

Southern Demographic News

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A Publication of the Southern Demographic Association

The Southern Demographic Association 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. Southern Demographic News is compiled and edited by Isaac W. Eberstein, Florida State University.

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts of papers to be presented at SDA's annual meeting are now due. Send any contribution immediately to Julia Martin, Program Chair, Center for Public Service, 2015 Ivy Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Phone 804/971-2261. BITNET: JHM3C@Virginia. This year's meeting will be held at the renovated Menger Hotel in San Antonio, October 19-21. Ben Bradshaw, UT Health Science Center, is local arrangements chair.

BOARD MEETING

The SDA Board of Directors met in New Orleans on April 21, 1988. Reports were accepted from the Applied Demography Committee and the Membership Committee, a decision was made to affiliate with the journal Population and Environment. These items are reported more fully elsewhere in this newsletter.

In other business, the Board voted to hold the 1990 annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, with Jack Marcum of the University of Mississippi taking charge of local arrangements. At a prior meeting, the Board decided to meet in Durham, North Carolina in 1989, with George Myers of Duke University to chair the local arrangements committee.

According to Ben Bradshaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the association, SDA had \$14925.88 cash on hand as of 4/1/88, and a dues-paying membership of 253. Receipts are \$584 behind expenditures this year, due primarily to the lower than usual attendance at the 1987 annual meeting.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

Pursuant to the SDA constitution, the nominations committee announced candidates for election to SDA offices in the winter 1988 newsletter. No additional nominations were received from the membership as of April 1. Nominated are: for president-elect, Harold Goldsmith and Stan Smith, and, for Board of Directors, Jack Tucker and Kirsten West.

POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT

The SDA Board of Directors has agreed to enter into an affiliation with the journal Population and Environment. Under the terms of the affiliation, SDA will be listed as an "affiliated" organization on the journal's masthead. SDA members will have the option of subscribing to the journal at the rate of

\$27.00 per year, a reduction of 20% from the regular rate. SDA will appoint three members to serve on the editorial board of the journal. These editorial board members will try to facilitate the publication of articles and groups of articles of special interest to the SDA membership.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY

The Applied Demography Committee is working on four sessions for SDA's 1988 Annual Meeting.

1. THE HISPANIC POPULATION: IMMIGRATION AND ESTIMATION - Panel discussion organized by Parker Frisbie of the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin (512/471-5514).

2. ESTIMATING THE HOMELESS POPULATION - Panel discussion organized by Harold Goldsmith of NIMH (301/443-2908).

3. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHICS: METHODOLOGY, DATA, AND APPLICATION - Luncheon roundtable organized by Louis Pol of the University of Nebraska, Omaha (402/554-3656).

4. NONACADEMIC PROFESSIONS FOR DEMOGRAPHERS - Panel discussion designed to inform students about possible employment outside of the academic world. Organized by Judith Waldrop, American Demographics (607/273-6343).

Contact Judith Waldrop, chair of the committee, for more information.

RFP AVAILABLE

The Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch of NICHD has a requirement for analyses of the consequences of early childbearing in the 1980's, using available data. The goal of this project is to determine whether the consequences of early childbearing have lessened, stayed the same, or increased in severity and magnitude over the past decade. This project would update what is known about the socioeconomic and health consequences of adolescent pregnancy and childbearing for young mothers, fathers, and other family members. It is anticipated that several awards will be made under this RFP for a period of approximately 1-2 years. Copies of RFP-NICHD-DBS-88-6 (issued on or about March 14, 1988) may be obtained by enclosing a self-addressed label and sending written requests to Paul J. Duska, Contracting Officer, Contracts Management Section, OGC, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Landow Building, Room 6C-25, 7910

Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Responses to the RFP will be due approximately
60 days following issue.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The activities of the membership committee during March and April, 1988, included the development of an Application/Renewal form, cover letters, and a return post-card. Invitations to become active members mailed and returned through April 15 are as follows: Former SDA members (73 mailed, 16 renewed), Co-authors of 1987 SDA convention papers (9 mailed, 1 new member), Georgia Sociological Society Directory (6 mailed, 0 new), personal contact (1 mailed, 0 new), and Southern Sociological Society meetings (11 mailed, 1 new). Total activity is 100 application/renewal forms mailed, 16 renewals, and 2 new members. The committee has identified 120-130 members of the Population Association of America living in the South (or otherwise possibly interested in SDA) not currently members and not recently sent invitations to join our association. Plans are to distribute SDA materials to them during the PAA meetings. Also, over 140 members of the Rural Sociological Society indicated demography as one of their specialties. After those not currently members of SDA and not recently recruited have been identified, they will be sent invitations to join. In addition, directories of economists, geographers, etc. will be consulted to locate other prospective members.

Plans for the development of the brochure discussed at the SDA meetings in Atlanta in October 1987 are in the early stages and will be reported on later.

The membership committee had a \$200 cash advance from the Secretary-Treasurer and has spent \$224.44.

For more information, contact Gladys Bowles, Anne Lee, or Julie Martin.

CENSUS RESEARCH CONFERENCE, 1989

The Census Bureau is planning its Fifth Annual Research Conference for March 1989 in the Washington, DC area. The conference will consist primarily of contributed papers, most of which will receive formal discussion at the conference. The conference will feature papers on topics related to a broad range of Census Bureau research interests. Papers may address methodology, empirical studies, or relevant issues. A conference proceedings volume containing all papers and discussions will be published. Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated. Presenters will be reimbursed for transportation and per diem expenses and will receive a fee for manuscript preparation (expected range: \$250-\$450). Abstracts are due by June 1, 1988 to David F. Findley, Statistical Research Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233. To obtain registration forms or to be included on the mailing list, contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

NEWS FROM NIA

A meeting of an Ad Hoc Advisory Panel on NIA extramural priorities for data collection in health and retirement economics was held in November. For more information contact Ms. Sue Sosler, Demography and Population Epidemiology, BSR, National Institute on Aging, Bldg 31, Rm 5C32, Bethesda, MD 20892 (301/496-3135).

Copies of the publications An Aging World, America's Centenarians, and Health Statistics on Older Persons can be obtained by writing to Ms. Sosler. An informational package on the 1984-6 Longitudinal Study on Aging is also available. A follow-up report to An Aging World, prepared for NIA and AID by the Bureau of the Census, on Population Aging in Less Developed Countries, will also be released shortly. The Behavioral and Social Research Program is interested in receiving applications on population aging in less developed countries; potential applicants should contact Richard Suzman at the above address.

Over the next few months, NIA expects to fund a number of new training programs in the demography of aging; a list of training programs can be obtained by from the program.

COMPUTING CORNER: Data Storage Technology and Microcomputers

E. Walter Terrie*

Microcomputer users in general and demographers in particular have ever increasing expectations for the size of data files they need to work with. Standard MS-DOS limits a single file and a single volume (drive letter) to a maximum size of 32 megabytes. That is to say that block devices such as disk drives cannot contain a file larger than 32MB. While character devices (such as the console) do not have this limitation they typically have very slow transfer rates and are therefore unsuitable for large data files. Since winchester type disk drives with formatted capacities considerably greater than 32MB and with fast access and transfer times are currently available, we can only hope that soon the DOS block device file size limit will be relaxed.

Of course, large data storage capacity is of little value without the ability to efficiently transport these files from one computer system to another. There are several exciting developments in this area. I will briefly review three of them here, namely CD-ROM, 9-track tapes for micros and WORMs.

Nine-track Tape Drives: Let's start with the oldest technology. Nine-track tape drives for PC XT/AT class machines are now widely available. They range in price from around \$3,000 for a 1600/3200 bpi 25 ips drive including software to over \$9,000 for a 6250 bpi drive intended for use with microcomputers. These devices will read and write standard ASCII or EBCDIC encoded fixed length and blocked records that can be used almost universally on everything from "super computers" to minis and now micros. A 2400 ft. reel of magnetic tape can hold approximately 50 megabytes of information depending upon block size when recorded at 1600 bits per inch density. A recording density of 6250 bpi will hold about 4 times as much per tape.

Here at Florida State University's Center for the Study of Population, we now are using 1600 bpi AK systems (formerly IBEX) TS-100 tape drive with good results. This drive is supplied with software to rapidly transfer data to/from the hard disk, examine the contents of a magnetic tape and (through the use of a supplied device driver) to appear to an application program as a disk drive containing a single file or as a character by character device. For example, data on tape to be read by SPSSPC+ are simply identified on the "DATA LIST" command with the specification "File='G:tape'." Unfortunately, we are still limited to reading files less than 32MB in length. A nice set of disk backup and restore routines are also provided. This approach to large data transfer is a good interim

technology, but I feel confident that it will soon be supplanted by newer technologies.

CD-ROM: Ever since the introduction of Compact Disk audio devices interest in and development of optical disk technology for the storage of computer data has progressed rapidly. Numerous bibliographic search indexes such as Medline, Sociofile and PsycLIT are now available from vendors on Compact Disk Read Only Memory. The technology is in a state of transition with numerous manufacturers of CD-ROM drives and many turn-key vendors of data bases stored on the media.

One of the most exciting developments from the perspective of demographers is the Census Bureau's recent CD-ROM Evaluation Project. The purpose of this project was to evaluate the medium as a method for future dissemination of information by the Bureau. The project involved the preparation of a Test Disk No. 1 which was distributed both internally and externally to evaluation sites. This disk contained several different data bases including agricultural data for counties from the 1982 Census of Agriculture, demographic and housing data STF3B for 5 digit ZIP codes from the 1980 census and 1984 population estimates together with 1983 per capita income for functioning governmental units. The Bureau wrote and supplied its own retrieval software for the project and found that their disk and software worked with many different disk drives and computers upon which it was tested. The project was deemed a success and the Data User Services Division recommended that CD-ROM be utilized as a distribution medium for future census products including the 1990 Census. Hopefully, both public use microdata files and summary files will be made available in this or a similar format together with software to both display data (which is all that was possible with the pilot project) and extract data for subsequent analysis. With the use of CD-ROM and data compression a large amount of data could be conveniently available for use on microcomputers. As the technology develops current search and transfer speed limitations will hopefully be overcome making CD-ROM a common technology in the 1990's.

WORMS: CD-ROM does have one very serious limitation which is that it is read only. The profession requires the ability to read and to write very large data files. To meet this need another optical disk based technology is under development. This approach is known as Write Once Read Many or WORM. Current devices hold up to 400 megabytes per disk and have been aimed at the hard disk backup niche which was formerly accomplished with cartridge type magnetic tapes. A variant of the WORM, an erasable optical disk is also under development. WORMs are currently quite expensive — \$4,000 and up. However, they do appear to hold great promise for future desktop storage capabilities for files containing billions of characters. PC Magazine Volume 6 Number 12 contains an excellent series of articles on WORM technology. With a little patience on our part desktop analysis of very large data files using computers with 20 to 30 MHz processors, 16MB of RAM and billions of characters of storage will become a reality in the next decade.

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DAAPPP ARCHIVE ON ONE DISK

Sociometrics Corporation announces development of a CD-ROM version of "Knowing Teens: The Data Archive on Adolescent Pregnancy and Pregnancy Prevention," which is a complete and

unabridged version of all DAAPPP data sets through September 1987. The CD-ROM Archive will allow instant access to 109 data sets from 82 major studies relevant to adolescent fertility, encompassing 39,793 uniquely identified variables. Knowledge Access is collaborating with Sociometrics to provide software. The user will be able to search through all variables for those meeting user-defined requirements, determine which data sets contain those variables, and then read the data and SPSS/PC program files for those data sets onto the user's hard disk. Alternatively, the user could do immediate crosstabulations on most variables without using SPSS/PC. Because the mainframe version of DAAPPP will also be included in the product, the user will be able to upload data and SPSS-X program files onto a mainframe computer as well. The CD-ROM Archive will be available this spring for \$495. For information, contact Sociometrics Corporation, 685 High Street, Suite 2E, Palo Alto, CA 94301 (415/321-7846).

AVAILABILITY OF 1980-BASED OCCUPATIONAL STATUS SCORES

Among the several indexes of occupational status found in the research literature, the Nam-Powers index has been in use for several decades. It was first developed at the Census Bureau in the late 1950's and based on 1950 census data. Subsequent revisions were based on the 1960 and 1970 censuses. Nam-Powers Occupational Status Scores based on 1980 census data (specific to detailed occupational titles) are now available in a working paper form. The paper includes a discussion of procedures used in calculating the scores and how these have changed over time, as well as guidance to users on how to employ the scores in their own studies. Copies of the working paper may be obtained by writing to Editor, Working Paper Series, Center for the Study of Population, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4063, and enclosing a check for \$1.50 made out to Center for the Study of Population, FSU. A PC-compatible floppy disk containing the scores and associated census occupational codes for 1950, 1960, 1970, and 1980 is available through the same means. This disk includes an ANSI standard FORTRAN program to assign occupational scores to any data set containing census occupational codes.

DOROTHY S. THOMAS AWARD

Pre- or postdoctoral graduate students are invited to submit papers for the 1989 Dorothy S. Thomas Award competition. The award has been established by the Population Association of America and will be presented annually for the best paper submitted in the fields of internal migration or the interrelationships among social, economic, and demographic variables, areas of particular interest to Dr. Thomas. The award consists of a \$1500 prize and an appropriate certificate.

Eligibility: The research for the paper must be undertaken while the author is a predoctoral graduate student, resident in an accredited graduate program. The paper must have both theoretical and empirical aspects. Two or more students may share the award for a collaborative study, but a paper jointly authored by a student and a member of the graduate faculty is not eligible. For this year's prize, individuals who completed their doctoral degree before January 1, 1988 are not eligible. Published papers that meet these requirements are acceptable. Previous winners are not eligible.

Length: The paper should be normal article length, and should not exceed 35 pages (double-

spaced), inclusive of tables/figures, footnotes, references, and appendices. Papers that exceed this length may not be considered.

Nominations: The student should request one of his or her research advisors to submit a letter confirming his or her eligibility for the award.

Send the letter of nomination and five copies of the paper to Susan C. Watkins, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6298, to arrive by January 15, 1989. The paper must come directly from the author and the letter directly from the referee. Announcement of the award will be made at the 1989 PAA meetings. The committee reserves the right to withhold the award if it decides that no suitable paper was submitted.

SCIENCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, announces the Science Scholars Program. A small number of senior scientists from outside the Federal Government will have the opportunity to participate in analyses of extramural scientific review, in policy evaluation, and in the formulation of recommendations for DRG. Science scholars will work in DRG on short-term assignments, from 3-6 months. Applicants may be basic or applied scientists or clinicians with extensive biomedical or behavioral research experience and must have served on a DRG study section or equivalent NIH review group. Developing a proposal for the Science Scholars Program is a joint effort involving prospective applicants and senior DRG staff. Interested individuals

are invited to contact the Director or Deputy Director. A prospective applicant may have a specific project or study in mind or seek advice from DRG staff about possible projects. The Director, DRG, will make recommendations for selections based on qualifications of the individual, the proposed study protocol, and the Division's priorities and resources. For more information, contact Jerome G. Green, MD, Director, Division of Research Grants, Room 450, Westwood Building, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD 20892. Phone 301/496-7211.

EDITOR'S NOTE

All news and announcements of interest to SDA members will be published without charge, subject to space constraints. A special request is made for news about association members (new publications, grants, other awards, job changes, tenure/promotion, etc.). Please ask the person responsible for institutional publicity to include the Southern Demographic News on standard mailing lists. Deadlines and publication dates for each issue are below:

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
Fall	Oct. 31	November
Winter	Jan. 30	February
Spring	April 30	May
Summer	July 31	August

Please mail items for inclusion and/or suggestions to Isaac W. Eberstein, Center for the Study of Population, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4063; phone: (904) 644-1762; BITNET: IKE@FSU.

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