



NEWS from CNSTAT

— January 30, 2019 —

PEOPLE *News*

We are delighted and relieved that the federal government has reopened as of January 25, 2019, and sincerely hope that it will stay open. We also hope that the public and policymakers have gained a fuller appreciation of the great value that the *federal civil service* brings to the nation, including the provision of accurate and objective statistics for informing policy and decision making.

We note with sadness the death of **James Trussell**, emeritus professor of public and international affairs and past director of the Office of Population Research (OPR) at Princeton University, on December 26, 2018, at age 69 after a short illness. Born in Columbus, Georgia, he received a B.A. in mathematics from Davidson College; a B. Phil. from the economics program, Nuffield College, University of Oxford; and a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University. He spent his career at Princeton University with OPR, retiring in 2015, but remaining active in the fields of reproductive health and demographic methods, splitting his time between Princeton and the University of Edinburgh, where he was an honorary fellow. At OPR he amassed a distinguished record of contributions to demographic methodology, starting with joint work with Ansley Coale developing model schedules of fertility and continuing with the development of indirect estimation methods. He also worked on models of infant and child mortality, the estimation of model schedules of marriage, the sisterhood estimator of maternal mortality, and many other topics, with more than 350 scientific publications to his credit. In parallel with his work on methodology, he developed a strong interest in reproductive health and became a tireless advocate for women's reproductive rights. According to the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, "few demographers have had such a positive impact on women's lives." At the National Academies, he served on the Committee on Population (CPOP) and several CNSTAT and CPOP study panels, including the CNSTAT panels that produced *Immigration Statistics: A Story of Neglect* (1985); *Priorities for the 1990 Census Research, Evaluation, and Experimental (REX) Program* (1988); *Modernizing the U.S. Census* (1995); and *Measuring a Changing Nation: Modern Methods for the 2000 Census* (1999).

We congratulate **William R. (Bill) Bell**, senior mathematical statistician with the U.S. Census Bureau, on receiving the **Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics** for 2018. The award is conferred annually to a statistician who reflects the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career: dedication to issues of measurement, improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs, and improvements in and use of statistical data for policy analysis. The award is made by the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Washington Statistical Society. Bill is a distinguished statistician who is recognized around the world as a leader in small-area estimation and time series research. His work has had and continues to have an impact on the production of official statistics, most notably in the development of the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program. The program was initiated to produce estimates of school-age children in poverty as mandated by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, which also mandated a study panel under CNSTAT to evaluate the methodology. Bell's contribution was to create a model-based framework that incorporated current survey data on child poverty—along with

administrative records such as summaries of income tax data—to improve estimates previously based only on the previous decennial census. In 2007, Bill spearheaded work to incorporate data from the new American Community Survey (ACS) into SAIGE to produce more accurate estimates of poverty for states and counties. Before turning his attention to small-area estimation problems, Bell was a peerless researcher in time series analysis. He developed procedures for outlier identification and models for calendar effects in regARIMA time series, which are still used today at statistical agencies and central banks around the world. His work with Mark Otto in developing a separate program for regARIMA model estimation forms the basis for the modeling module of the X-13ARIMA-SEATS seasonal adjustment software used in the United States and other countries. Bill also worked on reestimating coverage in the 2000 census when it was determined that failure to detect the extent of overcounting in the census caused an upward bias in net undercount estimates from the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation program. Bill has a B.S./B.A. in actuarial science from Drake University and an M.S. and Ph.D., both in statistics, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He began his career 40 years ago at the Census Bureau as an ASA/Census junior fellow. He is a fellow of the ASA.

We thank **Jeri Mulrow**, incoming vice president director of statistical sciences, at Westat in Rockville, MD, for her years of service to federal statistics, which she is continuing in her new position. Jeri retired from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), on January 4, 2019, where she was principal deputy director (she became principal deputy in January 2016). From April 2016 through February 2018, she served as acting director of BJS. Previously, Jeri was deputy division director for the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) at the National Science Foundation, where she had worked since 2001. She also held positions with Ernst & Young, NORC at the University of Chicago, and the IRS Statistics of Income Division. Jeri is a fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and served a 3-year elected term as vice president of ASA. She has a B.A. in mathematics from Montana State University and an M.S. in statistics from Colorado State University.

We thank **Charles (Charlie) Rothwell**, who retired as director of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in early January 2019, for his over 30 years of dedicated leadership and service to federal statistics. Jennifer Madans, co-deputy director and associate director for science, serves as acting director. Charlie joined NCHS in 1987 as associate director for IT and information services and became associate director for vital statistics in 2003 and director in December 2013. Prior to his federal service, he served as director of North Carolina's health department, which created the first "mortality atlas," implemented the first online data collection system for local health departments, and delivered the first automated health planning reports. He also instituted one of the first State Centers for Health Statistics. Quoting the announcement accompanying his retirement, "Charlie was always aware of the potential of data to make a greater impact in helping people; some of the earliest work on the survivorship of low-birthweight babies came out of his 13 years in North Carolina." At NCHS, he made it his mission to improve the timeliness and quality of its data. "These efforts have paid off in the form of faster annual data releases, clear and concise Data Briefs, and previously unheard-of accomplishments like monthly releases of drug overdose death data that can be used to inform public health decisions almost in real-time." Charlie served in the U.S. Marine Corps, received a B.S. in physics and mathematics from Virginia Military Institute, an M.S. in operations research and information systems from the University of North Carolina, and an M.B.A. from the University of Maryland. We wish him the best in his retirement—he will be missed. It is fitting that NCHS has renamed its North Carolina Conference Room (Room 2430 at its Hyattsville, MD, location) the Charles J. Rothwell Conference Room in Charlie's honor.

We welcome **Steven (Steve) Dillingham** as *director* of the **U.S. Census Bureau**, a position to which he was confirmed by voice vote in the U.S. Senate on January 2, 2019. Steve will serve a term that runs through December 2021 and be eligible for renomination to a 5-year term beginning January 2022. Previously, he served as director of the Office of Strategic Information, Research and Planning of the Peace Corps, as director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and as director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. His first federal positions were as legal counsel in the Department of Justice and later the Department of Energy. He attended the U.S. Air Force Academy and received a B.A. in political

science from Winthrop University. He received a J.D., an M.P.A., and a Ph.D. in political science, all from the University of South Carolina. He received an M.B.A and LL.M. from George Washington University.

We welcome several new staff members to CNSTAT:

- **Tara Becker** joined CNSTAT as a program officer, coming from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, where she conducted research on gender and racial/ethnic disparities in health insurance coverage and on survey measurement and data quality for the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS).
- **Rebecca Krone** has permanently joined CNSTAT as the program coordinator, having served in this role on a temporary basis since August, 2018.
- **Ellie Grimes** and **Jillian Kaufman** have joined CNSTAT as senior program assistants.

We also congratulate **Michael Siri** on his promotion at CNSTAT to associate program officer.

PUBLICATION *News*

RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS

(available as free PDFs)

Methods to Foster Transparency and Reproducibility of Federal Statistics—Proceedings of a Workshop, the summary of a CNSTAT workshop chaired by William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University) and sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), was released in prepublication format on December 11, 2018. Free PDFs are available [here](#); printed copies will be available shortly.

In 2014 NSF provided support to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for a series of Forums on Open Science in response to a government-wide directive to support increased public access to the results of research funded by the federal government. However, the breadth of topics raised in the series precluded a focus on any specific topic for discussion about how to improve public access. NSF asked CNSTAT to conduct the Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics to develop some understanding of what principles and practices are, or would be, supportive of making federal statistics more understandable and reviewable, both by agency staff and the public. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.

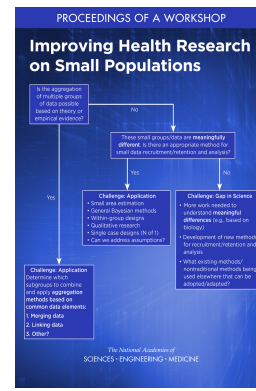
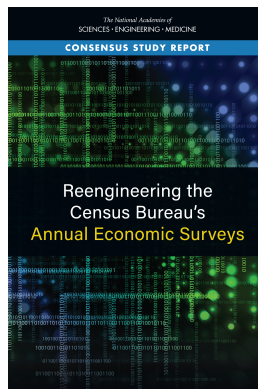
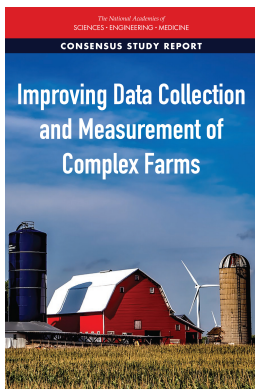
RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE IN PRINTED FORM

[***Improving Data Collection and Measurement of Complex Farms***](#), released October 2, 2018.

[***Letter Report on the 2020 Census***](#), released August 17, 2018.

[***Improving Health Research on Small Populations: Proceedings of a Workshop***](#), released May 4, 2018.

[***Reengineering the Census Bureau's Annual Economic Surveys***](#), released May 3, 2018.



Reminder: PDF versions of CNSTAT and National Academies reports are available for free download at *The National Academies Press* website, <http://www.nap.edu>. 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. Presentations and posters from the *Big Data Day* event on May 11, 2018, are available [here](#). Presentations from the October 19, 2018 seminar *Leveraging and Integrating Data for Disasters* are available [here](#).

Slides from several major workshops are available on the [presentations](#) page on the CNSTAT website. This page also includes a section on "[Multiple Data Sources Presentations](#)," which links to presentations from workshops and meetings for CNSTAT's [Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods](#).

EVENT & OTHER *News*

President Trump signed into law the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* on January 14, 2019. The act is based on recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, chaired by Katharine Abraham, professor of economics at the University of Maryland, former director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and former member of CNSTAT, and co-chaired by Ron Haskins, senior fellow and co-director of the Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution. The act contains provisions to strengthen privacy protection for federal data, improve secure access to federal data, and enhance government capacity to generate and use evidence. See the [Bipartisan Policy Center](#) for details of this important legislation.

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 138th meeting will be held **February 7-8, 2019**, at the *National Academies' Beckman Center* in Irvine, CA It will be in retreat format; it will not have a public seminar or agency head lunch.

CNSTAT's 139th meeting will be held **May 9-10, 2019**, at the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. On the **10th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning at 1:30 pm, with refreshments, and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

CNSTAT's 140th meeting will be held **October 17-18, 2019**, at the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. On the **18th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:30 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, D.C., 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 in oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under "Our Work."]

CNSTAT Core Sponsors

Challenges and New Approaches for Protecting Privacy in Federal Statistical Programs: A Workshop

Sponsors: CNSTAT Core Sponsors

Duration: August 2018–December 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Ellie Grimes

Chair: Jerome P. Reiter (Duke University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop scheduled for June 6-7, 2019

Department of Agriculture

Improving Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research

Sponsor: Economic Research Service (Consumer Data and Nutrition Research [CDNR] Program)

Duration: October 2017–December 2019

Study director: Christopher Mackie; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; associate program officer: Michael Siri

Chair: Marianne Bitler (University of California, Davis)

Publication planned: Consensus report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting held January 17-18, 2019, in Berkeley, CA; fifth meeting TBD

Panel on Improving Data Collection and Reporting about Agriculture with Increasingly Complex Farm Business Structures

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service

Duration: September 2015–March 2019

Study director: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication: Final consensus report, *Improving Data Collection and Measurement of Complex Farms*, issued in prepublication format on October 2, 2018; free PDFs and printed copies are available

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting (closed) held March 26-27, 2018, at NORC in Chicago, IL

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: TBD

Chair: Eric Slud (University of Maryland and U.S. Census Bureau)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop scheduled for March 12, 2019 [NOTE: will be rescheduled due to the partial shutdown of the federal government]

Department of Commerce

Workshop on Improving the American Community Survey

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: April 2018 –March 2019

Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Warren Brown (Cornell University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings are being drafted

Meeting: Workshop held September 26-27, 2018, in Washington, DC. See this [site](#) for more information

Department of Education

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity (see listing under “The Atlantic Philanthropies et al.” below)

Department of Health and Human Services

Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years (led by the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, with CNSTAT)

Sponsors: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Foundation for Child Development

Duration: October 2016–April 2019

Study director: Suzanne Le Menestrel (BCYF); senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Elizabeth Townsend (BCYF); research associate: Dara Shefska (BCYF); project assistant: Pamela Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final consensus report is in response to review; the report is expected to be released on February 28, 2019

Meetings: Closed electronic meetings held in August 2018

Workshop on Approaches to Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in the United States

Sponsor: Office of Women’s Health

Duration: September 2018-December 2019

Study director: Jordyn White; Mirzayan Fellow: Danielle DaCrema; project assistant: Ellie Grimes

Chair: David Banks (Duke University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for April 8-9, 2019

Workshop on Social Science Modeling for Big Data in the World of Machine Learning

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging, Division of Behavioral and Social Research

Duration: 15 months

Study director: Michael Siri; project assistant Jillian Kaufman

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Consensus Panel on Rising Midlife Mortality Rates and Socioeconomic Disparities (led by Committee on Population)

Sponsor: National Institute on Aging; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Duration: 27 months

Study director: Malay Majmundar; program officer: Tara Becker; project assistant: Ellie Grimes

Chair: Kathleen Harris (UNC, Chapel Hill)

Publication planned: Consensus report

Upcoming meetings: First Meeting February 11-12, 2019

Department of Homeland Security

Best Practices in Assessing Mortality and Significant Morbidity Following Large-Scale Disasters (led by Board on Health Sciences Policy)

Sponsor: FEMA

Duration: 24 months

Study director: Michelle Mancher, senior program officer Daniel Cork

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Consensus report

Upcoming Meetings: TBD

Department of Labor

Panel on Contingent Work and Alternate Work Arrangements

Sponsor: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Duration: September 2018-March 2020

Study director: Chris Mackie; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Susan Houseman (W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research)

Publication planned: Consensus report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Department of Transportation

Standing Committee for Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: October 2017–September 2020

Study director: Michael Cohen; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Tom Menzies; associate program officer: Michael Siri

Co-chairs: Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon) and Sharon Lise-Normand (Harvard Medical School)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels.

Upcoming meetings: The standing committee is meeting primarily by teleconference; it held its second on-site meeting November 16, 2018, at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA

National Science Foundation

Committee on Reproducibility and Replicability in Science (led by the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences, with the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, CNSTAT, and the Division of Earth and Life Sciences)

Sponsor: NSF director's office (congressionally mandated)

Duration: August 2017 – March 2019

Study director: Jennifer Heimberg (DELS); board director: Michelle Schwalbe (BMSA); senior program officer: Adrienne Stith Butler (BBCSS); senior program officer: Michael Cohen (CNSTAT)

Chair: Harvey Fineberg (Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation)

Publication planned: Final report is in review

Meetings: Fifth (and final) meeting held July 26-27, 2018, in Woods Hole, MA

Panel on Transparency and Reproducibility for NCSES Statistics

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2018-November 2020

Study director: Michael Cohen; associate program officer: Michael Siri; project assistant: Jillian Kaufman

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Consensus report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Workshop on Implications of Convergence for Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce and the S&E Enterprise

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2018-August 2019

Study director: Daniel Cork; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–December 2018

Study director: Michael Cohen; associate program officer: Michael Siri

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication: Proceedings of the workshop released in prepublication format, December 11, 2018; free PDFs are available [here](#); printed copies will be available shortly.

Meeting: Workshop held June 21-22, 2017, in Washington, DC

The American Educational Research Association, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the W.T. Grant Foundation

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–June 2019

Study director: Judith Koenig; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Kelly Arrington

Chair: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA)

Publication planned: Final consensus report is in response to review

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held September 18-19, 2018, in Washington, DC, and Irvine, CA

U.S. Foreign Service Institute

Foreign Language Assessment for the U.S. Foreign Service Institute (led by DBASSE EO)

Sponsor: U.S. Foreign Service Institute

Duration: 18 months

Study director: Stuart Elliott; senior program officer: Judith Koenig; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Consensus Report

Meetings: TBD

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– 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 of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 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, a National Agricultural Statistics Service cooperative agreement, and several individual agreements.