



# NEWS from CNSTAT

— October 20, 2014 —

**REMINDER:** There is still time to register for the *Committee on National Statistics public seminar* to be held on Friday, October 24, 2014, in the Lecture Room of the main NAS building at 2101 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC. The program will begin with light refreshments at 2 pm and end with a reception at 4:30 pm. The topic of the seminar is *Measuring Dimensions of Subjective Well-Being: The Role of Official Statistics*. Speakers include *Arthur Stone*, University of Southern California, who chaired the CNSTAT Panel on Measuring Subjective Well-Being (SWB); *Carol Graham*, The Brookings Institution, a member of the panel; and our special guest, *Ed Humpherson*, head of assessment of the UK Statistics Authority, who will discuss how the UK Office for National Statistics became involved in SWB data collection. To RSVP, visit the CNSTAT home page at <http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat>.

## PEOPLE *News*

We welcome **Brian Moyer** as *director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis*. He was appointed director in September 2014, having served as acting director since May 2014 (when Steve Landefeld retired). He had served since December 2012 as BEA deputy director, overseeing the agency's administrative and communications functions and providing leadership for improving and expanding its statistical programs. Prior to becoming deputy director, he served in several key positions at BEA, including associate director for industry accounts. He is the author of numerous articles on measuring the performance of the U.S. economy. Much of his research has focused on improving industry-related statistics, including improved industry measures of volume and prices, expanded information on the sources and uses of intermediate purchases by industry, and improved industry-level productivity statistics. He has received a number of awards, both for his management and leadership skills, as well as for improvements to BEA's economic accounts. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the American University.

We congratulate **Bruce Alberts**, professor emeritus in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California, San Francisco, former editor-in-chief of *Science*, and former president of the National Academy of Sciences, who is to receive the *National Medal of Science* from President Obama at a ceremony later this year. The medal honors people who have made outstanding contributions to science and engineering. We also note that **David Blackwell** will be recognized posthumously with the National Medal of Science. He was an eminent member of the statistics faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, the first African-American to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and a member of the Committee on National Statistics from 1987–1990.

We congratulate **Sally Morton**, professor and chair of the Department of Biostatistics, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, on being named by the U.S. Government Accountability Office to the *Methodology Committee* of the non-profit *Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute*

(PCORI), authorized in the Affordable Care Act to provide quality evidence to assist policymakers in making informed health care decisions. The Methodology Committee assists PCORI to develop and update methodological standards and guidance for comparative clinical-effectiveness research. Sally is a former president of the American Statistical Association and former member of CNSTAT and its Panel on Estimates of Poverty for Small Geographic Areas and Workshop on Encouraging Research and Development for the Federal Statistical System. She has also served on several Institute of Medicine panels.

## EVENT & OTHER *News*

We note the availability of the presentations at the **Washington Statistical Society Conference on Administrative Records for Best Estimates**, held September 18, 2014, on the [WSS web site](#). The speakers and their presentations include:

- Connie Citro, CNSTAT—*From Multiple Modes for Surveys to Multiple Data Sources for Estimates: The Role of Administrative Records in Federal Statistics*;
- Phil Kott, RTI International—*A Different Paradigm Shift: Combining Administrative Data and Survey Samples for the Intelligent User*;
- Graton Gathright, U.S. Census Bureau—*The Role of Linked Administrative Data in the Evaluation and Improvement of the Survey of Income and Program Participation*;
- Shelly Wilkie Martinez, Statistical and Science Policy, OMB—*One Piece of the Multiple Data Sources Paradigm Shift: New Policy on Accessing and Using Administrative Data for Statistical Purposes*;
- Shawn Bucholtz, Office of Policy Development & Research, HUD—*Integrating Administrative Records and Commercial Data Sources into HUD's Housing Surveys: Past, Present, and Future*; and
- Amy O'Hara, U.S. Census Bureau—*Fully Leverage External Data Sources: A Census Bureau Change Principle*.

## REPORT *News*

***Data and Research to Improve the U.S. Food Availability System and Estimates of Food Loss: A Workshop Summary***, was released in prepublication form, September 26, 2014. It is available in [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly. The workshop was requested by the Economic Research Service/USDA and was chaired by Mary Muth (RTI International).

### **The Report in Brief—**

The ERS/USDA Food Availability Data System includes several distinct but related series on food and nutrient availability for consumption. The data serve as popular proxies for actual consumption at the national level for over 200 commodities (e.g., fresh spinach, beef, and eggs). The core Food Availability (FA) data series provides estimates of the amount of food available, per capita, for human consumption in the United States with data back to 1909 for many commodities. The Loss-Adjusted Food Availability (LAFA) data series is derived from the FA data series by adjusting for food spoilage, plate waste, and other losses to more closely approximate actual intake. This past fiscal year, as part of its initiative to systematically review all of its major data series, ERS decided to review the FADS data system. *Data and Research to Improve the U.S. Food Availability System and Estimates of Food Loss* is the summary of a workshop convened by CNSTAT and the IOM Food and Nutrition Board to advance knowledge and understanding of the measurement and technical aspects of the data supporting the LAFA data series so that these data series and subsequent food availability

and food loss estimates can be maintained and improved. The workshop considered such issues as the effects of termination of selected Census Bureau and USDA data series on estimates for affected food groups and commodities; the potential for using other data sources, such as scanner data, to improve estimates of food availability; and possible ways to improve the data on food loss at the farm and retail levels and at restaurants. This report considers knowledge gaps, data sources that may be available or could be generated to fill gaps, what can be learned from other countries and international organizations, ways to ensure consistency of treatment of commodities across series, and the most promising opportunities for new data for the various food availability series.

***Civic Engagement and Social Cohesion: Measuring Dimensions of Social Capital to Inform Policy***, the final report of the CNSTAT Panel on Measuring Social and Civic Engagement and Social Cohesion in Surveys, was released in prepublication format, June 23, 2014. It is available in [PDF](#) and *in print*. The panel was requested by the Corporation for National and Community Service and chaired by Kenneth Prewitt (Columbia University).

**The Report in Brief—**

People's bonds, associations and networks—as well as the civil, political, and institutional characteristics of the society in which they live—can be powerful drivers affecting the quality of life among a community's, a city's, or a nation's inhabitants and their ability to achieve both individual and societal goals. Civic engagement, social cohesion, and other dimensions of social capital affect social, economic and health outcomes for individuals and communities. Can these be measured, and can federal surveys contribute toward this end? Can this information be collected elsewhere, and if so, how should it be collected? With the needs of data users in mind, *Civic Engagement and Social Cohesion* examines conceptual frameworks developed in the literature to determine promising measures and measurement methods for informing public policy discourse. The report provides working definitions of key terms; advises on the feasibility and specifications of indicators relevant to analyses of social, economic, and health domains; and assesses the strength of the evidence regarding the relationship between these indicators and observed trends in crime, employment, and resilience to shocks such as natural disasters. It weighs the relative merits of surveys, administrative records, and non-government data sources, and considers the appropriate role of the federal statistical system, making recommendations to improve the measurement of civic health through government surveys and identifying priority areas for research, development, and implementation.

***Issues in Returning Individual Results from Genome Research Using Population-Banked Specimens, with a Focus on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: A Workshop Summary***, was released in prepublication format, June 19, 2014. It is available in [PDF](#) and *in print*. The workshop was requested by the National Center for Health Statistics and chaired by Wylie Burke (University of Washington).

**The Report in Brief—**

Population surveys traditionally collect information from respondents from questionnaires, but, in recent years, many surveys have also been collecting biologic specimens such as blood samples, saliva, and buccal swabs, from which a respondent's DNA can be ascertained along with other biomarkers (e.g., the level of a certain protein in the blood). NHANES has been collecting and storing genetic specimens since 1991, and other surveys, such as the Health and Retirement Study funded by the National Institute on Aging, have followed suit. In order to give their informed consent to participate in a survey, respondents need to know the disposition and use of their data. Will their responses be used for one research project and then destroyed, or will they be archived for secondary use? The addition of biologic specimens to a survey not only adds complications for storing, protecting, and providing access to such data for secondary research, but also raises questions of whether, when, and for which biologic measurements the results should be reported back to individual respondents. Recently, the cost of full genomic sequencing has plummeted, and research findings are beginning to accumulate that bear up under replication and that potentially have clinical

implications for a respondent. Biomedical research studies, in which participants are asked to donate tissues for genetic studies and are usually told that they will not be contacted with any results, are increasingly confronting the issue of when and which DNA results to return to participants. *Issues in Returning Individual Results from Genome Research Using Population-Based Banked Specimens, with a Focus on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey* is the summary of a CNSTAT workshop convened in February 2013. The workshop sessions discussed to what extent and how population surveys, in particular NHANES, should implement the reporting of results from genomic research using stored specimens and address informed consent for future data collection as well as for the use of banked specimens covered by prior informed consent agreements.

***Pathways to Exploration: Rationales and Approaches for a U.S. Program of Human Spaceflight***, the final report of the Committee on Human Spaceflight, was released in prepublication format, June 4, 2014. It is available in [PDF](#) and *in print*. The study was requested by NASA in response to a congressional mandate and co-chaired by Mitchell Daniels (Purdue University) and Jonathan Lunine (Cornell University). Roger Tourangeau chaired a Panel on Public and Stakeholder Opinion that provided input to the main committee (see Chapter 3 and Appendixes B-E of the report).

#### **The Report in Brief—**

The United States has publicly funded its human spaceflight program on a continuous basis for more than a half-century from the early Mercury and Gemini suborbital and Earth orbital missions, to the lunar landings, and thence to the first reusable winged crewed space plane. Today the United States is the major partner in a massive orbital facility, the International Space Station, which is becoming the focal point for the first tentative steps in commercial cargo and crewed orbital space flights. And yet, the long-term future of human spaceflight beyond this project is unclear. Pronouncements by multiple presidents of bold new ventures by Americans to the Moon, to Mars, and to an asteroid in its native orbit, have not been matched by the substantial increase in NASA funding needed to make it happen. *Pathways to Exploration* explores the case for advancing this endeavor, drawing on the history of rationales for human spaceflight, examining the attitudes of stakeholders and the public, and carefully assessing the technical and fiscal realities. The report recommends maintaining a long-term focus on Mars as the horizon goal for human space exploration. With this goal in mind, the report considers funding levels necessary to maintain a robust tempo of execution, current research and exploration projects and the time/resources needed to continue them, and international cooperation that could contribute to the achievement of spaceflight to Mars. According to *Pathways to Exploration*, a successful U.S. program would require sustained national commitment and a budget that increases by more than the rate of inflation.

**Reminder:** PDF versions of CNSTAT and NAS reports are available for free download at *The National Academies Press* website, <http://www.nap.edu>. NOTE: The download site asks for your e-mail and a password. If you don't have an NAP account and don't want to have one, then provide your e-mail and click "I don't have an account;" on the next page click "accept NAP policies" and "log in as guest".

**Reminder:** Slides from previous CNSTAT public seminars are available on the CNSTAT [public seminars and symposia](#) page; slides from several major workshops, are available on the [presentations](#) page on the CNSTAT website. Presentations from the July 31-August 1, 2014, CNSTAT *International Conference on Census Methods* are available [here](#).

## CNSTAT Meetings

CNSTAT holds three regular meetings each year, with its spring and fall meeting dates following a set formula; our May meetings are always the Thursday–Friday preceding Mother’s Day and our October meetings are always the second-to-last Thursday–Friday of the month. Here are the next three meetings:

**CNSTAT’s 125<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held October 23–24, 2014, in the **NAS main building** at 2101 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC. On the 24th, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads, followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 2 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm. The topic of the seminar is **“Measuring Dimensions of Subjective Well-Being: The Role of Official Statistics.”** Visit the CNSTAT home page to register.

**CNSTAT’s 126<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held February 6–7, 2015, at the **Beckman Center of the National Academies** in Irvine, CA. It will be a retreat meeting; there will be no agency head luncheon or public seminar.

**CNSTAT’s 127<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held May 7–8, 2015, in the **NAS main building** at 2101 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC. On the 8th, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads, followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 2 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

## Active PANELS & WORKSHOPS

*[Listed by sponsor agency, beginning with federal departments. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are in Washington, DC, and include open sessions. For further information, contact the person listed as the study director or project assistant (e-mail addresses follow the formula of first initial plus last name as oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]*

### Department of Agriculture

#### **Panel on Methods for Integrating Multiple Data Sources to Improve Crop Estimates**

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–September 2017

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

#### **Workshop on Data and Research to Improve the Food Availability Data System and Estimates of Food Loss** (joint with the Food and Nutrition Board, Institute of Medicine)

Sponsor: Economic Research Service

Duration: October 2013–December 2014

Study director: Ann Yaktine (IOM); senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Mary K. Muth (RTI International Food and Nutrition Policy Research Program)

Report planned: Workshop summary, *Data and Research to Improve the U.S. Food Availability System and Estimates of Food Loss: A Workshop Summary*, was released in prepublication form, September 26, 2014; it is available in [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly  
Meeting: Workshop held April 8-9, 2014

**Workshop on Model-Based Methods for Producing Estimates of Livestock with Appropriate Measures of Uncertainty**

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Duration: September 2014– September 2015  
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin  
Chair: TBD  
Report planned: Workshop summary  
Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Workshop on Rationalizing Rural Area Classifications for ERS/USDA**

Sponsor: Economic Research Service  
Duration: September 2014–September 2015  
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; co-study director: Gooloo Wunderlich; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin  
Chair: TBD  
Report planned: Workshop summary  
Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Department of Commerce**

**Panel on Addressing Priority Technical Issues for the Next Decade of the American Community Survey**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: October 2011–February 2015  
Study director: Krisztina Marton; senior program officers: Nancy Kirkendall, Ed Spar; project assistant, Michael Siri  
Chair: Alan Zaslavsky (Harvard Medical School)  
Report planned: Final report is in response to review  
Meetings: Last (eighth) meeting held May 28, 2014, in Washington, DC

**Panel to Review the 2010 Census**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: May 2009–September 2014  
Study director: Daniel Cork; project assistant: Anthony Mann  
Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)  
Report released: Interim report, *Change and the 2020 Census: Not Whether But How*, released on March 25, 2011, available in print and in [PDF](#)  
Report planned: Final report is being drafted  
Meetings: Twentieth and last meeting held August 21-22, 2014, in Washington, DC

**Panel to Review and Evaluate the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation Content and Design**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: September 2013–February 2015  
Study director: Carol House; project assistant, Agnes Gaskin  
Chair: John Czajka, Mathematica Policy Research

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for November 20-21, 2014, in Washington, DC

### **Standing Committee on Reengineering the 2020 Census**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

Study director: Daniel Cork; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also stand up workshops or consensus panels; this committee will stand up workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning; it will also stand up a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's Economic Census and economic surveys

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **Department of Defense**

### **Panel on the Theory and Application of Reliability Growth Modeling to Defense Systems**

Sponsor: Office of the Secretary of Defense, Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, and Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

Duration: September 2009–September 2014

Study director: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Arthur Fries (Institute for Defense Analyses)

Report planned: Final report has cleared review and is being prepared for release

Meetings: Fifth and final meeting held July 8–9, 2013, in Washington, DC

## **Department of Education**

### **Committee on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Achievement Levels Evaluation** (joint with the DBASSE Board on Testing and Assessment, which has the lead)

Sponsor: National Center for Education Statistics

Duration: September 2014–March 2016

Study director: Judith Koenig (BOTA)

Chair: TBD

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **Department of Health and Human Services**

### **Standing Committee on Integrating New Behavioral Health Measures into SAMHSA's Data Collection Programs** (joint with the DBASSE Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences and the IOM Board on Health Sciences Policy)

Sponsors: Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Duration: August 2014–July 2016

Study director: Krisztina Marton; senior program officer, Jeanne Rivard; project assistant, Michael Siri

Chair-designate: James Jackson (University of Michigan)

Reports: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also stand up workshops or consensus panels; this committee will stand up workshops on the topics of serious

emotional disturbance in children, trauma and recovery, and specific mental illness diagnoses with any functional impairment  
Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **Department of Homeland Security**

**Committee on Affordability of National Flood Insurance Program Premiums** (joint with the Water Science and Technology Board, which has the lead, and the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Their Applications)

Sponsor: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Duration: September 2013–September 2015

Study director: Jeffrey Jacobs (WSTB); CNSTAT director: Constance Citro; BMSA director: Scott Weidman

Chair: Leonard Shabman (Resources for the Future)

Reports planned: First report is being drafted; second report

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting scheduled for November 3-4, 2014, in Washington, DC

### **Department of Justice**

**Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics** (joint with the Committee on Law and Justice)

Sponsor: Bureau of Justice Statistics and Federal Bureau of Investigation

Duration: September 2013–March 2016

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Ed Spar; project assistant, Michael Siri

Chair: Jeffrey Sedgwick (Keswick Advisors)

Reports planned: Interim report is being drafted; final report

Upcoming meetings: Sixth meeting scheduled for December 16-17, 2014

### **Department of Transportation**

**Panel on Research Methodologies and Statistical Approaches to Understanding Driver Fatigue Factors in Motor Carrier Safety and Driver Health** (joint with the Board on Human-Systems Integration and Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: September 2013–September 2015

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; Board on Human-Systems Integration director: Barbara Wanchisen; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Co-chairs: Hal Stern (University of California, Irvine); Matthew Rizzo (University of Nebraska Medical Center)

Report planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting scheduled for January 26-27, 2015

### **Corporation for National and Community Service**

**Panel on Measuring Civic Engagement and Social Cohesion to Inform Policy**

Sponsor: Corporation for National and Community Service

Duration: September 2011–December 2014



Study director: Christopher Mackie; senior program officer: Hermann Habermann; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Kenneth Prewitt (Columbia University)

Report released: Final report, *Civic Engagement and Social Cohesion: Measuring Dimensions of Social Capital to Inform Policy*, released in prepublication format, June 23, 2014; available in [PDF](#) and *in print*

Meetings: Fifth and final meeting held September 13, 2013, in Washington, DC

### **National Science Foundation**

#### **Workshop on Measuring Research and Development Expenditures in the U.S. Nonprofit Sector: Conceptual and Design Issues**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2013–April 2015

Study director: Carol House; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Lester Salamon, Johns Hopkins University

Report planned: Workshop summary is in response to review

Meeting: Workshop held June 30–July 1, 2014, in Washington, DC

### **The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**

#### **Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration**

Sponsor: The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Duration: May 2013–October 2015

Study director: Chris Mackie; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Francine Blau (Cornell University)

Report planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for January 8–9, 2015

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT** •

Committee on National Statistics  
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education  
The National Academies  
500 Fifth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat>  
*Program Associate:* Jacqui Sovde, [jsovde@nas.edu](mailto:jsovde@nas.edu), (202) 334-1616 or 334-3096

Dr. Constance F. Citro, *Director*  
[ccitro@nas.edu](mailto:ccitro@nas.edu)  
(202) 334-3009 or 3096  
FAX (202) 334-3751

– See our website for previous issues of *News from CNSTAT*, under “CNSTAT News” –

The Committee on National Statistics was established in 1972 at the National Academies to improve the statistical methods and information on which public policy decisions are based. The committee carries out studies, workshops, and other activities to foster better measures and fuller understanding of the economy, the environment, public health, crime, education, immigration, poverty, welfare, and other public policy issues. It also evaluates ongoing statistical programs and tracks the statistical policy and coordinating activities of the federal government, serving a unique role at the intersection of statistics and public policy. The committee's work is supported by a consortium of federal agencies through a National Science Foundation grant.