

# 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.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Julia Martin eagerly awaits the submission of papers and poster sessions for the 1988 annual meeting of SDA in San Antonio, home of the Alamo and our esteemed secretary-treasurer. Suggestions for sessions, including panel discussions, are welcome, especially from those who might be willing to be organizer and/or serve as session chair. Reports on work in progress are invited. Please send a 1-2 paragraph abstract, along with any need for audiovisual or other special equipment, to Julia H. Martin, Center for Public Service, 2015 Ivy Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901. Phone: (804) 971-2261. Bitnet: JHM3C@Virginia. Deadline for submissions is June 1, 1988.

## NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

The nominations committee announces candidates for SDA offices as follows:

President-Elect: Harold Goldsmith, NIMH  
Stan Smith, University  
of Florida

Board of Directors: Jack Tucker, Winthrop  
College  
Kirsten West, Bureau of  
the Census

According to the SDA constitution, additional nominations may be made through April 1 by petition to the Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations must be signed by ten members in good standing.

The committee consisted of Dick Irwin, Steve Murdock, and Jeff Evans (chair). They wish to thank the candidates for agreeing to run and the membership for suggesting good candidates.

## DECISION DEMOGRAPHICS

A new consulting firm specializing in custom demographic information and services has been established as an offshoot of the Population Reference Bureau. Decision Demographics will engage in strategic planning, custom market studies, analysis and interpretation, training sessions, and advice on data applications as well as commercial data products and vendors. For more information, contact Stephen Iordella, General Manager, at 777 14th Street, NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: (202) 639-8641.

## RFA AVAILABLE

NICHD has issued a request for applications on "Behavioral Mechanisms and Causes of Childhood Injury." Applications are encouraged to clarify the major behavioral variables responsible for specific kinds of childhood injuries and the mechanisms of how such variables cause or relate to childhood injuries. Of particular interest are studies that identify and measure observable behaviors of parents and children that are precursors of injury occurrence or injury avoidance; that is, behaviors closely linked to injury morbidity and mortality. This RFA is intended to be one component of a program of childhood injury research within NICHD and other Public Health Service agencies. The focus of this announcement is to develop the theory and understanding of how behavioral factors are related to childhood injury. For additional information, contact Peter C. Scheidt, MD, Human Learning and Behavior Branch, NICHD, Room 7C18, Landow Building, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892. Phone (301) 496-6591. Application receipt date: May 16, 1988.

## CENSUS BUREAU RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The fourth annual Research Conference of the US Bureau of the Census is scheduled to begin Sunday evening, March 20, 1988, and run through 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, at the National Clarion Hotel in Arlington, VA. The program focuses on "Improvements in Technology & Measurement Problems Related to Census and Survey Operations." The program will devote one session to each of 16 topics within the overall theme, and also include the Shirley Kallek Memorial Lecture. Session topics include: counting the hard-to-enumerate population; measurement models in undercount research; improving foreign trade statistics; statistical models for undercount adjustment; disclosure research; automated cartography; computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI); methods and software for survey data analysis; computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI); expert systems for matching and classifying; microeconomic panel surveys; standard industrial classification (SIC); demographic coverage improvement; seasonal adjustment and related research; issues in survey methodology; and quality control. For additional information contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233. Phone: 301/763 1150.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Ben Bradshaw  
UT Health Sciences Center

Approximately 300,000 death certificates from 1935 to 1985 are being coded as part of a project to describe causes of death in Bexar County (San Antonio) Texas. This project, "Mortality among Mexican Americans and Mexican Immigrants," is a joint effort with Parker Frisbie of the University of Texas Population Research Center (Austin). The project is a powerful demonstration of how personal computers can be used as data entry devices as well as aids in data analysis.

**The paper process:** Each paper record is handled two times; once by a nosologist who codes multiple causes of death according to the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD9), and once by a demographic coder for individual characteristics such as sex, age, and residence. Each year's sequentially numbered certificates are grouped into batches of 1,000 records. A unique batch number is assigned to track the group of records through the two coding procedures as well as other procedures.

**The coding process:** Coders enter data directly from the certificate to an automated data entry screen. The codebook and the data entry screens accommodate the five versions of the death certificate used during the 50 year period. For example, a question regarding Hispanic origin occurs from 1980 forward, but not in previous versions. Such data are abstracted where possible, and automatically assigned a "not asked" code for other versions. In addition, a systematic record of coding "modifications" is being kept. For example, some early certificates indicate "yellow" race. If a rule such as "yellow" = Asian is adopted, it is recorded in a "data decisions" book for future reference. The data decisions book is a record of coding instructions.

**The computer process:** Since coders are geographically distant from each other, the Apple McIntosh was selected for data entry. These machines are transportable, offer high resolution screens, and use durable plastic-cased diskettes (for mailing). The database manager Omnis 3+ is used for a highly automated data entry procedure. With this package, customized data-entry screens for each of the certificate versions have been created. Data are checked at entry for valid values. Variables are preset to probable values. For example, presetting the city of residence to San Antonio saves keystrokes in a majority of cases. The software is also used to generate reports for error sampling, and ASCII files for transfer to the mainframe.

**The upload process:** Two ASCII files are written for each batch: one with ICD9 codes and another with characteristics codes. These ASCII files are uploaded to the University computer center using Kermit, and transferred to UT Austin via Bitnet.

**The merge process:** Records in the two files are joined on the basis of the unique number formed from the year of death and the sequentially assigned certificate number. The merge (and subsequent analysis) will be performed primarily on a mainframe computer at UT Austin.

The research project is supported by "separate but equal" grants from NICHD to the School of Public Health at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center and the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Completion of the entire coding operation is expected by mid-1988.

## CHINA POPULATION DATA SHEET

The Sociology Departments of Peking University and The University of Texas have collaborated recently to produce The People's Republic of China Population Data Sheet. The Data Sheet is an attractive, three-color wall chart measuring 22" x 32" and containing for China and each of the provinces 38 pieces of demographic, health, economic, literacy, family planning, and contraceptive information. Most of the data pertain to the year 1985. The Data Sheet is \$3.00 (US) to recover costs of printing only. Copies may be obtained by sending a check or purchase order for the desired number to Dudley L. Poston, Jr., Population Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712, USA. For orders of 10 or more copies, bulk rates are available.

## ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION 1988

**Women's Status and Fertility.** The Rockefeller Foundation announces a research program on women's status and fertility in developing countries. Of interest are projects that would examine concepts such as gender inequality, female autonomy, women's roles or position, and patriarchy; clarify how these concepts should be defined and measured; and analyze how they relate to fertility. There is growing evidence that women's autonomy and power within households influence couples' decisions on family size and women's use of technologically-based programs such as family planning or maternal/child health programs. The scientific base for this claim is weak. Studies designed to advance understanding of these issues in developing countries and which have promising policy and programmatic implications will be supported. Typical projects under this program will be in the range of US \$30,000-50,000. The program is open to social scientists, humanists, health scientists, and other scholars. Developed country scholars should have a collaborator in the developing country or region of focus. Graduate students are not eligible. Deadline for proposals is July 15, 1988. For more information contact Population Sciences (SWAF), at the address below.

**Population Policies and Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa.** Under this program, the Foundation supports research on population issues in sub-Saharan Africa. Rapid population growth is occurring in most countries throughout the region, and the effect of this growth on development is unclear. Moreover, the sociocultural and other factors contributing to high fertility in the region need to be identified, along with population policies and programs appropriate to the African context. Studies designed to build a database on population issues and which have promising policy and programmatic implications will be supported. Suggested research topics include: socioeconomic and cultural determinants of family size; shifting patterns in age of marriage, breastfeeding, and contraceptive use; consequence of population growth for development; safety and effectiveness of fertility regulation methods; sociocultural barriers to contraceptive technology; characteristics of target groups receptive to family planning; and epidemiology of reproductive health issues. Most projects will be in the range of US \$10,000-\$50,000. This program is open to social and biomedical scientists based at institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. Eligible scholars may propose a collaborative project with other scholars, including those from developed countries. Deadline for proposal submission: July 1, 1988. For more information, contact Population Sciences (AFPOP), The Rockefeller Foundation, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 USA.

## FAME AND FORTUNE

Brown. Brown University invites applications for a Research Associate position attached to the Population Studies and Training Center, beginning September 1988. The position has a minimum duration of two years, and is renewable contingent on availability of funds. Applicants should have a PhD in one of the social sciences and provide evidence of a strong commitment to demographic research. Occasional opportunities to teach a graduate seminar may also be available. Send curriculum vitae, statement of research interests and capabilities, and three letters of recommendation to: Professor Thomas Espenshade, Chair of Search, Population Studies and Training Center, Box 1916, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. Applications received before April 4, 1988 will be given first consideration, but the position will remain open until filled. Brown University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages applications from members of protected groups.

National Center for Health Statistics. NCHS has an opening for an MA/PHD statistician/researcher beginning around April 1. Salary range \$23,000-\$27,000. Contact Dr. Paul Placek at 301/436-8954 for information.

US Department of Agriculture. USDA, Economic Research Service is seeking candidates for the position of Head of the Population Section. The salary base for the position is \$46,679, with opportunities for additional merit increases and performance awards. For information, contact Max F. Jordan, Chief, Human Resources Branch, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division, USDA-ERS, Washington, DC 20005-4788. Phone: (202) 786-1532.

## POPULATION COMPUTER GRAPHICS

The United Nations Fund for Population Activities announces the publication of Population Images, a full set of fifteen computer graphics on issues of demographic significance. The illustrated topics cover world trends and patterns in several time frames, including 1925 to 2025. Growth of the world's population, urban and rural trends, regional growth rates, birth and death levels, and the rise in the number of large urban agglomerations are among the chief subject areas. Other graphics relate population to a wider variety of topics. Among these are regional differences in income levels, the loss of tropical forests, and the availability of fresh water resources. The graphics are designed to convey a lasting impression about major global issues and to serve as innovative classroom resource material. The complete set is now available for \$7.50 plus \$1.50 (US) for postage and handling (check or money order) from Population Images, PO Box 7239, Washington, DC 20044.

## NEW STATISTICS JOURNAL

Chance: New Directions for Statistics and Computing is a new quarterly designed to serve as a "news" magazine for professionals employing statistical tools and analysis in a variety of business, industries, and research. It reports the latest ideas and applications in statistics -- how these are intertwined with advances in computer software -- to provide practical, hands-on information to professionals employing statistical analyses in their work. Editors-in-Chief of the journal are Stephen Fineberg and William Eddy (Carnegie-Mellon University). For more information contact Cynthia Deno, Springer-Verlag New York, Inc. Phone: (202) 460-1609.

## 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.