy since it was issued in draft form in March 1986.

With respect to the collection of information, the circular has been revised to reflect the language of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. The policy states that agencies shall:

Create or collect only that information necessary for the proper performance of agency functions and that has practical utility, and only after planning for its processing, transmission, dissemination, use, storage, and disposition; and

Seek to satisfy new information needs through legally authorized interagency or intergovernmental sharing of information, or through commercial sources, where appropriate, before creating or collecting new information.

With respect to the dissemination of information, the policy promulgated by the revised circular states that agencies shall disseminate such information products and services as are:

(a) Specifically required by law; or

(b) Necessary for the proper performance of agency functions, provided that the latter do not duplicate similar products or services that are or would otherwise be provided by other government or private sector organizations;

Disseminate significant new, or terminate significant existing, information products and services only after providing adequate notice to the public;

Disseminate such government information products and services:

(a) In a manner that ensures that members of the public whom the agency has an obligation to reach have a reasonable ability to acquire the information;

(b) In the manner most cost effective for the government, including placing maximum feasible reliance on the private sector for the dissemination of the products or services in accordance with OMB Circular No. A-76; and

(c) So as to recover the costs of disseminating the products or services through user charges, where appropriate, in accordance with OMB Circular No. A-25; and establish procedures for:

(a) Reviewing periodically the continued need for and manner of dissemination of the agency's information products or services; and

(b) Ensuring that government publications are made available to depository libraries as required by law.

A-130 Impact

Tom Giammo, Associate Director of the General Accounting Office's Information Management and Technology Division, said A-130 "makes worse a very narrowly construed obligation of the federal government to disseminate information."

Presenting his own views and not those of GAO, Giammo said, "My reading of (A-130) finds it actually forbids the voluntary dissemination of information by some agencies under some circumstances."

He also said the circular "absolutely" prohibits agencies from duplicating information dissemination activities undertaken by the private sector. He said this could also choke off information to the public, even though the information's dissemination could serve the national interest and even if the government could make the information available much more cheaply than private sources.

OMB's Frank Reeder, Deputy Chief of the Information Policy Branch in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, explained the OMB side of the circular story. He said OMB viewed information as a resource and tried to distinguish between the passive act of accessing information and the more active process of disseminating information.

Agencies have an obligation under statutes such as the Freedom of Information Act to provide access to federal information and records.

But dissemination rules are not as clear:

"In the information dissemination business, we are dealing with a scarce resource, the resources involved in that dissemination process, and there needs to be some rational decision framework for determining when and how that information ought to be disseminated," he said.

There is some information the government must disseminate. For example, the Internal Revenue Service has an obligation to disseminate information on how to fill out tax forms. "Beyond that," he continued, "one gets into interesting questions about the extent to which public resources ought to be spent."

Consequently, A-130 gives agencies discretion in determining what information dissemination activities they will pursue, Reeder said. The circular also establishes what Reeder called a multipart test agencies should use in making a final decision.

But Giammo said that agencies lose their discretion. He said the circular requires agencies to prove that a dissemination activity is necessary to accomplish the agency's mission. As a result, Giammo said federal dissemination activities are likely to decrease. With budget cuts coming, he said, "A-130 makes it a little easier to choose information dissemination activities for cutbacks."

Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.) also criticized the circular and, more generally, Reagan administration efforts to restrict the flow of information from the government. He said federal information management policies have been too restrictive and hinder citizens' right to know about their government's activities.

"We only make progress in scientific and other areas by having a marketplace for free ideas, where ideas can clash. Out of this clash truth will emerge, we will learn from one another, and intellectual and commercial progress will result," Brown argued.

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FUNDING EFFECTS FROM GRAMM-RUDMAN

As an example of the impact of Federal budget restrictions, the following highlights on NIA and a new Federal Center at Atlanta are provided.

National Institute on Aging. The Administration's budget was released on February 5. Highlights of the proposals for research, education, and training programs at the National Institute on Aging follow. In addition to the proposals for FY 1987, these programs will experience a 4.3% across-the-board cut in FY 1986 imposed by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings (G-R-H) Deficit Reduction Act and additional recessions are proposed by the Administration for some programs in FY 1986. Funding for NIA for FY 87 would be reduced from \$156.5 million in FY 86 to \$145.8 million in FY 87, a 7% reduction. In general, this would mean that no new initiatives, such as sex differences in aging, would be funded, and that all other programs would be continued but at reduced funding levels.

Research project grants monies would experience an 8.8% reduction, dropping from \$109.3 million in FY 86 (not taking into account G-R-H or proposed recessions) to \$99.7 million in FY 87. This would mean that NIA could support only 145 competing research grants in FY 87 as compared to 201 in FY 86. This would bring the number of supported research grants back to 1984 levels. In addition to the reduction in the number of research grants, the average award amount would drop approximately 8.5% for non-competing grants and 10.5-11% for competing grants. The FY 1986 research program would be affected by a 4.3% reduction under G-R-H and a further \$3.9 million under the Administration's recession proposals.

NIA's training program is slated for a 7.2% reduction from \$5.5 million in FY 86 to \$5.1 million in FY 87, 195 full-time training positions could be funded under the Administration's proposals in FY 87, as compared to 240 in FY 1986. FY 86 training funds would be reduced by 4.3% under G-R-H with no reduction under the Administration's recession proposals. It's enough to age a demographer!

On the other hand, some areas of research have survived.

Injury Research Center at CDC. A new and potentially very important federal research entity has been born in Atlanta.

Congress appropriated funds late last year for a Center for Injury Control at the Centers for Disease Control.

The center, with funding of \$2 million for operations and \$8 million for grants to various institutions for research, had its impetus and blueprint in a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report of last May, which said that injuries are the leading cause of potential years of life lost but much of the basic research on injury does not exist and that the federal government devotes only scattered, minimal resources to the field.

The NAS publication noted that injury kills more than 140,000 Americans each year, is the leading cause of citizens' contact with physicians, and economically, is the most costly of all health problems, taking about \$75 to \$100 billion per year.

Saying that exciting opportunities exist to prevent and lessen the impact of injuries, the 16-member trauma research committee who signed the report noted, for example, that the injury mechanisms for many parts of the body are largely unknown, prevention of most recreation type injuries, "remains nearly unresearched;" many preventive efforts, including the huge federal effort supporting high school driver education, are not based on epidemiological basis.

The report envisioned a CDC center providing major support for a range of research and establishing, for the first time, a coordination point for all related federal efforts.

The NAS report is Injury in America, available for \$15.95 from The National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20418.

Coordination of the new center is being headed by Stuart Brown, MD, c/o Centers for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Rd., Atlanta, Georgia 30333.

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The Social Science and Population Study Section are the peer review panel at NIH that review many of the demographic proposals for both NICHD and NIA. At their most recent meeting, they asked that the following advice be transmitted to persons applying for grants. First, applicants who are requesting support for collecting data are encouraged to make their data available to the public and to elaborate on their plans for making data available in the application. It is also appropriate to request funds to make data available to the public as part of the research application. Second, applicants who request funds to purchase microcomputers are encouraged to justify the purchase by indicating how the purchase will save on mainframe or secretarial expense.

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#### TRIANGLE AREA POPULATION SOCIETY FORMED

Population professionals located in the general area of the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, organized the Triangle Area Population Society at a meeting held November 14, 1985, under the auspices of the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina, J. Richard Udry, Director. The purpose of the society is to facilitate professional and social interaction, and the exchange of information among individuals and institutions.

Officers elected were:

President: Anders S. Lunde, retired, and  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill

Secretary: George C. Myers, Duke University  
Co-Treasurers: Dick Bilsborrow, University of  
North Carolina at Chapel Hill, &  
Helen Koo, Research Triangle  
Institute

Program: Nancy Williamson, Family Health  
International, and C.M. Suchindran,  
University of North Carolina at Chapel  
Hill

All interested SRDG members and other persons from academia (including students), government, research centers, and other private business, whether active or retired, are invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the society. Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Anders Lunde, 1120 Sourwood Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, telephone (919) 929-3388.

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PAA Affairs will from time to time publish a list of training programs in population studies as part of its summer issue. In order to be included in the list, institutions must send the following information to Jeffery Evans, 506 Andrew Hill Rd., Arnold, MD 21012. Please send: (1) name of program; (2) name, address, and telephone number of training director; (3) number of full-time faculty in the program during the 1985-86 year; (4) number of pre- and post-doctoral students enrolled in the program during 1985-86; (5) a list of the degree and certificate program options available through the program by type of degree and academic department; (6) sources of support for pre- and post-doctoral students; and (7) application receipt dates. Daytime phone: 301-496-1174.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAME & FORTUNE

The Demographic and Health Surveys program (DHS) invites applications for a post-doctoral fellowship of up to 30 months beginning about 1 December 1986 to work principally on the analysis of data collected in an experimental study being carried out in Peru during 1986. Two surveys are being conducted jointly, using the same sample design, field procedures, and interviewers. One is the regular DHS survey with a sample of 5,000 women, and the other is an experimental survey with 3,000 women. The latter includes some 18 alternative procedures and question wording for obtaining demographic and health data. The awardee will be based at the DHS project headquarters in Columbia, MD, and, in collaborative association with DHS staff and activities, s(he) will work on the analysis of the Peru data in conjunction with Charles Westoff and Noreen Goldman at the Office of Population Research, Princeton University, and persons associated with the project in Peru. Funded by AID, DHS is carrying out 35 surveys and related analysis projects 1985-1989.

Applicants should have completed a doctoral degree in a field relevant for the analysis of population and health survey data, preferably know some Spanish, possess computer skills appropriate for data analysis, and demonstrate interest in population work related to developing nations. At this point, DHS guarantees 12 months of the fellowship period; an application for support of the other 18 months is pending. The fellowship amount for the first year is \$25,000, with modest increases thereafter. For an application form, write to Robert J. Lapham, Director, Demographic and Health Surveys, Westinghouse Institute for Resource Development, Box 866, Columbia, MD, 21044. The deadline for receipt of application is June 1, 1986. A peer-review process will be used to select the awardee, with the decision announced by July 15, 1986. IRD is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.

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Florida State University, Center for the Study of Population will have openings for a postdoctoral training program in the demography of aging for the fall, 1986. This program offers persons who have training and a strong research interest in aging and the elderly the opportunity to further develop their research skills by becoming familiar with the data and techniques of demography. Stipends range from \$15,996 to \$30,000. Applicants must have a PhD in gerontology-related area and be able to demonstrate a strong research orientation. Applicants should send a CV, examples of written work, a one-page statement of interest, and the names of three references to David Sly, Director, Center for the Study of Population, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4063.

Culture, Aging, and Society, an upcoming edited book, seeks new articles or proposals. The emphasis of the book will be on qualitative analyses of how culture and society make a difference in structuring the options and constraints associated with aging and the aged. Of particular interest are articles comparing the U.S. with other societies or comparing ethnic groups in the U.S. Send articles or proposals to: Jay Sokolovsky, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Catonsville, MD 21228; (301)455-2084/2000 or (301)730-7752.

The Indo-US Subcommittee on Education and Culture is offering twelve long-term (6-10 months) and nine short-term (2-3 months) awards for 1987-88 research in India. These grants will be available in all academic disciplines, except clinical medicine. Applicants must be US citizens at the postdoctoral or equivalent professional level. Application deadline is June 15, 1986. Application forms and further information are available from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, Attention: Indo-American Fellowship Program, Eleven Dupont Circle, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036-1257. Telephone 202/939-5469.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science announces the 1986 competition for the AAAS Prize for Behavioral Science Research. The \$1,000 prize is intended to encourage the development and application of methods for the study of social behavior, using the logic of observation and explication so fruitful in any scientific endeavor. Entries should present a completed analysis of a problem, the relevant data, and an interpretation of the data in terms of the assumptions of postulates with which the study began. Unpublished manuscripts and manuscripts published after January 1, 1985, are eligible. Deadline for receipt of entries is August 25. For further information, contact: AAAS Executive Office, Tenth Floor, 13333 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20005.

The Ford Foundation and the University of Pennsylvania are jointly funding a multi-year research fellowship to promote advanced professional training for a minority scholar in sociology and demographic research on the impact of teenage childbearing on children and families. Candidates should have Ph.D. or completed all course requirements for a doctorate in sociology, psychology, anthropology, or a related discipline. Send resume and references and a brief description of background and career plans to Frank Furstenberg, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

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**WHO Links Infant Mortality With Female Illiteracy**

Higher infant mortality rates are associated with females illiteracy, the World Health Association said in a recent report.

WHO said that studies involving 160,000 women in developing countries showed that even if mothers are poor, if they have some education, their infants' survival rates are increased.

In nations where female literacy is low, infants have two to three times the chance of dying than in countries where the literacy rate is very high, according to the analysis.

WHO also said that of women with at least a high school education 30 percent use modern contraceptives, as compared to 10 percent for women without formal education.

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All news and comments of interest to SRDG are welcome and will be included as space permits. Send items to Cliff Patrick, VA Medical Center, Health Services Research, 508 Fulton Street, Durham, NC 27705; or Isaac W. Eberstein, Population Center, 659 Bellamy Hall, Florida State University, Tallahassee FL 32306.

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# SRDG NEWSLETTER

Ben Bradshaw  
University of Texas Health Science Center  
7703 Floyd Curl Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78284

ANNE S. LEE  
165 TIPPERARY ROAD  
ATHENS, GA 30606

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