survey RESEARCH methods section

Newsletter

Issue 15 July 2002

The SRMS Program for the 2002 JSM in New York City

by Pat Cantwell

As you may know, the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) will be held next month in New York City, August 11-15. The Survey Research Methods Section will offer an extensive program. Some of the highlights include:

- 2 continuing education courses;
- 5 invited paper sessions;
- 16 topic contributed paper sessions;
- 23 regular contributed paper sessions;
- 8 roundtable luncheons; and
- the annual SRMS open business meeting.

For the opening weekend of the meetings, Dave Chapman has organized two continuing education courses. On Saturday, August 10, Clyde Tucker of the Bureau of Labor Statistics will present the "Measurement of Nonsampling Error." On Sunday August 11, Sharon Lohr of Arizona State University will discuss the "Design and Analysis of Sample Surveys."

For the roundtable luncheons, Howard Hogan, the SRMS Program Chair for the 2003 JSM, will bring together eight people we hope you'd gladly pay to have lunch with. This year, the SRMS luncheons will be spread over three days, so that you can attend more than one.

In the last SRMS Newsletter, we provided the topics of the invited sessions. The contributed sessions will cover a wide range of theory and applications. Following is an abbreviated list.

- the contributions of Leslie Kish to survey sampling;
- designing questionnaires and evaluating mode effects;
- economic surveys;
- estimation techniques;
- assessing sources of nonsampling errors;
- various topics on the 2000 census;
- administrative records in government surveys;
- procedures for telephone surveys;
- evaluating, addressing, and preventing nonresponse;
- replication methods for estimating variance;
- changing concepts of long-term care;
- issues in sampling and selection;
- new definitions of race and ethnicity;
- record linkage;
- small area estimation;
- frames and coverage;
- establishment-based employment surveys;
- statistical editing and imputation;
- surveys of schools and education;
- survey panels and longitudinal analysis;
- the American Community Survey;
- estimating variances in the presence of missing data; and
- many more.

Always a favorite of section members is the annual open business meeting, held Wednesday evening, August 14. The section chair, Lars Lyberg, will review the section's activities and budget, as he solicits input from our members. And, of course, refreshments will be served.

You can view the entire program for the JSM online at ASA's web site: http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2002/onlineprogram/index.cfm. See you in New York City! ❀

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

An Introduction to Dynamically Conditioned Choropleth Maps

Daniel B. Carr & Yuguang Zhang,

George Mason University

This is the fourth article of a seven part series focusing on the mission statement of SRMS (shown on the back page of the newsletter). Color maps can be seen on the SRMS web page.

1. Overview

This article introduces a dynamic Java shareware application called conditioned choropleth (CC) maps. CCmaps is a tool for exploratory spatial data analysis. The primary purpose of CCmaps is hypothesis generation. CCmaps uses new dynamic partitioning sliders to promote stratified comparison in a mapping context. The simple user interface also makes CCmaps a suitable tool for a variety of educational purposes. The software is available via www.galaxy.gmu.edu/~dcarr/ccmaps.

2. Background: Limitations and Uses of Choropleth Maps

Choropleth maps display regions on a map and use the color of each region to represent a statistic that describes the region. Typically a classed choropleth map has no more than six classes represented by easily distinguished hues. Figure 1 is an example of a three-class choropleth map. The regions in Figure 1 are health service areas (counties or aggregates of country based on where people get their hospital care). The statistics represented are the lung cancer mortality rates for white men ages 65-74 during the period 1985 to 1989. The mortality rates are expressed as the number of deaths per 10,000. Regions with rates from 4 to 38 appear blue in the web version (light gray in the newsletter monochrome version). Those with rates between 38 and 45 appear medium gray and those with higher rates appear red (dark gray in the monochrome version).

The cartographic community recognizes the many weaknesses of choropleth maps [1]. One weakness is that political region boundaries may have almost no relationship to the contours of the phenomena of interest. A second weakness is that the area of a region can inappropriately influence our perception of estimate importance. A third weakness is that an indication of estimate uncertainty is typically absent.

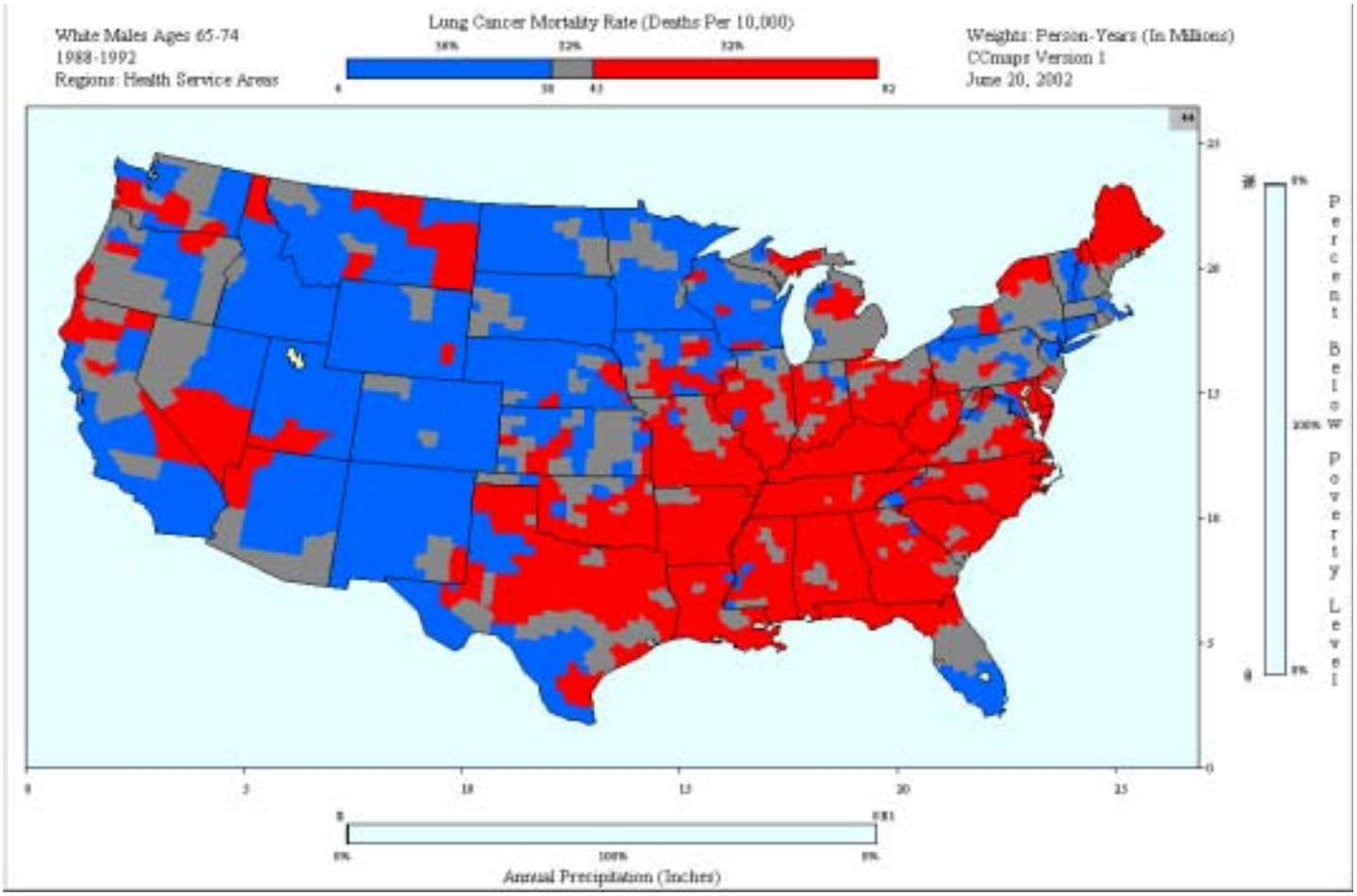

Figure 1. A Choropleth Map

Despite the weaknesses, choropleth maps remain popular and researchers continue using them to generate hypothesis about the spatial patterns that appear. Displaying geospatially-indexed estimates on a map is a good strategy for hypothesis generation. Researchers often relate their knowledge about phenomena, such as climate, traffic density, sales, and so on, with spatial location. Spatial patterns appearing on a map trigger recall of knowledge that may provide the basis for explaining patterns.

Spatial patterns may be due to many sources of variation. In the context of seeking explanations, John Tukey said that, "the unadjusted plot should not be made." In other words, our perceptual/cognitive abilities are poor in terms of adjusting for known source of variations and envisioning the resulting map. A better strategy is to control for known sources of variation and/or adjust the estimates before making the map.

Different communities control or adjust for anticipated sources of variation in different ways. In mortality studies well-trained statisticians can use sophisticated regression/smoothing methods to adjust for known risk factors and then display the residuals on a map. A more common mapping practice stratifies the population of interest into more homogeneous groups and produces separate maps for each stratum. In mortality rate mapping, for example, sex and race specific maps are standard and woe be to the researcher that does not display age-specific or age-adjusted estimates.

3. Conditioned Choropleth Maps

The CCmaps template [2, 3] addresses some of the choropleth map limitations. CCmaps provide a dynamic-interaction mapping environment that takes the stratification process a step further and incorporates summary statistics for feedback. The stratification is based on two additional continuous variables. Figure 2 shows an example. Each

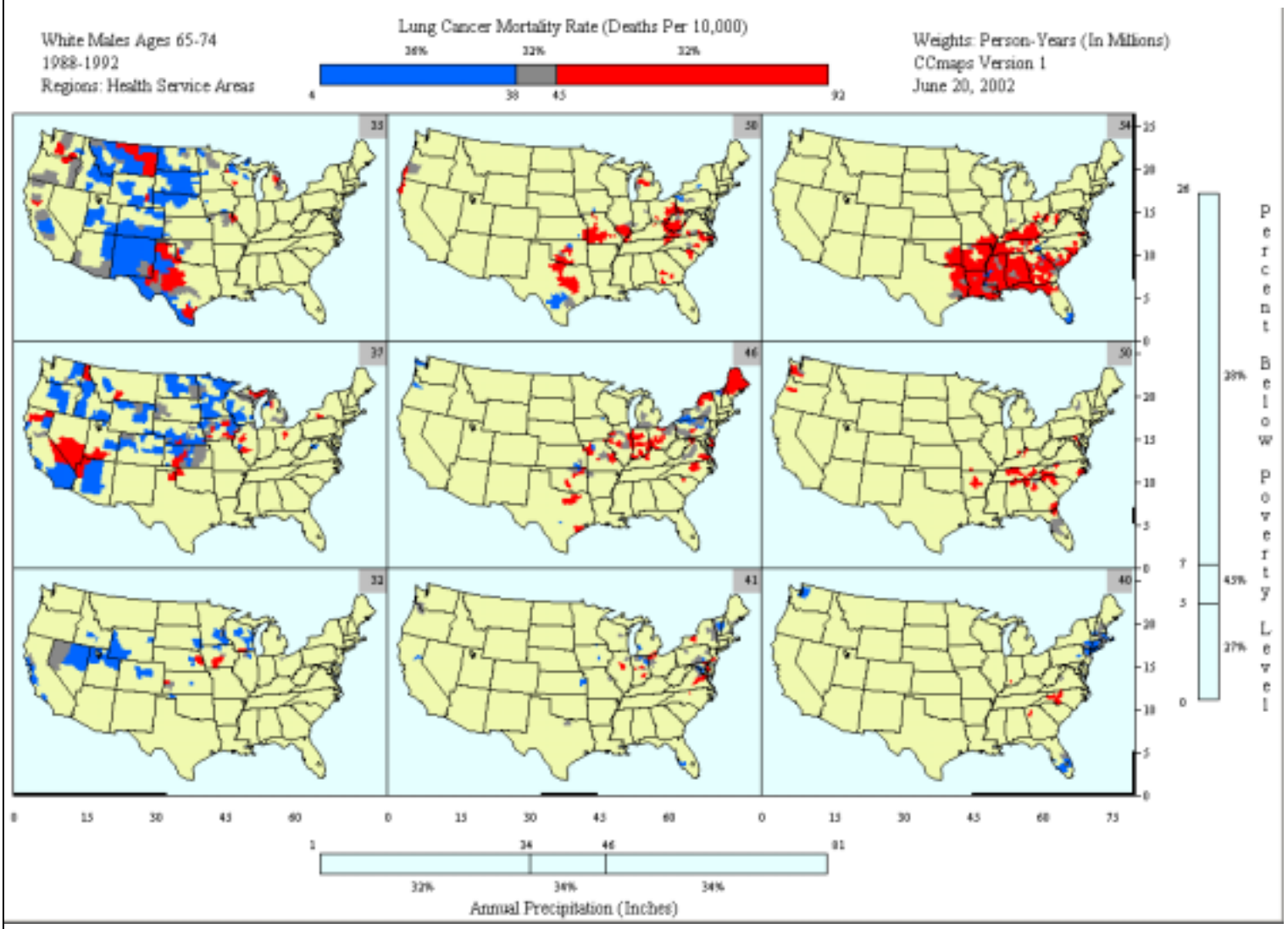

Figure 2. A Conditioned Choropleth Map

region in Figure 2 has an estimate of annual precipitation and percent of households below the poverty level. Stratification into three classes for both variables yields a 3 x 3 layout of partial maps. In Figure 2 the left column, middle and right columns contain regions with low, medium and high values of precipitation, respectively. The bottom, middle and top rows correspond to low, medium and high levels of poverty, respectively. The implementation changes the color of regions not belonging to a panel into the background color (light yellow in the full color version and white in the monochrome version.)

CCmaps has three dynamic partitioning sliders that enable the analyst to define what is meant by low, medium and high values. The slider at the top of Figure 2 controls the assignment of color to the regions based on lung cancer morality rates. The current slider settings make most of the regions in the top right panel appear red (dark gray in the newsletter). Changing the class boundaries allows an analyst to investigate the range of values within the panel. This is helpful in regard to seeing spatial patterns with a panel that may motivate explanations.

All of the partitioning sliders include annotation. Slider annotation includes labels for boundaries of low, middle and high intervals. Figure 2 also shows values centered at the middle of the intervals. These values indicate the percent of person-years in each class. This weight-based summary contrasts to typical GIS summaries indicating the percent of regions. In our example we are more interested in people than regions. Our preference is for the beginning view to have about a third of the population in each class.

Four kinds of questions arise in looking at the panels in CCmaps.

1. Do distributions of values differ across panels?
2. How might panel differences be explained?
3. Are there interesting spatial patterns within panels?
4. How might the spatial patterns be explained?

CCmaps provides some help for answering question 1. For comparing distributions CCmaps shows the population weighted average in the top right of each panel. In Figure 2 the weights for the five-year periods are expressed in units of person-years. Given the fact that millions of person-years are involved and the large denominators for the rates, the means are often statistically different. The rates of 35 and 54 (per 10,000) in the top level and top right panels, respectively, indicated a huge difference in a pragmatic biological sense.

In several situations, such as when distributions are skewed, means may provide a poor basis for comparing distributions. To address this, CCmaps provides weighted QQplots for comparing panel values with the composite of values from other panels. Cleveland [4] is a good resource for those not familiar with QQplot interpretation. Additional statistics in each panel of the 3 x 3 layout of QQplots include cumulative weights and corresponding percents. The QQplots and statistics dynamically update with the movement of the partitioning sliders.

The sliders in CCmaps are very fast. For U.S. maps with over 3000 counties we still get immediate smooth updating on our computers. The QQplots are fast enough with the 800 health service areas in the current example, but lag behind when working with 3000 counties. This slow response for QQplots can be remedied by providing less detail for panels with hundreds of regions.

4. Credit, Future Versions, Examples, and Use

Many authors have provided inspiration for developing CCmaps. For brevity we limit our citation to Cleveland, Grosse and Shyu [5]. Their discussion of conditioned plots provided the most direct inspiration.

We continue to improve the current features of CCmaps and to provide extensions. Improved features will include more convenient data file and polygon file input. Planned extensions include conditioning for point and arc map layers, conditioning for categorical variables, and contrast views for multiple dependent variables.

The web site, www.galaxy.gmu.edu/~dcarr/ccmaps, contains a few examples. The number of available polygon files will grow as examples accumulate. In many cases this will obviate the need to look elsewhere for boundary files.

We hope that readers will see that CCmaps template is relevant to a host of applications. The examples need not be typically maps. We have even mocked up a small microarray example that uses squares as the polygons.

CCmaps can be a springboard to further learning. Where does one get data, such as cigarette smoking rates? Why are small area estimates likely to be suppressed? Can we test for differences among the 3x3 layout of means? What multiple comparison issues are associated with slider use and how do we deal with them? How does one use more sophisticated modeling methods? What different sources of information could support or weaken the hypotheses generated?

Classic statistical concepts such as stratified comparison remain powerful without a full complement of statistical trappings. With appealing packaging, such methods can be brought to broader audiences. Sliders and maps are fun!

5. Acknowledgements

The current version of CCmaps builds up the implementation of Duncan MacDonald. The work was partially supported by NSF Grant No. 9983461.

6. Bibliography

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[2] DB Carr, JF Wallin, and DA Carr. 2002. "Two New Templates for Epidemiology Applications. Linked Micromap Plots and Conditioned Choropleth Maps," *Statistics in Medicine*, 19:2521-2538.

[3] DB Carr. 2002. "Graphical Displays," *Encyclopedia of Environmetrics*, Eds. A. H. El-Shaarawi and W. W. Piegorsch, Vol. 2. John Wiley & Sons, pp. 933-960.

[4] WS Cleveland, 1993. *Visualizing Data*, Hobart Press, Summit, New Jersey.

[5] WS Cleveland, E Grosse, and WM Shyu. 1992. "Local Regression Models." *Statistical Models In S*, Editors J. M. Chambers and T. J. Hastie. Wadsworth and Brooks Cole, Pacific Grove, CA.

Section News

Election Results

Congratulations to the following SRMS members for winning their respective elections! We look forward to your service and leadership in the near future.

For Chair-Elect
Sharon L. Lohr, Arizona State University

For Program Chair-Elect
Partha Lahiri, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

For Treasurer
Thomas R. Belin, University of California, Los Angeles

For Publications Officer
Michael P. Cohen, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

For Representative to the Council of Sections (2003-2005)
Elizabeth Stasny, Ohio State University ❇

ASA Fellows—SRMS Members

Congratulations to the following SRMS members who were recently selected as Fellows of the American Statistical Association.

Nell Sedransk	Case Western Reserve University
Michael L. Cohen	Committee on National Statistics
Richard A. Kulka	Research Triangle Institute
John L. Eltinge	Bureau of Labor Statistics
Carolee Bush	U.S. Census Bureau
Stephanie Slepicka Shipp	National Institute of Standards and Technology U.S. Dept. of Commerce
Dalene K Stangl	Duke University ❇

Business Meeting

The SRMS Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2002 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM in room H-Gramercy B in the Hilton New York hotel during the Joint Statistical Meetings in New York City. All members are welcome! ❇

Web Page

The SRMS web page (http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms) is alive and well. Anthony An from the SAS Institute is the webmaster. Please send your future news items, comments, and suggestions for the web page to his e-mail address at anthony.an@sas.com. ❇

Newsletter on the Web

This newsletter and past SRMS newsletters can be read on the web. The address for the Survey Research Methods Section web site is http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/. ❇

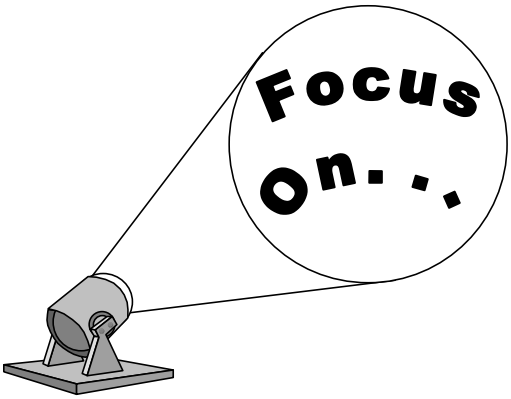
SRMSNET News

The SRMSNET Listserv list has been moved. All postings should now be sent to:

SRMSNET@listserv.umd.edu

To subscribe to SRMSNET, send a message to listserv@listserv.umd.edu and in the body of the message, type 'subscribe SRMSNET *your name*'. Please remember that if you click on 'reply', your answer will go out to everyone on the SRMSNET. So be sure to direct personal replies to the sender's own e-mail address.

To unsubscribe, in your message to listserv@listserv.umd.edu, type in the body of the message 'unsubscribe SRMSNET'. ❇



Standing Committee Reports

Recent Activities of the SRM—SIPP Working Group

by Karen King, U.S. Census Bureau

In the last year, the SIPP Working Group has met twice with U.S. Census Bureau staff to work on technical issues associated with the SIPP. General survey updates are routinely given and discussed at these meetings. However, more lively discussion has occurred over topics such as results from recent monetary incentive usage, uses for administrative data matched to the SIPP, dealing with decreasing response rates, results from testing alternative questionnaire designs, and improving access to SIPP data.

Membership in the working group has changed a little over the last year. Greg Duncan asked to be retired from the working group after five years of service. On the support staff side of the working group, both Karen King and Rita Visnansky at Census have moved onto other positions and haven't been replaced. ❇

Executive Committee Report

Publications Officer's Report

by Al Tupek

Coming to the web this summer: All the papers you have ever written for the SRMS proceedings. Later this summer, the Section's historical proceedings dating back to 1978 will be available on the Section's Internet site, www.amstat.org/sections/srms. After months of debate and investigation, we decided to proceed with this project. We selected Omnipress in Madison, Wisconsin to digitize our proceedings for a fee of a little less than $30,000.

Credit goes to Dan Kasprzyk, past chair, who was determined and persistent to provide this valuable service to the Section members. After last summer's JSM, it was clear that other sections were not yet ready to join the SRMS in providing historical proceedings to members. We decided to go it alone. Bill Kalsbeek began working with several electronic publishing companies, and I soon joined him. With lots of input from the executive committee members, especially Dan, Lars, and our webmaster, Tony An, we finalized our requirements and obtained final bids from contractors. We believe Omnipress will provide a high quality product for a reasonable cost. They have years of experience providing print and electronic publications for scientific associations.

Since the Section's first proceedings in 1978, until the last printed proceedings in 2000, there were 3,667 papers/presentations that will soon be available in Adobe Acrobat/PDF format on the Section's web site, www.amstat.org/sections/srms. The table of contents, spanning all 23 years of sessions and papers, will be searchable and viewable through any Internet browser that includes the Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Next, we will begin developing a plan to integrate the Section's proceedings from the 2001 Joint Statistical Meetings and future meetings with the historical proceedings. ❇

Awards

Each year an outstanding graduate student in Survey Statistics is awarded the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship to help support the student's graduate education. Westat established the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Trust Fund in 1995 to honor its co-founder and long-time leader. Under Dr. Bryant's leadership, Westat, an employee-owned statistical firm established in 1961, grew into what is now one of the world's leading statistical research firms with a full-time permanent staff of 1,500. Selection of the scholarship recipient is made by the ASA Bryant Scholarship Award Committee. The selection criteria includes potential to contribute to survey statistics, applied experience in survey statistics, and performance in

graduate school. The award consists of a certificate and a $1,500.00 cash prize.

The 2002 winner will be presented at the Presidential Address at the JSM in New York City. For more information about the 2003 scholarship including an application, see www.amstat.org/awards/bryant.html. An additional contact is Jean Opsomer, the Committee Chair at jopsomer@iastate.edu or (515) 294-0212. Applications and letters of recommendation must be received by April 30, 2003 for consideration. ❊

GSS/SRMS/SSS Student Paper Competition

GSS, SMRS and SSS are pleased to report that this year's Student Paper Competition was a huge success! Five students are receiving travel awards and will present their papers at the 2002 JSM in New York City. The 2002 winners are:

Robert Graham Clark
University of Wollongong, Australia
Two-stage sample design with small clusters

Kevin Helsin
UCLA Dept. of Health Services
Does religious background influence choice of social service providers by homeless women?

Chen Quin, Lam
Ohio State University, Department of Statistics
Handling undecided voters: using missing data methods to improve election forecasting

Sunghee Lee
University of Maryland
Joint Program in Survey Methodology
I am disabled on and off! A study of proxy response in a disability survey

Bo Lu
University of Pennsylvania
Wharton School, Department of Statistics
Matching with doses in an observational study of a media campaign against drug abuse

The five students will be honored and will present their award-winning papers at a topic-contributed session (#300 on Wednesday morning from 10:30-12:20). Please plan on attending to encourage the next generation of statisticians and to hear these outstanding papers.

Professors and students: it is not too early to begin thinking about the 2003 Student Paper Competition! Please use this announcement to begin seriously thinking about your (or your student's) submission. Students, speak with your advisor, chat with your fellow classmates, brainstorm a research idea you think would be fun to develop! The summer is a perfect time to set your goals for next year. The deadline for submitting abstracts for the 2003 competition will be on or about December 15, 2002. If you have any questions or would like to speak to someone about the competition, feel free to contact the organizer of the 2003 competition: Susan Schechter (2003 Program Chair, Social Statistics Section). Susan's email address is susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov and her telephone number is (202) 395-5103. ❊

Cochran-Hansen Prize

Competition for Young Survey Statisticians from Developing and Transition Countries 2003

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the IASS established the Cochran-Hansen Prize to be awarded to the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a Developing or Transition Country. The next paper will be presented at the 54th Session of the International Statistical Institute, to be held in Berlin, Germany from August 13-20, 2003.

Participation in the competition for the Cochran-Hansen Prize is open to nationals of Developing or Transition Countries who are living in such countries and who were born in 1963 or later. Winners of an ISI Jan Tinbergen Award are not eligible for the competition. Papers submitted must be unpublished original works. They may include materials from the participant's university thesis. They should be in either English or French. The papers should be submitted to the IASS Secretariat at the address below, to arrive by 31 December 2002. Each submission should be accompanied by a cover letter that gives the participant's year of birth, nationality, and country of residence. The papers submitted will be examined by the Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee. The decision of the Committee is final.

The author of the winning paper will receive the Cochran-Hansen Prize in the form of books and journal subscriptions to the value of about 500 EUROS and will be invited to present the paper at the Berlin Session of the ISI with all expenses paid (i.e., round trip airfare between place of residence and Berlin and a lump sum to cover living expenses).

For further information, please write to:

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Nominations Sought for Waksberg Paper

The journal, *Survey Methodology*, has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joseph Waksberg, who has made many important contributions to survey methodology. Each year, as part of the Waksberg Invited Paper Series, a prominent survey researcher is chosen to author a paper that reviews the development and current state of a significant topic within the field of survey methodology, and reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterizes Waksberg's work. The author receives a cash award made possible by a grant from Westat, in recognition of Joe Waksberg's contributions during his many years of association with Westat. The grant is administered financially by the American Statistical Association. Previous winners were Gad Nathan, Wayne Fuller and Tim Holt. The first two authors' papers have already appeared in Survey Methodology.

The author of the 2004 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by Survey Methodology and the American Statistical Association. Nominations of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent to the chair of the committee, David Binder, Methodology Branch, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6, by email to binddav@statcan.ca or by fax 1-613-951-5711. Nominations and suggestions for topics must be received by December 6, 2002.❇

Organization of the Field Work... Cochran (1980)

"A procedure for early checking of the quality of the returns is invaluable. Plans must be made for handling nonresponse; that is, the failure of the enumerator to obtain information from certain of the units in the sample."

International Conference on Recent Advances in Survey Sampling (ICRASS)

Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
July 10 to 13, 2002

ICRASS is sponsored by the Laboratory for Research in Statistics and Probability of Carleton University-University of Ottawa, and supported in part by grants from the Survey Research Methods Section, The Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, and Statistics Canada. The conference is in honor of the work of Professor J.N.K. Rao and will celebrate Professor Rao's 65th birthday, which falls on May 16 of this year. The conference will cover topics related to Professor Rao's wide-ranging research interests, particularly his interest in a broad spectrum of sampling topics. The sessions include sample surveys, biostatistics, time series, and statistical inference.

For a brief biography on Professor Rao, please see the July 2001 newsletter.

For further information on the conference and the program, please visit our web page: http:www.lrsp.carleton.ca/conferences/icrass-rao/ or contact:

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The International Conference on Improving Surveys

Copenhagen, Denmark, August 25-28, 2002

The International Conference on Improving Surveys (ICIS) has four main themes: the effect of new technologies on surveys, improving quality of surveys, improving international comparisons, and combining surveys and

administrative registers. Keynote speakers will be Mick Couper, University of Michigan; David Marker, Westat; Vijay Verma, ORC Macro; and Eva Elvers, Statistics Sweden. Bob Groves, University of Michigan, will provide concluding remarks.

Anticipated topics include the effect of mobile phones on telephone surveys; web and email surveys; collecting sensitive data; efficient survey designs; effects of nonresponse; developing international standards; lessons learned from recent international assessments; standardizing concepts versus questionnaire wording; requirements for metadata; and recent harmonization efforts. The conference is co-sponsored by SFI-Survey (Denmark), ASA/SRMS, IASS, Eurostat, SAS Institute, and the Danish Society for Theoretical Statistics. For more information contact Hans Bay, Director SFI-Survey, at hb@sfi.dk or check the conference web site at www.icis.dk. Three courses will be presented before and after the ICIS.

- Analyzing Sample Survey Data Using SAS (full day).
- A course in ECHP (European Community Household Panel) ½ day.
- SUDAAN (Survey Data Analysis) ½ day.

After the ICIS conference, The 13th International Workshop on Household Survey Nonresponse will take place (August 29 to August 31). ❇

International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing Methods (QDET)

Radisson Hotel Charleston

Charleston, South Carolina, November 14-17, 2002

The goals of the first international conference devoted to the methods used for questionnaire development, evaluation, and testing are to bring together researchers and survey practitioners working in this area, to stimulate research papers that contribute to the science of reducing measurement error through questionnaire evaluation, to provide documentation of the current practices, and to stimulate new ideas for future practices. The QDET conference will include 23 invited papers and approximately 70 contributed papers with presenters from Italy, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden, Israel, France, Germany, Canada, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Norway, Australia and the U.S. The conference will also include 23 poster presentations. (Abstracts of papers and posters are available on the conference web site.) In addition, four short courses are being offered the first day of the conference. An integrated volume representing the theoretical, methodological, and statistical contributions to the field will be produced after the conference. This conference is sponsored by ASA/SRM, AAPOR, IASS, and CASRO. Conference preregistration opens in mid-May 2002 and will be limited to 300 attendees. Register early! For more information please visit the conference web site at: www.jpsm.umd.edu/qdet or contact Jennifer Rothgeb, Organizing Committee Chair, U.S. Census Bureau, FB4-Rm. 3125, Washington, D.C. 20233; Email: jennifer.m.rothgeb@census.gov. ❇

Announcements

Request for Short Topics

If you are interested in contributing a short topical discussion of less than one page, please send me an e-mail at tomkrenzke@westat.com. Past topics have included rounding, significant digits, and PPS sampling.❇

We welcome announcements from SRMS members that are of general interest to survey research professionals. Contact the editors at LeslieWallace@Westat.com or TomKrenzke@Westat.com.

This newsletter was formatted by Angelia Murphy and printed by Laurie Logan. The editors wish to thank Angelia and Laurie for their contributions to the newsletter.

Double Sampling...Cochran (1980)

"As we have seen, a number of sampling techniques depend on the possession of advance information about an auxiliary variable x_i…. When such information is lacking, it is sometimes relatively cheap to take a large preliminary sample in which x_i alone is measured…. This technique is known as *double sampling* or *two-phase sampling*."

SRMS Standing Committees

Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Committee

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Betsy Martin
Donna Brogan
Paul Lavrakas
Sarah Nusser
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Executive Committee Bio

Lynne Stokes is a Professor in the Department of Statistics at Southern Methodist University. She has long had an interest in Census related issues. She was formerly employed at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, where her current interest in non-sampling errors in surveys began. She has served on the Census Advisory Committee for the ASA and on a National Academy of Sciences Panel on Alternative Census Methodologies. She was also employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and continues work on capture-recapture and number of species estimation methods. She currently serves as editor of *The American Statistician*.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Section on Survey Research Methods is to promote the improvement of survey practice and the understanding of survey methods by encouraging both theoretical and applied research on survey-related topics and by disseminating information on survey methods.

Areas of interest for the Section include all that employ survey methodology as a focus or as a prime tool of investigation. Of special interest are:

- Theoretical foundations of sampling;
- Sample design and estimation;
- Nonsampling errors and data collection methods;
- Analysis and presentation of survey data;
- Education of the public and students on the importance of scientific survey research;
- Publication and dissemination of survey research findings; and
- Ethics related to survey conduct and standards for survey practice.

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