

GSS/SSS AUGUST 2005 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

GSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>

SSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>

Editor: Pat Melvin
(patricia.l.melvin@census.gov)

GSS Publications Officer: Robert Lussier
(robert.lussier@statcan.ca)

SSS Publications Officer: Beth Kilss
(beth.a.kilss@irs.gov)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **LAST MINUTE REMINDER: JSM ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY GSS AND SSS**
- **THE COPAFS AND THE FCSM: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?**
- **ACCIDENTAL AND OTHER TYPES OF MENTORS**
- **PEOPLE IN THE NEWS: JSM 2005 STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION WINNERS**
- **AMERICA'S CHILDREN: KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING, 2005**
- **FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY 2005 RESEARCH CONFERENCE**
- **METHODOLOGY OF LONGITUDINAL SURVEYS CONFERENCE: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS**
- **CALL FOR PAPERS: "IMPROVING ESTIMATES FROM SURVEY DATA"**
- **THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESTABLISHMENT SURVEYS (ICES-III)**

~~~~~  
**Government Statistics Section**

**\*\*\*\*\*REMINDER: JSM ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY GSS\*\*\*\*\***

Don't forget to check the JSM Program for GSS-sponsored activities. All activities are arranged by date and time. The link to this site may be found by going to the GSS web site at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/> . Under "Conferences," click on "2005 JSM Prelim Program of the **Government Statistics Section.**"

Also, don't forget **The Government Statistics Section Business Meeting** - Please join us at the 2005 Joint Statistical Meetings in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the annual Government Statistics Section Business Meeting on **Tuesday, August 9 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM in MCC-102F at the Minneapolis Convention Center.**

~~~~~

AND, LIKEWISE, FOR --

Social Statistics Section

*****REMINDER: JSM ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY SSS*****

Don't forget to check out the **JSM 2005 Online Program**. The link is also on the GSS web site at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>. Under "Conferences," click on "2005 JSM Prelim Program of the **Social Statistics Section**."

Also, don't forget **The Social Statistics Section Business Meeting and Mixer** - Please join us at the 2005 Joint Statistical Meetings in Minneapolis on **Monday, August 8 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM in the LaSalle Room at the Hilton Minneapolis Hotel**.

~~~~~  
**THE COPAFS AND THE FCSM: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?**

Wendy Alvey\*, GSS COPAFS Representative, 2005-06

The Washington, DC area has an active and vibrant statistical community that interacts and cooperates in many different ways. In addition to being the site of the American Statistical Association (ASA) headquarters and hosting the largest local Chapter of the ASA – the Washington Statistical Society--two other parts of the "alphabet soup" that are near and dear to us are two organizations that work closely, but have very different roles and missions – the COPAFS and the FCSM. This column explains what they do and why they are so important to the U.S. Federal statistical community.

**COPAFS**

COPAFS stands for *The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics*. COPAFS is comprised of a membership of over 60 organizations, including professional associations, businesses, research institutes, and others interested in Federal statistics. As a member of COPAFS, ASA has two representatives from the Government Statistics Section that represent the Association by attending its quarterly meetings and reporting back to the membership – through occasional columns in *Amstat News* – on the activities and presentations of the Council.

COPAFS' primary mission is communication. It provides an important link between the Federal statistical community and professional organizations, Congressional offices, other Federal agencies, and the general public. Its meetings serve as a useful forum for interaction among the data producers and key stakeholders who are informed users of their products. COPAFS also closely tracks budget appropriations and legislation in the U.S. Congress that impact the Federal statistical agencies and speaks out on the impact of Federal legislation on such topics as survey data collection.

To accomplish its goals, COPAFS' objectives are to:

- Increase the level and scope of knowledge about developments affecting Federal statistics,
- Encourage discussion within member organizations to respond to important issues in Federal statistics, and
- Bring the views of professional associations to bear on decisions affecting Federal statistical programs.

In support of these efforts, COPAFS

- Obtains information on developments in statistics through discussions with officials, attendance at Congressional hearings and meetings of statistical advisory committees, and exchanges of documents;
- Disseminates information and encourages discussion and action on developments in Federal statistics through correspondence and presentations at Council and member organization meetings; and

- Plans and presents educational programs on uses of statistics in policy formulation, public and private decision-making, research, the distribution of products, and the allocation of resources.

In so doing, COPAFS helps

- Professional associations and other organizations obtain and share information about developments affecting Federal statistical programs;
- Federal agencies to disseminate information on developments of interest to the professional community and to obtain advice about members' concerns and priorities;
- Congressional offices to clarify issues and questions about the Federal statistical system, to plan hearings related to Federal statistical programs, and to identify experts to testify; and
- The public to learn more about the Federal statistical agencies, to communicate views of data users concerning Federal statistical activities, and to obtain a better understanding of how policy and budget are likely to affect the availability of Federal statistics.

Member associations and affiliates appoint representatives to serve on the Council and to attend its quarterly meetings in Washington, DC. The representatives are responsible for establishing COPAFS' priorities and guiding its activities. At each COPAFS meeting, members discuss significant cross-cutting issues, hear from statistical agencies and other producers and users of data, and make suggestions for further action.

### ***FCSM***

FCSM is an abbreviation for *the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology*. The FCSM is dedicated to improving the quality of Federal statistics. The FCSM was founded in 1975 by Maria Elena Gonzalez of the Office of Statistical Policy in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB invited individual statisticians, economists, or statistical program managers working in the Executive Branch to participate as members of the FCSM based on their particular experience and expertise. The initial focus of the FCSM was on recommending standards for statistical methodology to be followed by Federal statistical agencies, investigating problems that affect the quality of Federal statistical data, as well as making suggestions for improving statistical methodology in Federal agencies. Currently there are about two dozen members of the FCSM, who are appointed by OMB based on their expertise and contributions to the Federal statistical system (rather than as representatives of their agencies).

### **Committees**

The FCSM carries out most of its work through its subcommittees, program committees, and interest groups:

- Subcommittees are established to explore some particular aspect of statistical methodology and produce a specific product, guidance, or recommendations. One current subcommittee is assisting OMB with the revision of Statistical Policy Directives on Standards for Statistical Surveys and Standards for Publication of Statistics. Another subcommittee recently examined research issues for further developments in Web-based data collection and a third is looking into ways to provide support to smaller Federal statistical units within nonstatistical agencies.
- Program committees are temporary and are established to organize a workshop, conference, or seminar. They may produce a proceedings report, as well.
- Interest groups are ongoing groups that draw together individuals interested in a common aspect of statistical methods or data quality, so that they can interact, exchange information, explore issues related to the topic, and produce products and services of interest to their members. The FCSM currently sponsors the Confidentiality and Data Access Committee (CDAC) and two interest groups on survey nonresponse – for households and for establishments.

### **Statistical Policy Working Papers**

The *Statistical Policy Working Paper* (SPWP) series is one of the FCSM's oldest products. It consists of a series of reports that document the work of its subcommittees. These reports, published by the OMB – some in hardcopy and, more recently, electronically – highlight the best statistical practices in Federal agencies. They

cover a wide range of topics, including statistics for allocation of funds, disclosure avoidance techniques, record linkage, time series analysis, industry coding, data editing, computer-assisted survey information collection, data quality, and small area estimation, to name a few. A complete listing and copies of the SPWP reports may be obtained from the FCSM Web site at [www.fcsm.gov/reports/](http://www.fcsm.gov/reports/).

### **NSF Funding Opportunity**

The FCSM, with the support of the OMB's Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, sponsors an annual grant program, administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The grant program provides funds for basic survey and statistical research oriented to the needs of Federal agencies. See [www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/mms/for more information](http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/mms/for_more_information). Seminars featuring the results of the grant projects are sponsored in conjunction with the Washington Statistical Society and papers from the presentations are published in the SPWP series.

### **Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, and Courses**

Since 1999, the FCSM has organized, and COPAFS has hosted, a Research Conference, held every two years in Northern Virginia. The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for experts from around the world to discuss and exchange current research and methodological topics relevant to Federal government statistical programs. This year's Research Conference will be held November 14-16 at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. The conference will consist of a plenary session featuring Miron Straf; one technical demonstration session; and 24 paper sessions dealing with a wide variety of topics, ranging from sample design and questionnaire development to time series analysis and statistical modeling. The full advance program will be available this summer at both [www.fcsm.gov](http://www.fcsm.gov) and [www.copafs.org](http://www.copafs.org), along with information on how to register for the event. The co-chairs of this year's event are Bill Mockovak ([mockovak\\_w@bls.gov](mailto:mockovak_w@bls.gov)) and Nancy Bates ([Nancy.A.Bates@census.gov](mailto:Nancy.A.Bates@census.gov)).

These two organizations also collaborate to host biennial Statistical Policy Seminars, held in Bethesda, MD, in even-numbered years. These seminars are organized by members of the FCSM and are hosted by COPAFS. The 2004 Policy Seminar was held on December 15-16, 2004, organized around the theme of *Achieving Statistical Quality in Diverse and Changing Environments*. An electronic version of the proceedings will be available shortly under the FCSM's SPWP series.

FCSM occasionally sponsors small, targeted workshops and meetings, as well, on specific topics of interest to its members. A workshop co-sponsored by the ASA Government Statistics Section recently examined research issues for further developments in Web-based data collection.

### ***In Conclusion***

Washington, DC is most fortunate to be home to two such strong and vibrant organizations that both work to support and improve the quality of Federal statistics. Both alone and in concert, the COPAFS and the FCSM work through their volunteer members to support statistical programs and further methodological research in areas that are critical to the enhancement of Federal programs and to public policy decision making.

For more information on COPAFS, see the web site – <http://www.copafs.org/> -- or contact the Executive Director – Edward Spar ([copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com); Phone: 703.836.0404). For more information on the FCSM, go to the Web site – <http://www.fcsm.gov/> -- or contact the current Chair -- Brian Harris-Kojetin of OMB ([bharrisk@omb.eop.gov](mailto:bharrisk@omb.eop.gov); Phone: 202.395.7314).

\*With a lot of assistance from COPAFS, FCSM, and Bill Mockovak.

~~~~~

ACCIDENTAL AND OTHER TYPES OF MENTORS

(Excerpts from remarks upon receiving the 2005 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award)

Renee Miller, 2005 Social Statistics Program Chair

I've come to realize that there are different types of mentors and different types of mentoring. Following what Albert Madansky said in "ASA Needs More Askers" (March 2005 *Amstat News*), one reason I'm writing this is that Fritz Scheuren (ASA President) asked me. Fritz, himself, is an example of an "accidental" mentor, someone

who transfers knowledge without necessarily realizing he is doing anything out of the ordinary. I noted that one could learn things from Fritz, just by chatting with him in an elevator.

Other examples of “accidental” mentors were my supervisors at the Census Bureau in the 1970s, the late Arno Winard and Roger Herriot. At the time, I didn’t consider them mentors. While it’s not possible to know for sure, I think they would have thought that way too. I remember them saying how important it was to get the poverty data out on a timely basis and to make sure the data weren’t being misused. I think they would have considered that to be their focus, rather than mentoring. But, in looking back, I learned a lot from them. They shared with me their time and knowledge. It was in thinking about this situation that I began to wonder, “Can one be an accidental mentor?” I think so. In fact, I think I was. In speaking to Beth Kilss (recipient of the 2004 Jeanne E. Griffith Award), she commented that she probably was one too, that she realized some people could benefit from nurturing and just did it.

Mentors can also be interpreters. For example, Mollie Orshansky, developer of the poverty index, helped explain to me what was actually going on when I worked in the Poverty Statistics Branch of the Census Bureau. I recall that we had to count how many times we were using the word “poverty” compared with “low-income” in our reports and that the poverty report took a long time to make its way through the Census Bureau’s clearance process. As an eager young person right out of school, these practices seemed strange and somewhat disturbing. Mollie provided me with background on these developments from her vast experience and helped put them into perspective.

Other types of mentors include, mentors on a particular project, mentors on institutional aspects of an agency (such as its background and practices), and mentors who help someone make their way around the agency. Mentors on a particular project might focus on technical aspects or perhaps how to write it up. For example, Doug Hale of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) was, at one point, my writing mentor. Mentors on institutional aspects might focus on administrative practices. For the third category, mentors who help someone make their way around the agency, Mark Gielecki (a member of EIA’s mentoring committee) coined the phrase “procedural mentors.” He and I thought this category differed from administrative mentoring and that it was more about how to get work done.

There are also what I think of as “all around mentors” who provide all kinds of support and encouragement over the years. My current supervisor, Nancy Kirkendall, director of the Statistics and Methods Group of the Energy Information Administration, falls into this category. She, herself, as many of you know is a mentor, a teacher, and someone who leads by example.

Before Nancy, Lynda Carlson, now of the National Science Foundation, was our office director. When Lynda came, we were the Office of Statistical Standards and were considered the cops or enforcers. This was an important function when EIA was a new agency, but, over time, I think it became a less effective way of doing business. Lynda transitioned us to being the Statistics and Methods Group where we act more as statistical consultants than enforcers. Lynda showed me what a mentor could do.

And then, there is my mother, a lifelong educator, having taught in New York City elementary schools for over 30 years and until a few years ago a docent at the Central Park Zoo. She, too, is a leader by example.

At the 1996 Statistical Policy conference (put on by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics), there was a session on training statisticians for the future. Jeanne Griffith talked about the skills that the statistical workforce of the future would need. She talked about what she would like to see happen if she could wave her magic wand. We’re a profession that talks in terms of minimizing, optimizing, and detecting data anomalies (to give some examples), not generally in terms of magic wands. But Jeanne was so convincing that day that I felt a magic wand could actually be waved.

I thought about the magic wand recently. When people congratulated me on receiving this award, a few were a little less than serious. They were long-time employees who told me they needed mentoring, but it sounded more like they were hoping I could instantaneously transform them and solve all of their problems. I thought--I don’t have a magic wand. And then I thought about Jeanne.

Maybe mentoring is the way to activate the magic wand to which Jeanne referred to obtain the trained statistical workforce of the future. I know there are many among you who are mentors, would-be mentors, accidental mentors, and other types of mentors. We need all of you to realize Jeanne's vision.

[Renee Miller was awarded the 2005 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award on June 8, 2005, at a ceremony held in Washington, DC. Renee is a supervisory mathematical statistician in the Statistics and Methods Group of the Energy Information Administration. For more about Renee and her mentoring accomplishments, see the June 2005 issue of Amstat News, page 40.]

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

GSS/SSS/SRMS JSM 2005 Student Paper Competition Winners

The Social Statistics, Government Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections are pleased to announce the award winners of the 2005 Student Paper Competition for student and postgraduate papers to be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in a topic contributed session on **Wednesday, August 10, at 10:30 am**. This year there were many outstanding papers, from graduate and undergraduate students. Our judges were the 2005 program chairs from the respective sections: Brian Harris-Kojetin, Renee Miller, and Rachel Harter.

Congratulations to this year's winners! We are pleased to announce the members of this illustrious group, along with their school affiliations, and the titles of their papers:

- **Gabriele Durrant, Ph.D.**
2004 graduate of University of Southampton
Imputation of Missing Hourly Pay Data Using Data Augmentation in the Case of Nonignorable Item Nonresponse
- **Kelly (Shaffrey) Dixon, MS**
Joint Program in Survey Methodology, May 2004
Errors Associated with Period Reporters in Estimates of Retail Trade
- **Mike Kwanisai, Ph.D.**
2004 graduate of Penn State University
Model-Based Estimation in Network Sampling Using Samples Obtained by Subsampling
- **Marcel de Toldeo Vieira**
Ph.D. student at University of Southampton
Design Effects in the Analysis of Longitudinal Survey Data
- **Qingzhao Yu**
Ph.D. student at Ohio State University
Bayesian Models To Adjust for Response Bias in Survey Data: An Example in Estimating Rape and Domestic Violence from the NCVS

At the meetings, the winners will receive a plaque and an \$800 prize to help defray travel expenses. In addition, this year the Social Statistics Section covered the cost of the winners' meeting registrations.

AMERICA'S CHILDREN: KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING, 2005

On July 20, 2005, the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics* released its ninth report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Child Well-Being 2005*. The report provides data on important areas of children's well-being and is designed to complement other, more technical or comprehensive reports produced by some of the Forum agencies. The report is divided into two parts. The first part of the report, Population and Family Characteristics, presents data that illustrate the changes during the past few decades in nine measures depicting the context of children's lives. These background measures provide basic information about children in the United States and the social and demographic changes occurring in the child population. The second part of the report, Indicators of Children's Well-Being, contains data on 25 indicators in areas of

economic security, health, behavioral and social environment, and education. In addition to these indicators, this year's report includes special features that provide data on children with asthma, children with specified blood lead levels, and parental reports of children's emotional and behavioral difficulties. Also, the report includes a special section on family structure, highlighting this important dimension in the well-being of children. *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Child Well-Being 2005* is accessible online at (<http://childstats.gov>). Printed copies are available from Health Resources and Services Administration, Information Center. Please call 1-888-Ask-HRSA (1-888-275-4772) or e-mail ask@hrsa.gov.

* The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, or the Forum, is a working group of Federal agencies that collect, analyze, and report data on issues related to children and families. The Forum has partners from 20 Federal agencies as well as partners in private research organizations.

~~~~~

### **FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY 2005 RESEARCH CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 14-16, 2005**

The 2005 Federal Committee On Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research Conference will be held November 14-16, 2005, at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. The conference provides a forum for experts from around the world to discuss and exchange current research and methodological topics relevant to Federal government statistical programs.

The conference fee is \$150. For a copy of the advance program and registration information please refer to <http://www.fcsm.gov/events/#upcoming>.

~~~~~

METHODOLOGY OF LONGITUDINAL SURVEYS CONFERENCE: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

International Conference to be held at the University of Essex, Colchester UK, July 12-14, 2006

Conference website: <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/mols2006>

Submissions are invited for contributed papers to be presented at the conference, Methodology of Longitudinal Surveys (MOLS 2006). The conference is sponsored by the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) and the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The contributed papers programme will complement the programme of approximately 20 monograph papers, which have already been chosen following an earlier call for submissions. Preliminary titles of monograph papers are listed on the conference website.

Contributed papers should address important methodological topics in the design, implementation or analysis of longitudinal surveys. The focus is primarily on surveys that involve collecting data from subjects on multiple occasions. The subjects could be individuals, households, businesses or other establishments. Note that the conference is concerned with the methods used by such surveys, not with the substantive findings. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sampling for longitudinal surveys, including sample rotation, refreshment sampling and methods for dealing with population births and deaths;
- Sample management procedures and methods for tracing sample members over time and maintaining contact with sample members;
- Design methods for meeting dual requirements for longitudinal and cross-sectional estimates;
- Instrument design for longitudinal surveys, including the use of dependent interviewing;

- The effects of using different modes of data collection at different waves, multiple modes or changing modes;
- Issues in the collection of data from multiple members of a sampling unit (e.g. household, business), including the use of different respondents at different waves;
- Methods for minimizing sample attrition;
- Assessment of non-response bias (unit and item) on longitudinal surveys;
- Adjustment methods for non-response and attrition, including weighting;
- Imputation and other methods for dealing with item missing data, especially wave non-response;
- Respondent conditioning, seam effects and other measurement error issues specific to longitudinal surveys;
- Methods for estimating measurement error that are unique to panel data;
- Use of administrative data to enhance longitudinal surveys;
- Methods for disclosure avoidance and privacy protection in the release of longitudinal data files;
- Ethical issues on longitudinal surveys, including confidentiality and consent;
- Variance estimation for panels, rotating panels and other complex designs;
- Analysis methods specific to repeated measures or duration and event data;
- Analysis of longitudinal survey data under complex designs and informative sampling;
- Nonsampling and sampling errors in panel data analysis;
- Other issues in the analysis of longitudinal survey data.

Contributed papers may provide a review of research and practice in a particular methodological area or present the findings of new methodological research. Submissions will be screened by the MOLS 2006 scientific committee, which will select papers that address relevant topics and collectively provide a balanced programme. There is also an opportunity for suitable contributed papers to be considered for inclusion in a special issue of the *Journal of Official Statistics* (JOS). Details of the process for submission to JOS will be made available once the conference papers have been chosen.

Submissions should consist of an abstract of approximately 500 words, describing clearly the topic that will be addressed, the material that will be drawn upon and the key messages of the paper. Please include the names, affiliations and email addresses of all authors. Abstracts should be submitted to:

mols-abstracts@isermail.essex.ac.uk

by November 30, 2005, preferably as a Word document. Informal enquiries regarding possible submissions can be made to plynn@essex.ac.uk.

Authors will be informed whether or not their submission has been accepted by January 31, 2006. Authors of accepted contributed papers will be required to register for the conference and to present their paper orally.

For further details of the conference, see the website: <http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/mols2006>.

~~~~~

## CALL FOR PAPERS: "IMPROVING ESTIMATES FROM SURVEY DATA"

You are invited to participate in the biennial conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW), Joensuu, Finland, August 20-26, 2006. Full details of the conference are provided at <http://www.iariw.org> (follow the Conferences/Future Conferences links).

In particular, you are invited to submit an abstract (and, later, a paper) for a session on "Improving Estimates from Survey Data". Feel free to circulate this invitation among anyone you think might be interested in the session, or in the conference as a whole.

---

### THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESTABLISHMENT SURVEYS (ICES-III)

**Survey Methods for: Businesses, Farms, and Institutions**

**June 18-21, 2007**

**Hyatt Regency Montréal – Montréal, Québec, Canada**

*In sponsorship with the American Statistical Association, the ASA Section on Survey Research Methods, the ASA Section on Government Statistics, the International Association Survey Statisticians, and the Statistical Society of Canada*

The Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III) will be held in Montréal, Québec, Canada, June 18-21, 2007. ICES-III will explore the current state of the art. ICES-I in 1993 convened more than 400 experts in the area of surveys of businesses, farms, and institutions to formally set the stage for documenting the state of the art. ICES-II in 2000 took a forward look at survey methods.

December 1, 2005, is the deadline for proposals for organizing invited paper sessions. The conference will also include:

- Selection of contributed paper proposals,
- Three short courses on Monday, June 18,
- A keynote speaker and reception on Monday evening,
- Poster sessions, and software demonstrations.

Approximately 500 participants are expected. Following the conference, a CD ROM of conference papers will be sent to all participants.

All Conference activities will be held at the Hyatt Regency Montreal. The Hyatt Regency Montreal web site is: <http://montreal.hyatt.com/>. (Hotel reservations will open March 1, 2007.)

The invited program, the schedule of sessions (when available), as well as conference information, can be accessed on the internet at: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/>.

For further information, please send an email message to [ices3@census.gov](mailto:ices3@census.gov). The official language of the conference is English. Translators will not be provided.

---

### Government Statistics Section

#### *Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) is to promote the use of sound statistical theory and methods in the production of data at all levels of government – be it Federal, State, local, or international; assist in the broad dissemination of those data; and encourage good statistical practice by all users. Areas of interest for the Section include all that involve the production, dissemination, and application of governmental statistics, including concern with statistical policy issues, quality and usefulness of governmental data products, special problems of State and local data, comparability of data among different countries, and the role of professional statisticians in the public sector.*

---

## **Social Statistics Section**

### *Mission Statement*

*The Social Statistics Section seeks to advance research in social statistics, both in areas which involve the use of methods of statistical inquiry, and in those which involve the use of statistical data and the development of statistical measurement. This section will also plan for active participation in the affairs of the American Statistical Association by those interested in these matters and for representation of activities in this major field in the program of the ASA.*

~~~~~

GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

Chet Bowie

Chair, 2005

chet_bowie@marketstrategies.com

Nat Schenker

Chair, 2004

nschenker@cdc.gov

Stephanie Shipp

Chair, 2006

stephanie.shipp@nist.gov

Brian Harris-Kojetin

Program Chair, 2005

bharrisk@omb.eop.gov

Michael P. Cohen

Program Chair, 2006

michael.cohen@bts.gov

John W. Hall

Secretary/Treasurer, 2005-06

jhall@mathematica-mpr.com

Daniel Kasprzyk

Council of Sections Rep, 2004-05

dkasprzyk@mathematica-mpr.com

Robert Lussier

Publications Officer, 2005-06

robert.lussier@statcan.ca

Wendy Alvey

COPAFS Rep, 2005-06

wendy.l.alvey@census.gov

John Czajka

COPAFS Rep, 2004-05

jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com

Pat Melvin

Newsletter Editor

patricia.l.melvin@census.gov

Bill Wong

Assistant Editor, *Amstat* Online

william.wong@irs.gov

Tai Phan

GSSLIST Coordinator

tai.phan@ed.gov

Monica Clark

ASA Ex Officio

monica@amstat.org

SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

Jerry Gates

Chair, 2005

gerald.w.gates@census.gov

Colm O'Muircheartaigh

Chair, 2004

colm@norc.org

Susan Schechter

Chair, 2006

susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov

Renee Miller

Program Chair, 2005

renee.miller@eia.doe.gov

Juanita Tamayo Lott

Program Chair, 2006

juanita.t.lott@census.gov

Susan Hinkins

Secretary/Treasurer, 2005

hinkins-susan@norc.org

Trivellore Raghunathan

Council of Sections Rep, 2005

teraghu@umich.edu

Beth Kilss

Publications Officer, 2005-06

beth.a.kilss@irs.gov

David Nichols

Assistant Editor, *Amstat* Online

dnichols@spss.com

Monica Clark

ASA Ex Officio

monica@amstat.org