

— March 16, 2017 —

**Note:** I apologize for not issuing a newsletter since the end of 2016. Much has happened since then, both political (all that goes with the transition to a new administration) and personal—please see the end of “People News” for more information on that front.

My best to all friends of CNSTAT, Connie Cítro

## PEOPLE *News*

We were saddened to learn of the death of *Sir Anthony B. Atkinson, fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford, and centennial professor, London School of Economics*, on January 1, 2017, at age 72. He was one of the earliest and foremost scholars of inequality in income and wealth, using tax and other data to develop historical records for the United Kingdom and United States. His final book, *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* (2015), summed up decades of findings and offered 15 proposals for tackling inequality worldwide. He was known to CNSTAT as a very constructive member of the panel that produced *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach* in 1995. See obituaries for him in the [New York Times](#); the [Economist](#); and [Le Blog of Thomas Piketty](#), who studied and collaborated with him.

We were also saddened to learn of the recent death of *Dorothy Rice, professor emerita of health economics, UC San Francisco (UCSF) School of Nursing*, on February 25, 2017, in Oakland, CA, at age 94. Dorothy was a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a member of CNSTAT from 1988-1994; she chaired the IOM-CNSTAT Committee to Review the Social Security Administration’s Disability Decision Process Research and was a member of the CNSTAT Panel on Statistics for an Aging Population, the Committee to Identify Strategies to Raise the Profile of Research on Substance Abuse and Alcoholism, and the Committee on a National Agenda for the Prevention of Disabilities, among other Academies’ studies.

She had a truly remarkable career, first in government service, and then in academia. (See obituaries for her in the [New York Times](#) and the [UCSF School of Nursing on-line news](#).) Her last government position was as the first (and only) woman director of the National Center for Health Statistics from 1976-1982 (frustrated by budget cuts, she resigned during the Reagan Administration). She is celebrated for her work at the Social Security Administration during the 1960s that made the case for a program like Medicare to serve the elderly, particularly women, many of whom had no health insurance at the time, and for her later work on the costs of illness and the economic costs of smoking. The current NCHS director, Charlie Rothwell, recalled in a recent e-mail:

I had the pleasure of knowing Dorothy when she became Director of NCHS in 1976 while I was in North Carolina Health Department working in the area of health statistics and was stunned by her energy and enthusiasm.... Among the many achievements during her work as Director of NCHS was approving the

launch of the National Death Index (NDI) which has served health researchers throughout the United States so well over these many years. If I remember correctly she began her Federal service as a clerical worker in the Social Security Administration before WWII and worked her way up to being in the Senior Executive Service. She served as an example to everyone and especially women that anything is possible if you have the intelligence, commitment, knowledge and persistence to succeed.

We congratulate **Nancy Potok** on her new position, which she assumed January 17, 2017, as **chief statistician of the United States and head of the Statistical and Science Policy Office, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, U.S. Office of Management and Budget**. Nancy, who succeeds Katherine Wallman (see below), brings an outstanding combination of expertise and experience to the position, which is critical for the effective operation of the decentralized federal statistical system, particularly in an era of budget stringencies. She was previously deputy director and chief operating officer of the U.S. Census Bureau, associate director for demographic programs, and principal associate director and chief financial officer in charge of field operations, information technology, and administration during the 2000 Census. She has more than 30 years of public, private, and nonprofit senior management experience, serving at the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and the U.S. Department of Commerce as deputy undersecretary for economic affairs. She has also served as senior vice president and director of the Economic, Labor and Population Studies Department at NORC at the University of Chicago, and as chief operating officer of the management consulting firm McManis & Monsalve Associates. She is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), and a recipient of numerous awards, including the George Washington University Trachtenberg School Distinguished Alumni Award, the Secretary of Commerce's Silver Medal, and the Arthur S. Flemming Award. She has a B.A. from Sonoma State University, an M.A.S. from the University of Alabama, and a Ph.D. from George Washington University. We wish her all the best.

We congratulate **Kitty Smith Evans** on her new part-time position, beginning March 1, 2017, as **Washington representative for the American Economic Association**. In this capacity, she works with the AEA Committee on Government Operations and Committee on Economic Statistics. She succeeds **Dan Newlon**, who did an outstanding job in this role. Kitty is continuing part-time as executive director of the [Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics](#) (COPAFS), until the organization finds her replacement. Before assuming her position at COPAFS in October 2012, Kitty was administrator of the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) and previously held other leadership positions and conducted research at ERS. Her principal areas of expertise have been policy analysis, particularly agricultural and resource policies, and the empirical relationships among agricultural production and environmental quality. She is a fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and, while with ERS, received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives. Kitty has a B.S. and a Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from the University of Maryland.

We thank profusely and wish all the best to **Katherine Wallman**, who retired as **chief statistician of the United States**, January 3, 2017, after 24 years of service in that position. During her tenure as chief statistician, she increased collaboration among the agencies of the U.S. statistical system, fostered improvements in the scope and quality of the nation's official statistics, strengthened the protections for confidential statistical information, and initiated changes that made the products of the system more accessible and usable. Prior to assuming the position of chief statistician in 1992, she served for more than a decade as the first executive director of COPAFS, a coalition of organizations concerned with fostering communication among users and producers of federal statistics and improving the utility and accessibility of the nation's statistical resources. Before that, she served with various incarnations of the Statistical Policy Office and with the National Center for Education Statistics. Katherine—twice honored as a Presidential Meritorious Executive—is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), a fellow of both the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the American Association for the

Advancement of Science (AAAS), and a founding member of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS). In 1992, she served as president of ASA, and, in 2007, she was honored with the association's Founders Award. She has also been honored with the Robert G. Damus Award for significant, sustained contributions to the integrity and excellence of OMB (2009) and the Population Association of America's Excellence in Public Service Award (2011). At the international level, she served as chair of the U.N. Statistical Commission, chair of the Conference of European Statisticians for the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, and vice chair of OECD's Statistics Committee.

CNSTAT has long treasured its special relationship with Katherine over the past 30+ years. As COPAFS executive director, she regularly briefed CNSTAT on developments in and concerns for federal statistics. As chief statistician, she helped CNSTAT organize useful luncheon discussion topics at its May and October meetings with the heads of the members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, which she chaired. At CNSTAT's public seminars at those meetings, she always led off with 10-15 minutes on "recent developments in federal statistics" for the benefit of the large audience that regularly attends. At its May 12, 2017, meeting, CNSTAT will honor Katherine with a seminar devoted to a topic that represents one of her signal achievements, namely, the 2002 Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA), which for the first time provided strong legal protection to all federal information collected under a pledge of confidentiality for statistical purposes. Please join us (information will be forthcoming soon on registration).

For more information on Katherine's background and career, see an [interview](#) in the February 1, 2016, issue of *Amstat News*, and a [conversation](#) with Katherine in the October 29, 2015, issue of *International Statistical Review* (should you have access to that publication). The ISR interview closes with the true statement that "Katherine is a national and world treasure." The statistical community and the research and policy analysis communities that use statistical data are in her debt.

We thank the following heads of principal federal statistical agencies who stepped down early in 2017:

- **Erica Groshen** completed her four-year term as *Bureau of Labor Statistics commissioner* on January 27, 2017. Bill Wiatrowski, BLS deputy commissioner, is acting until Erica's replacement is nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for a four-year fixed term. Prior to her confirmation as commissioner in January 2013, Erica was vice president of the Research and Statistics Group at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Before joining the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 1994, she was a visiting assistant professor of economics at Barnard College at Columbia University and an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. She was a visiting economist at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, from 1999 to 2000. She has served on advisory boards for BLS and the U.S. Census Bureau. Her research focuses on labor markets over the business cycle, regional economics, wage rigidity and dispersion, the male-female wage differential, and the role of employers in labor market outcomes. Her last posting on the BLS commissioner's [blog](#), "Innovating for the Future," January 30, 2017, highlighted initiatives during her tenure to use alternative data sources and in other ways make BLS programs more cost-effective and relevant for users.
- **Adam Sieminski** served for over four and a half years as *administrator of the Energy Information Administration*, having been confirmed by the U.S. Senate in May 2012 and stepping down when the new administration took office. Howard Gruenspecht, EIA deputy administrator, is acting until Adam's replacement is nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Adam is currently James R. Schlesinger chair for energy and geopolitics, Energy and National Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. From March to May 2012, while awaiting confirmation as EIA administrator, he served as a senior director on the staff of the National Security Council. From 2005 to March 2012, he was the chief energy economist for Deutsche Bank, and from 1998 to 2005, he served as the director and energy strategist for Deutsche Bank's global oil and gas equity team. Prior to that, he was the senior energy analyst for NatWest Securities in the United States, covering the major U.S.

international integrated oil companies. His initiatives while at EIA included encouraging the agency to use “big data” to improve the relevance and timeliness of key statistics and to expand state-level information, including publication beginning in late 2016 of near real-time hourly electricity operating characteristics as an experimental (beta) series.

We thank the following distinguished public servants, who retired at the end of 2016, for their many years of hard and dedicated work in the service of federal statistics, evidence-based policy, and social science research:

- **Howard Iams**, who retired after 40 years of government service, all but two with the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (ORES) (and its predecessors) in the Social Security Administration. At the time of his retirement, Howard was acting director of the Office of Policy Evaluation and Modeling. Howard conducted extensive research with SSA’s microsimulation models, in particular, MINT (Modeling Income in the Near Term), which simulates the effects of policy alternatives and economic scenarios on individual and family income by linking longitudinal survey data from the Census Bureau’s Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) to Social Security earnings records.
- **Patricia White**, who retired after 30 years with the National Science Foundation. She was program director, sociology, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences directorate. Several years ago, she spent a detail with CNSTAT’s sister Committee on Population Statistics. The Sociology Program oversaw, among other research, the General Social Survey (GSS), which since 1972 has collected topical data on American social behaviors and attitudes.

We note that **Brent Moulton**, who retired last fall as associate director for national economic accounts at the Bureau of Economic Analysis (see the December 2016 “News from CNSTAT”), has a [blog](#), “Political Arithmetick,” with the first entry appearing on January 17, 2017. He posts about issues concerning federal statistics, including principles, concepts, and measurement. We encourage readers to check it out.

We note that **John Thompson**’s term as **U.S. Census Bureau director** expired at the end of 2016 but are delighted to report that he was asked to and did accept another year of appointment (through the end of 2017), as provided for in the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011 (which became effective August 2012). He is eligible to serve a second term extending through December 2021, should he be nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. John is an acknowledged expert in the field of social science research, with a special emphasis on large and complex surveys. Previously, he served as president and executive vice president for survey operations at NORC at the University of Chicago. He started at NORC in 2002 after a 27-year career at the U.S. Census Bureau, serving as one of the Bureau’s most senior career officers, with responsibility for many aspects of the 2000 Census, including management, operations, and methodology. He served on CNSTAT from 2011-2013 and on the Panel to Review the 2010 Census, the Committee on Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency: Fifth Edition, and the Panel on the Design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and past chair of the association’s Social Statistics Section and Committee on Fellows.

**Personal Note from Connie:** As long-term readers of this newsletter may remember, about two years ago, I expressed great satisfaction at having been able to hire **Brian Harris-Kojetin** away from the OMB Statistical Policy Office to become deputy director of CNSTAT with an immediate assignment as study director of our project on using multiple data sources and state-of-the-art methods for federal statistics. Funded by the Arnold Foundation, the study panel has issued a great (if I do say so) first report (see “Publication News” below) and is working hard to complete its final report. I indicated at the time that I planned to step down as CNSTAT director in June 2017 when I would turn 75. I plan to carry through on

that intention. On or about June 30, Brian will become CNSTAT director. I know he will do a fantastic job. For myself, I am honored to have been asked to continue in a part-time capacity with CNSTAT.

The time is right for this transition. My devotion to the cause of federal statistics remains undiminished, but my energy is not what it was. Also, my husband and I need to make some improvements to our 100+-year-old townhouse on Capitol Hill, and we are dealing with the health care system more often than we would like. As some of you are aware (and we have very much appreciated your expressions of support), my husband was diagnosed with lymphoma in June 2016 and underwent 6 rounds of chemotherapy. His scans at the end of December were clear, and we hope that his cancer will stay at bay. That said, he was warned that it could be 6 months before he felt “normal.” I, too, have been recovering (from the intensity of caregiving) and am almost there, so newsletters should be back on a regular schedule, particularly now that the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *P&P* is in review (see below)!

## PUBLICATION *News*

CNSTAT first issued *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency* (*P&P*, or “the purple book”) in 1992. Beginning with the second edition in 2001, CNSTAT determined that it would be useful to issue a new edition every 4 years to coincide with a new administration or second term. The fifth edition was issued in 2013. The *6<sup>th</sup> edition*, which has been redesigned to be as Internet-friendly as possible, with hot links throughout the document and with each of the four principles and 13 practices having its own chapter, was sent to the Academies’ rigorous independent review process on March 9, 2017, with reviewer comments due back no later than the end of March. CNSTAT will prepare a formal response to the comments, and once the response is deemed satisfactory, will release the 6<sup>th</sup> edition as a prepublication so that it is available as soon as possible to statistical agencies and new political appointees who oversee the agencies.

In regard to important publications for federal statistics, the Statistical and Science Policy Office issued [Statistical Programs of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2017](#) on January 10, 2017. Known as “the blue book,” this publication is a must-have resource for information on the programs, not only of the principal statistical agencies, but also of the 115 or so agencies that conduct statistical programs of \$500K or more. Note that the URL for the blue book is not part of the White House web site; rather, the entire Obama White House web site (including OMB, OIRA, and SSP) has been put into an “archived” location, with a notice that the site is not being maintained. To reach archived SSP materials, you need to go to <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/>, and then click on “the administration,” “Office of Management and Budget,” “regulation and information,” and “statistical programs and standards.” It is to be hoped that portions of the Obama White House archived site of continuing value, such as the statistical policy and standards documents, will be restored to the main White House site.

*Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, is the first report of the Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods, chaired by Robert M. Groves (Georgetown University), and sponsored by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. The report, edited, by Robert Groves and Brian Harris-Kojetin, is available as a free [PDF](#) and will be in print shortly.

Federal government statistics provide critical information to the country and serve a key role in a democracy. For decades, sample surveys with instruments carefully designed for particular data needs have been one of the primary methods for collecting data for federal statistics. However, the costs of conducting such surveys have been increasing while response rates have been declining, and many surveys are not able to fulfill growing demands for more timely information and for more detailed information at state and local levels. *Innovations in Federal Statistics* examines the opportunities and

risks of using government administrative and private sector data sources to foster a paradigm shift in federal statistical programs that would combine diverse data sources in a secure manner to enhance federal statistics. This first publication of a two-part series discusses the challenges faced by the federal statistical system and the foundational elements needed for a new paradigm.

***Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress***, released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016, is the final report of the Committee on the Evaluation of NAEP Mathematics and Reading Levels, chaired by Christopher Edley, Jr. (UC Berkeley), and sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics. The report, edited by Christopher Edley, Jr., and Judith Koenig, is available as a free [PDF](#) and will be in print shortly.

Since 1969, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been providing policymakers, educators, and the public with reports on academic performance and progress of the nation's students. The assessment is given periodically in a variety of subjects: mathematics, reading, writing, science, the arts, civics, economics, geography, U.S. history, and technology and engineering literacy. NAEP is given to representative samples of students across the United States to assess the educational progress of the nation as a whole. Since 1992, NAEP results have been reported in relation to three achievement levels: basic, proficient, and advanced. However, the use of achievement levels has provoked controversy and disagreement, and evaluators have identified numerous concerns. This publication evaluates the NAEP student achievement levels in reading and mathematics in grades 4, 8, and 12 to determine whether the achievement levels are reasonable, reliable, valid, and informative to the public, and recommends ways that the setting and use of achievement levels can be improved.

***The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration***, released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016, is the final report of the Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration, chaired by Francine Blau (Cornell University) and sponsored by the John T. and Catherine D. MacArthur Foundation and the Independent Funds of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The report, edited by Francine Blau and Christopher Mackie, is available as a free [PDF](#) and will be in print shortly. The report has been covered in at least 148 media articles, and has been downloaded almost 10,000 times by people in at least 22 countries.

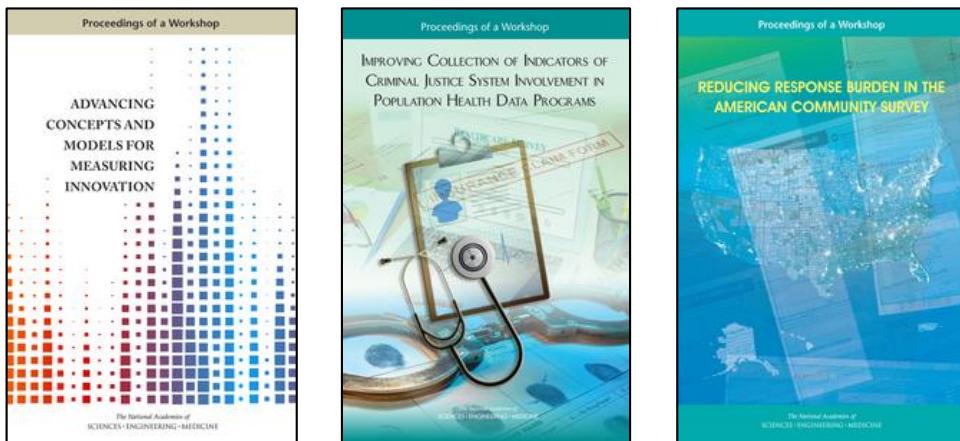
More than 40 million people living in the United States were born in other countries, and almost an equal number have at least one foreign-born parent. Together, the first generation (foreign-born) and second generation (children of the foreign-born) comprise almost one in four Americans. It comes as little surprise, then, that many U.S. residents view immigration as a major policy issue facing the nation. Not only does immigration affect the environment in which everyone lives, learns, and works, but it also interacts with nearly every policy area of concern, from jobs and the economy, education, and health care, to federal, state, and local government budgets. The changing patterns of immigration and the evolving consequences for American society, institutions, and the economy continue to fuel public policy debate that plays out at the national, state, and local levels. The *Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* assesses the impact of dynamic immigration processes on economic and fiscal outcomes for the United States.

#### **Reports Released in Fall 2016 Now Available in Printed Form (and as free PDFs)**

***Advancing Concepts and Models for Measuring Innovation: Proceedings of a Workshop*** (first released as a prepublication, September 16, 2016)

***Improving Collection of Indicators of Criminal Justice System Involvement in Population Health Data Programs: Proceedings of a Workshop*** (first released as a prepublication, December 16, 2016)

***Reducing Respondent Burden in the American Community Survey: Proceedings of a Workshop*** (first released as a prepublication, September 19, 2016)



**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 from the October 2016 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "Taking Surveys to People's Technology: Implications for Federal Statistics and Social Science Research," 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

It is not too late to submit nominations for the **2017 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics**—the due date is **March 21, 2017**. Please see the announcement at the end of this newsletter.

The **2017 Federal Computer Assisted Survey Information Collection (FedCASIC) Workshops** will be held April 11-12, 2017, at U.S. Census Bureau headquarters in Suitland, MD, and cover topics related to the use of technology in government surveys. John Abowd, associate director for research and methodology at the Census Bureau, is the keynote speaker. General registration and participation submission information are available [here](#).

The spring 2017 meeting of the **NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN)** will be held April 24, 2017, at the Census Bureau's headquarters in Suitland, MD. Topics will include: linkage and geography, privacy and confidentiality, 2020 census cost-benefit analysis, and the 2017 economic census. Registration and program information are available [here](#).

The **Population Association of America (PAA)** annual meeting will feature a session, 10:15–11:45 am, April 28, 2017, on the CNSTAT report, *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*. The PAA meeting is being held at the Hilton Chicago. The session will be chaired by Francine Blau (who chaired the study panel) and include presentations by several panel members. Registration and program information 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 133<sup>rd</sup> meeting** will be held **May 11-12, 2017**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **12th**, 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 with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm. The seminar will honor an important achievement of **Katherine Wallman**, former chief statistician of the United States, and will be titled ***Fifteen Years of CIPSEA (Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002): Benefits and Future Needs***.

**CNSTAT’s 134<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 19-20, 2017**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **20th**, 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.

**CNSTAT’s 135<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

## 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 in 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; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) scheduled for May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

### **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–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for May 24-25, 2017, at UC Davis (CA)

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2015– September 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **Department of Commerce**

### **Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau's Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)

Publication: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Sixth and final meeting (closed) scheduled for June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; research associate: Adrienne Bradford

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Ninth meeting TBD

## **Department of Education**

### **Committee on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Achievement Levels**

**Evaluation** (joint with the Board on Testing and Assessment, which has the lead)

Sponsor: National Center for Education Statistics

Duration: September 2014–November 2016

Study director: Judith Koenig (BOTA); program officer: Jordyn White (CNSTAT); project assistant: Kelly Arrington (BOTA)

Chair: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley)

Publication: Final report, *Evaluation of the Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress*, was released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016 (see “Publication News” above)

Meetings: Eighth (last) meeting (closed) held November 16–17, 2015, in Irvine, CA

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

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

### **Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **Workshop on a Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation**

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Department of Labor; Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education); and U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Grover (Russ) Whitehurst, Brookings Institution

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief has cleared review and will be released shortly, 2017; a full proceedings is being drafted

Meeting: Workshop held October 27, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on a Research Agenda for Longitudinal Studies**

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

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: James Jackson, University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief

Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for June 5–6, 2017, 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–September 2017

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri-St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying*

*Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016; printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted

Meetings: Final in-person meeting (closed) held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

## **Department of Transportation**

### **Panel to Review the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: March 2016–September 2017

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; off-site research associate: Jacob Spertus (Harvard)

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

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting held February 16-17, 2017; fifth meeting TBD

## **National Science Foundation**

### **Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for April 24-25, 2017; sixth meeting scheduled for July 6-7, 2017; both in Washington, DC

### **Standing Committee on the Future of Major NSF-Funded Social Science Surveys**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation, Directorate on Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

Duration: March 2015–March 2017

Study director: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Eileen LeFurgy

Chair: Barbara Entwistle (University of North Carolina)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they may also facilitate separate workshops or consensus panels. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Meetings: Fourth (and last) in-person meeting held December 1-2, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2017

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

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: Planning meeting held October 4, 2016, in Washington DC; workshop scheduled for June 21-22, 2017

### **The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation**

#### **Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity**

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistants: Kelly Arrington (beginning April 2017) and Agnes Gaskin (January–April 2017)

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: First meeting scheduled for April 20-21, 2017, in Washington, DC

### **The Carnegie Corporation of New York**

#### **Standing Committee on Creating the American Opportunity Study, First Phase**

Sponsor: The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Duration: April 2015–March 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Michael Hout (NYU)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee facilitated a workshop, May 9, 2016, on research uses of the American Opportunity Study (AOS), which is being developed to measure intergenerational mobility by linking 1990 census records (after capturing the necessary information) with subsequent census records, American Community Survey records, and administrative records that become available. The result will be a facility for researchers to obtain extracts of linked files for analysis within the Federal Statistical Research Data Center network (formerly the Census Bureau RDC network). The First-Phase AOS is to address the challenges of capturing linking information for the 1990 census short-form and long-form records, to evaluate the likely quality of matches with other records, and to propose the next phase of work. A “workshop in brief” proceedings of the May workshop was released July 19, 2016, and is available for download as a free [PDF](#). Presentation [slides](#) from the May workshop are also available.

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting TBD

## 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 2016

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

Chair: Francine Blau (Cornell University)

Publication: Final report, *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*, was released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016 (see “Publication News” above)

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting (closed) held September 11–12, 2015, in Washington, DC

## The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

### Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Information While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017 (see “Publication News” above); second report is being drafted; a [website](#) is maintained for the committee

Upcoming meetings: Seventh and final meeting (closed) scheduled for March 16–17, 2017, in Washington, DC

### • CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •

Committee on National Statistics

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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.

## **Nominations Sought for Julius Shiskin Award**

Nominations are invited for the 2017 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. This annual award, sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions can be in development of new statistical measures, statistical research, use of economic statistics to analyze and interpret economic activity, development of statistical tools, management of statistical programs, or application of data production techniques.

The 2016 award recipient was John Abowd, Edmund Ezra Day Professor at Cornell University and currently Associate Director for Research and Methodology and Chief Scientist at the Census Bureau, for designing and implementing disclosure avoidance techniques that enable federal statistical agencies to greatly expand the availability of their data while preserving respondents' confidentiality and for his leadership at Cornell providing access to these data over the Internet.

This award was established in 1979 to honor Julius Shiskin who at the time of his death in 1978 was Commissioner of BLS. He earlier had served as Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget and as Assistant Director at the U.S. Census Bureau. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. At OMB he developed the policies that still govern the release of key economic indicators. At BLS he directed the comprehensive revision of the CPI, which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

Nominations for the 2017 award are now being accepted. Individuals in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. Completed nominations must be received by March 21, 2017. The award will be presented with an honorarium of \$1000. A nomination form and a list of previous recipients are available from

<http://community.amstat.org/businessandeconomicstatisticssection/new-item/new-item>.

For more information, please contact Thomas Evans, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at [evans.thomas@bls.gov](mailto:evans.thomas@bls.gov) or call (202) 691-6354.



# NEWS from CNSTAT

— April 21, 2017 —

Please see the attached flyer to register for CNSTAT's public seminar, Friday, May 12, 2017, **CIPSEA at 15 Years: Benefits to Federal Statistics (Confidentiality Protection and Research); Unmet Needs (Data Sharing)**. The seminar is in honor of Katherine Wallman, former chief statistician of the United States.

## PEOPLE News

We congratulate **Cynthia Dwork**, Gordon McKay professor of computer science at Harvard University, and her co-authors Frank McSherry, Kobbi Nissim, and Adam Smith, on receiving the **2017 Gödel Prize** from the **European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS)**. The prize is for their paper, "Calibrating noise to sensitivity in private data analysis," *Journal of Privacy and Confidentiality*, volume 7, issue 3 (2016). The prize will be awarded at the Annual ACM Symposium on the Theory of Computing, June 19-23, 2017, in Montreal, Canada. Cynthia is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), and is serving on the CNSTAT Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods.

We congratulate **Barry Nussbaum** on recently becoming an *elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)*. Barry is president of the **American Statistical Association (ASA)**, having retired March 3, 2016, after more than 40 years of federal service. At the time of his retirement, he was chief statistician of the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** in the Office of Environmental Information. His work included statistical analyses leading to new emissions programs, support for enforcement cases, the phase-down of leaded gasoline, the regulation of fuel additives, and the assessment of motor vehicle emission control tampering. For these efforts, he was awarded two EPA Silver Medals for Superior Service.

We congratulate the **NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN)** on receiving a **Statistical Partnerships Among Academe, Industry & Government (SPAIG) 2017 Award** from the American Statistical Association SPAIG Committee. The award will be presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings, August 1, 2017, in Baltimore, MD. NCRN is recognized "for addressing methodological questions of interest to the federal statistical system and training future generations to design, conduct, analyze and report official statistics." Information on the NCRN is available [here](#).

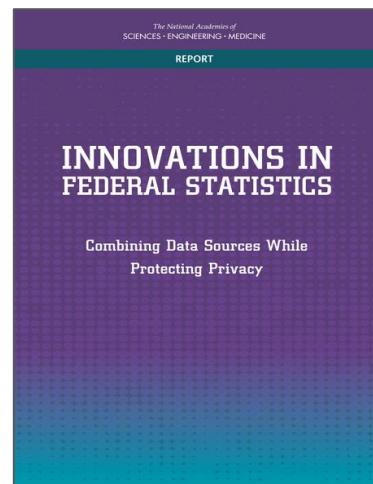
We thank the following distinguished individuals who recently retired, for their years of hard and dedicated work in the service of federal statistics, evidence-based policy, and social science research:

- **Shirin Ahmed**, who retired after many years of government service at the U.S. Census Bureau. At the time of her retirement, she was assistant director for decennial census programs and prior to that had been assistant director for economic programs.

- **Nat Schenker**, who retired from his position as associate director for research and methodology of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) on March 31, 2017, having previously served as deputy director, associate director for research and methodology, and senior scientist for research and methodology. He is a member of CNSTAT's Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations. He is a past president of ASA. Before working at NCHS, he was a faculty member in the Department of Biostatistics at UCLA and prior to that on the staff of the U.S. Census Bureau. He received NCHS's Elijah White Outstanding Scientist Award and its Owen Thornberry Excellence in Leadership Award.
- **Allen Schirm**, who retired in January 2017 after 28 years with Mathematica Policy Research. He held a number of positions at Mathematica, most recently as director of methods and senior fellow. He is an expert in small-area estimation, census methods, and sample and evaluation design, with application to studies of child well-being and welfare, food and nutrition, and education policy. He has served on many CNSTAT study panels and was recognized as a National Associate of the National Academies for his outstanding service. He is a fellow of ASA.

## PUBLICATION *News*

***Principles and Practices for Program Evaluation: Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief***, released March 20, 2017, is a summary of a fuller proceedings to be released later in the spring from a workshop held in October 2016, chaired by Russ Whitehurst, The Brookings Institution. Workshop participants focused on reviews of existing policies of the Administration for Children and Families, the Institute of Education Sciences, the Chief Evaluation Office in the U.S. Department of Labor, and other federal agencies. The scope of the workshop included evaluations of interventions, programs, and practices intended to affect human behavior, carried out by the federal government or its contractual agents and leading to public reports intended to provide information on impacts, cost, and implementation. This publication briefly summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop. It is available as a free [PDF](#) and in print.



***Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy***, released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, is the first report of the Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation

Methods, chaired by Robert M. Groves (Georgetown University), and sponsored by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. The report, edited by Robert Groves and Brian Harris-Kojetin, is available as a free [PDF](#) and in print.

Federal government statistics provide critical information to the country and serve a key role in a democracy. For decades, sample surveys with instruments carefully designed for particular data needs have been one of the primary methods for collecting data for federal statistics. However, the costs of conducting such surveys have been increasing while response rates have been declining, and many surveys are not able to fulfill growing demands for more timely information and for more detailed information at state and local levels. *Innovations in Federal Statistics* examines the opportunities and risks of using government administrative and private sector data sources to foster a paradigm shift in federal statistical programs that would combine diverse data sources in a secure manner to enhance federal statistics. This first publication of a two-part series discusses the challenges faced by the federal statistical system and the foundational elements needed for a new paradigm.

***Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress***, released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016, is the final report of the Committee on the Evaluation of NAEP Mathematics and Reading Levels, chaired by Christopher Edley, Jr. (UC Berkeley), and sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics. The report, edited by Christopher Edley, Jr., and Judith Koenig, is available as a free [PDF](#) and will be in print shortly.

Since 1969, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been providing policymakers, educators, and the public with reports on academic performance and progress of the nation's students. The assessment is given periodically in a variety of subjects: mathematics, reading, writing, science, the arts, civics, economics, geography, U.S. history, and technology and engineering literacy. NAEP is given to representative samples of students across the United States to assess the educational progress of the nation as a whole. Since 1992, NAEP results have been reported in relation to three achievement levels: basic, proficient, and advanced. However, the use of achievement levels has provoked controversy and disagreement, and evaluators have identified numerous concerns. This publication evaluates the NAEP student achievement levels in reading and mathematics in grades 4, 8, and 12 to determine whether the achievement levels are reasonable, reliable, valid, and informative to the public, and recommends ways that the setting and use of achievement levels can be improved.

***The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration***, released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016, is the final report of the Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration, chaired by Francine Blau (Cornell University) and sponsored by the John T. and Catherine D. MacArthur Foundation and the Independent Funds of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The report, edited by Francine Blau and Christopher Mackie, is available as a free [PDF](#) and will be in print shortly. The report has been covered in at least 148 media articles and has been downloaded almost 10,995 times by people in at least 30 countries.

More than 40 million people living in the United States were born in other countries, and almost an equal number have at least one foreign-born parent. Together, the first generation (foreign-born) and second generation (children of the foreign-born) comprise almost one in four Americans. It comes as little surprise, then, that many U.S. residents view immigration as a major policy issue facing the nation. Not only does immigration affect the environment in which everyone lives, learns, and works, but it also interacts with nearly every policy area of concern, from jobs and the economy, education, and health care, to federal, state, and local government budgets. The changing patterns of immigration and the evolving consequences for American society, institutions, and the economy continue to fuel public policy debate that plays out at the national, state, and local levels. The *Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* assesses the impact of dynamic immigration processes on economic and fiscal outcomes for the United States.

**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 from the October 2016 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "Taking Surveys to People's Technology: Implications for Federal Statistics and Social Science Research," 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*

The spring 2017 meeting of the **NSF-Census Research Network (NCRN)** will be held April 24, 2017, at the Census Bureau's headquarters in Suitland, MD. Topics will include: linkage and geography, privacy and confidentiality, 2020 census cost-benefit analysis, and the 2017 economic census. Registration and program information are available [here](#).

The **Washington Statistical Society's President's Invited Address** will be held April 25, 2017, 12:30–2:00 pm, at Mathematica's offices, 1100 1<sup>st</sup> St, NE, Washington, DC. The speaker is John Thompson, director of the U.S. Census Bureau. See the **attached flyer** for details.

The annual meeting of the **Population Association of America (PAA)** will feature a session on the CNSTAT report *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* on April 28, 2017, from 10:15–11:45 am. The PAA meeting is being held at the Hilton Chicago. The session will be chaired by Francine Blau (who chaired the study panel) and include presentations by several panel members. Registration and program information are available [here](#).

The annual meeting of the **American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)** will feature a session on the CNSTAT report *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy* on May 20, 2017, from 3:30–5:00 pm. The AAPOR meeting is in New Orleans, LA. Registration and program information 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 133<sup>rd</sup> meeting** will be held **May 11-12, 2017**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **12th**, 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 with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30

pm. The seminar will honor an important achievement of **Katherine Wallman**, former chief statistician of the United States, and is titled **CIPSEA at 15 Years: Benefits to Federal Statistics (Confidentiality Protection and Research); Unmet Needs (Data Sharing)**. CIPSEA is the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. See the **attached flyer** for registration information.

**CNSTAT's 134<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 19-20, 2017**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **20th**, 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.

**CNSTAT's 135<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

## *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 in 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; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) scheduled for May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

#### **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–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for May 24-25, 2017, at UC Davis (CA)

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2015– September 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## Department of Commerce

### Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau's Annual Economic Surveys

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)

Publication: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Sixth and final meeting (closed) scheduled for June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; research associate: Adrienne Bradford

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

### Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Ninth meeting TBD

## Department of Education

### Committee on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Achievement Levels

**Evaluation** (joint with the Board on Testing and Assessment, which has the lead)

Sponsor: National Center for Education Statistics

Duration: September 2014–April 2017

Study director: Judith Koenig (BOTA); program officer: Jordyn White (CNSTAT); project assistant: Kelly Arrington (BOTA)

Chair: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley)

Publication: Final report, *Evaluation of the Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress*, was released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016 (see “Publication News” above)

Meetings: Eighth (last) meeting (closed) held November 16-17, 2015, in Irvine, CA

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

## Department of Health and Human Services

### **Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **Workshop on a Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation**

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Department of Labor; Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education); and U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Grover (Russ) Whitehurst, Brookings Institution

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief was released March 20, 2017 (see “Publication News” above); full proceedings is being drafted

Meeting: Workshop held October 27, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on a Research Agenda for Longitudinal Studies**

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

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: James Jackson, University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief

Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for June 5-6, 2017, 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–September 2017

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016; printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted

Meetings: Final in-person meeting (closed) held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

## Department of Transportation

### **Panel to Review the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: March 2016–September 2017

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; off-site research associate: Jacob Spertus (Harvard)

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

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting held February 16-17, 2017; fifth meeting TBD

## **National Science Foundation**

### **Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for April 24-25, 2017; sixth meeting scheduled for July 6-7, 2017; both in Washington, DC

### **Standing Committee on the Future of Major NSF-Funded Social Science Surveys**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation, Directorate on Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

Duration: March 2015–March 2017

Study director: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Eileen LeFurgy

Chair: Barbara Entwistle (University of North Carolina)

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

Meetings: Fourth (and last) in-person meeting held December 1-2, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2017

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

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: Planning meeting held October 4, 2016, in Washington DC; workshop scheduled for June 21-22, 2017

## **The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation**

### **Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity**

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistants: Kelly Arrington (beginning April 2017) and Agnes Gaskin (January–April 2017)

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: First meeting held April 20-21, 2017, in Washington, DC; second meeting TBD

## **The Carnegie Corporation of New York**

### **Standing Committee on Creating the American Opportunity Study, First Phase**

Sponsor: The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Duration: April 2015–March 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Michael Hout (NYU)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee facilitated a workshop, May 9, 2016, on research uses of the American Opportunity Study (AOS), which is being developed to measure intergenerational mobility by linking 1990 census records (after capturing the necessary information) with subsequent census records, American Community Survey records, and administrative records that become available. The result will be a facility for researchers to obtain extracts of linked files for analysis within the Federal Statistical Research Data Center network (formerly the Census Bureau RDC network). The First-Phase AOS is to address the challenges of capturing linking information for the 1990 census short-form and long-form records, to evaluate the likely quality of matches with other records, and to propose the next phase of work. A “workshop in brief” proceedings of the May workshop was released July 19, 2016, and is available for download as a free [PDF](#). Presentation [slides](#) from the May workshop are also available.

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting TBD

## **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 2016

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

Chair: Francine Blau (Cornell University)

Publication: Final report, *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*, was released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016 (see “Publication News” above)

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting (closed) held September 11-12, 2015, in Washington, DC

## **The Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

### **Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods**

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Information While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017 (see “Publication News” above); second report is being drafted; a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Seventh and final meeting (closed) held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT** •

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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.



# NEWS from CNSTAT

— May 23, 2017 —

## PEOPLE News

We congratulate **Rita Colwell**, distinguished university professor at the University of Maryland College Park and the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, senior advisor and chairman emeritus at Canon U.S. Life Sciences, Inc., and founder and chairman at CosmosID, Inc., on receiving the **2017 Vannevar Bush Award**. Established by the National Science Board in 1980 in memory of Vannevar Bush, who served as a science advisor to President Franklin Roosevelt during World War II, helped to establish federal funding for science and engineering as a national priority during peacetime, and helped create the National Science Foundation, this award honors truly exceptional lifelong leaders in science and technology who have made substantial contributions to the welfare of the nation through public service activities in science, technology, and public policy. Dr. Colwell, whose work bridges many areas, including microbiology, ecology, infectious disease, public health, and computer and satellite technology, is recognized for her significant, life-saving contributions in the areas of global infectious diseases, water, and health. Among many other honors, she is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and is currently co-chairing the CNSTAT Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington in genetics and M.S. and B.S. degrees from Purdue University.

We congratulate **Roderick J. Little**, Richard D. Remington distinguished university professor in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, and **Donald Rubin**, John L. Loeb professor of statistics at Harvard University, on receiving the **2017 Karl Pearson Prize** for their book *Statistical Analysis with Missing Data*. The prize, awarded biennially, was established in 2013 by the ISI and Elsevier Publishers to recognize a research article or book published within the last three decades that has profoundly influenced statistical theory, methodology, practice or applications. The authors will present the Pearson Lecture at the International Statistical Institute (ISI) World Statistics Congress in Marrakech, in July 2017. Their citation reads (in part):

The work of Roderick J. Little and Donald B. Rubin, laid out in their seminal 1978 *Biometrika* papers and 1987 book, updated in 2002, has been no less than defining and transforming. Earlier missing data work was ad hoc at best. Little and Rubin defined the field and provided the methodological and applied communities with a useful and usable taxonomy and a set of key results. Today, their terminology and methodology are used more than ever. Their work has been transforming for the deep impact it had, and has, on both statistical practice and theory. It is one of the rare topics that has continued for the past thirty years to be studied and developed in academia, government and industry.

Both Rod and Don served on CNSTAT and CNSTAT panels; Rod is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and Don of the National Academy of Sciences.

We congratulate **Elizabeth Stuart**, professor of mental health, biostatistics, and health policy and management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and associate dean for education,

on receiving the **2017 Gertrude M. Cox Award** from the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International. Liz has a B.S. in mathematics from Smith College and a Ph.D. in statistics from Harvard University, where she worked with Donald Rubin, Gary King, and Alan Zaslavsky. Her primary research interests are in statistical methodology for mental health research, particularly relating to causal inference and missing data. She has published broadly on propensity score methods, analysis of observational data, and applications, is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, and served on the CNSTAT panel that produced *Commercial Driver Fatigue, Long-Term Health, and Highway Safety: Research Needs* in 2016. She will give the Cox Award presentation at RTI International on the afternoon of June 28, 2017, preceding the WSS Annual Dinner. The award was established in 2003 in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978) to recognize statisticians in early to mid-career who have already made significant contributions to statistical practice. Dr. Cox was head of experimental statistics at North Carolina State University for many years. Upon her retirement in 1960, she became the first head of the Statistical Research Division at the newly founded RTI. She was the first woman elected (in 1949) to the International Statistical Institute, served as president of the American Statistical Association, and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

We congratulate **Katherine K. Wallman**, recently retired after 24 years as U.S. chief statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), on receiving the **2017 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics**. The award recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Katherine is recognized for strengthening the independence of U.S. statistical agencies; expanding confidentiality protection; improving the quality and usability of official statistics; increasing collaboration among the statistical agencies; and improving the reliability and comparability of official statistics throughout the world. The full citation is an attachment to this newsletter.

**Katherine Wallman** was also honored by CNSTAT at our public seminar, May 12, 2017, for “her 5 decades of dedicated service to the quality, relevance, objectivity, and international comparability of federal statistics, which form the bedrock of American democracy.” For those not aware of the full extent of her career, we noted her positions as follows:

- Chief Statistician of the United States, Office of Management and Budget, 1992–2017
- Executive Director, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, 1982–1992
- Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1977–1981
- Statistical Policy Division, Office of Management and Budget, 1976–1977
- Bureau of Adult, Vocational, and Library Programs & National Center for Education Statistics, 1967–1976

We congratulate the following members of the Washington statistical community who have been elected as **2017 American Statistical Association Fellows**. They will be recognized at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore, MD, August 1, 2017.

- **Ron S. Jarmin**, associate director for economic programs, U.S. Census Bureau
- **Thomas R. Krenzke**, senior statistician, Westat
- **Jennifer D. Parker**, senior statistician, National Center for Health Statistics
- **Katherine J. Thompson**, mathematical statistician, U.S. Census Bureau

We note that **Monroe Sirken** was honored at a luncheon of the Senior Statisticians Society of the Washington DC metropolitan area, May 16, 2017. Monroe earned his B.A. and M.A. in sociology at UCLA and his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Washington. He spent some time in the early 1950s in the Office of the Assistant Director for Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Monroe visited the Census Bureau at a time of great change in the use of sampling and survey methods and decided to remain. He moved to the National Office of Vital Statistics in 1953. He held a variety of research and administrative positions at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and was the associate

director, research and methodology, and the director, Office of Research and Methodology, until 1996 when he became a senior research scientist, not “retiring” for many years thereafter. His major professional interests have been in survey and statistical research responsive to the needs of federal statistics. His work on the design of rare and sensitive population surveys led to the development of network sampling, which improves precision by linking multiple selection units to the same observation units. His work to foster research on the cognitive aspects of survey methods led to the establishment of permanent questionnaire design research laboratories, first at NCHS and later at other statistical agencies. Monroe was a charter member of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He received the Public Health Service Superior Service Award and the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. In 2014 he endowed the Monroe G. Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research.

We thank **Robert (“Bob”) Bell** for his years of service to CNSTAT on the occasion of his retirement from Google’s research and machine intelligence unit, May 12, 2017. Bob served on CNSTAT and on its panels on correlation bias and coverage measurement in the 2010 census, the review of the 2000 census, and planning for the 2000 census, and on several committees in other parts of the National Academies. Bob is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and served on the board of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences. He has a Ph.D. in statistics from Stanford University, and held positions at RAND doing public policy analysis and with the Statistics Research Department at AT&T Labs-Research before moving to Google. His research interests range from machine learning methods to survey research methods. He was part of a team that won the Netflix Prize in 2009 by achieving a 10 percent reduction in root mean square error relative to Netflix’s algorithm for predicting customer behavior.

We thank **Carol Crawford** for her service to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and wish her all the best in her new position as director of the Center for Design, Methods, and Analysis with the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Carol was most recently deputy director for science & planning in the NASS Research and Development Division. Before that she held a number of positions with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has a Ph.D. in statistics from Iowa State University, where she received the George Snedecor Award, and is a fellow of the American Statistical Association.

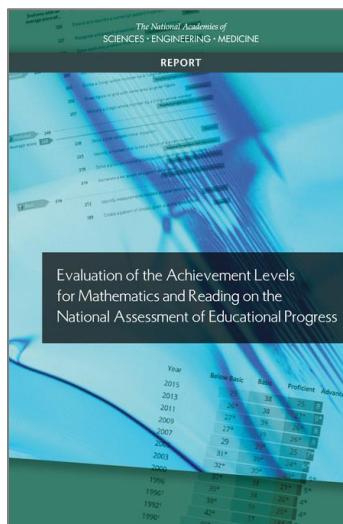
We thank **John Thompson** for his years of government service, most recently as director of the U.S. Census Bureau, from which position he will be retiring June 30, 2017. John is an acknowledged expert in the field of social science research, with a special emphasis on large and complex surveys. Previously, he served as president and executive vice president for survey operations at NORC at the University of Chicago. He started at NORC in 2002 after a 27-year career at the U.S. Census Bureau, serving as one of the Bureau’s most senior career officers, with responsibility for many aspects of the 2000 census, including management, operations, and methodology. He served on CNSTAT from 2011-2013 and on its Panel to Review the 2010 Census, Committee on Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency: Fifth Edition, and Panel on the Design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and past chair of the association’s Social Statistics Section and Committee on Fellows. He will be very much missed.

## PUBLICATION News

***Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress***, released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016, is the final report of the Committee on the Evaluation of NAEP Mathematics and Reading Levels, chaired by Christopher Edley,

Jr. (UC Berkeley), and sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics. The report, edited by Christopher Edley, Jr., and Judith Koenig, is available as a free [PDF](#) and in print.

Since 1969, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been providing policymakers, educators, and the public with reports on academic performance and progress of the nation's students. The assessment is given periodically in a variety of subjects: mathematics, reading, writing, science, the arts, civics, economics, geography, U.S. history, and technology and engineering literacy. NAEP is given to representative samples of students across the United States to assess the educational progress of the nation as a whole. Since 1992, NAEP results have been reported in relation to three achievement levels: basic, proficient, and advanced. However, the use of achievement levels has provoked controversy and disagreement, and evaluators have identified numerous concerns. This publication evaluates the NAEP student achievement levels in reading and mathematics in grades 4, 8, and 12 to determine whether the achievement levels are reasonable, reliable, valid, and informative to the public, and recommends ways that the setting and use of achievement levels can be improved.



***The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration***, released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016, is the final report of the Panel on the Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration, chaired by Francine Blau (Cornell University) and sponsored by the John T. and Catherine D. MacArthur Foundation and the Independent Funds of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The report, edited by Francine Blau and Christopher Mackie, is available as a free [PDF](#) and will be in print shortly. The report has been covered in at least 148 media articles and has been downloaded almost 10,995 times by people in more than 30 countries.

More than 40 million people living in the United States were born in other countries, and almost an equal number have at least one foreign-born parent. Together, the first generation (foreign-born) and second generation (children of the foreign-born) comprise almost one in four Americans. It comes as little surprise, then, that many U.S. residents view immigration as a major policy issue facing the nation. Not only does immigration affect the environment in which everyone lives, learns, and works, but it also interacts with nearly every policy area of concern, from jobs and the economy, education, and health care, to federal, state, and local government budgets. The changing patterns of immigration and the evolving consequences for American society, institutions, and the economy continue to fuel public policy debate that plays out at the national, state, and local levels. *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* assesses the impact of dynamic immigration processes on economic and fiscal outcomes for the United States.

**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 from the October 2016 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "Taking Surveys to People's Technology: Implications for Federal Statistics and Social Science Research," 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](#).

## 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 134<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 19-20, 2017**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **20th**, 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.

**CNSTAT's 135<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

**CNSTAT's 136<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, 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 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, 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 in 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; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper  
Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)  
Publication planned: Final report is being drafted  
Upcoming meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) scheduled for May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

**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–September 2018  
Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri  
Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)  
Publication planned: Final report  
Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for May 24-25, 2017, at UC Davis (CA)

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Duration: September 2015– September 2018  
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper  
Chair: TBD  
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings  
Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Department of Commerce**

**Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: May 2015–May 2018  
Study director: Glenn White; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper  
Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)  
Publication: Final report is being drafted  
Upcoming meetings: Sixth and final meeting (closed) scheduled for June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017  
Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; research associate: Adrienne Bradford  
Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)  
Publication planned: Final report is being drafted  
Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

**Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Ninth meeting scheduled for August 24-25, 2017, in Washington, DC

## **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** (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

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 program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication: Final report

Meetings: Second meeting scheduled for June 20-22, 2017, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Workshop on a Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation**

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Department of Labor; Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education); and U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Grover (Russ) Whitehurst, Brookings Institution

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief was released March 20, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; full proceedings is in review

Meeting: Workshop held October 27, 2016, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on a Research Agenda for Longitudinal Studies**

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

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: James Jackson, University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief

Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for June 5-6, 2017, 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–September 2017

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016; printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted

Meetings: Final in-person meeting (closed) held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

## **Department of Transportation**

### **Panel to Review the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: March 2016–September 2017

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; off-site research associate: Jacob Spertus (Harvard)

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

Publication planned: Final report is in response to review

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting held February 16-17, 2017; fifth meeting TBD

## **National Science Foundation**

### **Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Sixth meeting scheduled for July 6-7, 2017, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

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

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: Planning meeting held October 4, 2016, in Washington DC; workshop scheduled for June 21-22, 2017

### **The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation**

#### **Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity**

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistants: Kelly Arrington (beginning April 2017) and Agnes Gaskin (January–April 2017)

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: First meeting held April 20-21, 2017, in Washington, DC; second meeting TBD

### **The Carnegie Corporation of New York**

#### **Standing Committee on Creating the American Opportunity Study, First Phase**

Sponsor: The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Duration: April 2015–March 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Michael Hout (NYU)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee facilitated a workshop, May 9, 2016, on research uses of the American Opportunity Study (AOS), which is being developed to measure intergenerational mobility by linking 1990 census records (after capturing the necessary information) with subsequent census records, American Community Survey records, and administrative records that become available. The result will be a facility for researchers to obtain extracts of linked files for analysis within the Federal Statistical Research Data Center network (formerly the Census Bureau RDC network). The First-Phase AOS is to address the challenges of capturing linking information for the 1990 census short-form and long-form records, to evaluate the likely quality of matches with other records, and to propose the next phase of work. A “workshop in brief” proceedings of the May workshop was released July 19, 2016, and is available for download as a free [PDF](#). Presentation [slides](#) from the May workshop are also available.

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting TBD

### **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 2016

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

Chair: Francine Blau (Cornell University)

Publication: Final report, *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*, was released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016 (see “Publication News” above)

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting (closed) held September 11-12, 2015, in Washington, DC

## The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

### **Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods**

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Information While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; second report is being drafted; a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Seventh and final meeting (closed) held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

#### • CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •

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

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# NEWS from CNSTAT

— July 7, 2017 —

**6th Edition of *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*  
released on-line, July 6, 2017 [see “Report News” below]**

**Brian Harris-Kojetin becomes 6<sup>th</sup> director of CNSTAT, July 8, 2017; director Constance Citro becomes CNSTAT senior scholar [see last item in “People News” below]**

## PEOPLE *News*

We note with sadness the death of **Eleanor Singer**, academic survey researcher and research professor emerita of the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (ISR), June 3, 2017, at age 87. She was a respected authority on American public opinion and the ethical practice of academic survey research, who had a prolific research career. She was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1930. In 1938, her family fled the rise of Nazi Germany in Europe and settled in Astoria, NY. She completed a B.A. in English at Queens College in 1951. In her early career, she worked as a book editor at various publishing houses and increasingly specialized in books about social science. She developed an interest in survey research and earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia University in 1966. She went on to conduct research at Columbia University and the University of Chicago and worked as a social science analyst at the U.S. Bureau of the Census. She edited *Public Opinion Quarterly* from 1976-1987, a role that elevated survey methodology as an academic discipline. In 1994, she was recruited as a research professor at the ISR/SRC where she was the first woman to serve as the associate director of the SRC. She was active in the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), including as president, and, in 1996, she received the AAPOR Award for Lifetime Achievement. In 2016, she received the Monroe G. Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research for “significant contributions in our understanding of survey participation, sources of nonresponse bias, and factors affecting survey responses; for pioneering research on the use and effects of incentives; and for leadership in developing awareness and understanding of ethical issues in survey research.” We at CNSTAT highly valued Eleanor’s contributions as chair and member of several study panels, including those that produced *Private Lives and Public Policies: Confidentiality and Accessibility of Government Statistics* (1993), *Protecting Participants and Facilitating Social and Behavioral Sciences Research* (2003), and *Expanding Access to Research Data: Reconciling Risks and Opportunities* (2005).

We note with sadness that **Monroe Sirken** died May 24, 2017, at age 96, a week after being honored at a luncheon of the Senior Statisticians Society of the Washington DC metropolitan area, May 16, 2017. After earning his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Washington and beginning his career at the U.S. Census Bureau, he moved to the National Office of Vital Statistics in 1953, which became part of the National Center for Health Statistics, where he held a variety of positions, including associate director, research and methodology, and director, Office of Research and Methodology. Monroe was a charter member of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, a fellow of the American Statistical

Association (ASA) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). He received the Public Health Service Superior Service Award and the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. In 2014 he endowed the Monroe G. Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research. See the [May CNSTAT](#) newsletter for more details.

We congratulate CNSTAT member **Francine Blau**, Frances Perkins professor of industrial and labor relations and professor of economics at Cornell University, and research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, on receiving the **2017 Jacob Mincer Career Achievement Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Field of Labor Economics** from the **Society of Labor Economists**. She has written extensively on gender issues, wage inequality, immigration, and international comparisons of labor market outcomes. (She chaired the CNSTAT study that produced *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration* (2017).) According to the award announcement, Fran's first publication in 1972 while still a graduate student at Harvard, titled "Women's Place in the Labor Market," foreshadowed major themes of her research career and of labor economics more generally. She identified persistent occupational segregation of males and females as a major obstacle to women's progress and showed that there had been little change in the degree of segregation despite rapid growth in female labor force participation after World War II. In addition, the ratio of female to male wages seemed stuck at three-fifths, a ratio that Victor Fuchs had traced back to biblical times. She identified important feedback effects on both the supply and demand side that resulted in a persistent equilibrium that relegated women to low wage female jobs. See the award [announcement](#) for how she continued to produce insightful analysis of women's changing roles in the U.S. economy and related topics.

We congratulate **Ron Jarmin** and **Enrique Lamas** on their appointments by Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, effective June 30, 2017, to carry out the duties of the **director** and **deputy director**, respectively, of the **U.S. Census Bureau**. They are serving as interim leadership under the provisions of the Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, following John Thompson's retirement as director on June 30 (there has been no deputy director since Nancy Potok became chief statistician in OMB in January 2017). **Ron** currently serves as the associate director for economic programs, having first joined the Bureau in 1992 and holding positions as chief of the Center for Economic Studies and assistant director for research and methodology. **Enrique** currently serves as the associate director for demographic programs. Beginning his career in 1980 in the Population Division, he has served as chief of the Population Division, assistant division chief in the Demographic Surveys Division, chief of the Poverty and Wealth Statistics Branch, and chief of the Labor Force and Transfer Programs Statistics Branch.

We congratulate former CNSTAT member **Karen Kafadar**, chair and Commonwealth professor in the Department of Statistics at the University of Virginia (UVA), on her election as the **114<sup>th</sup> president of the American Statistical Association**. She will serve a 1-year term as president-elect beginning January 1, 2018; her term as president becomes effective January 1, 2019. Her research focuses on robust methods; exploratory data analysis; characterization of uncertainty in the physical, chemical, biological, and engineering sciences; and methodology for the analysis of screening trials, for which she has received numerous awards. Prior to her faculty appointment at UVA, Karen was a mathematical statistician at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); member of the technical staff at Hewlett Packard's RF/Microwave R&D Department; fellow in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute; professor and Chancellor's Scholar at the University of Colorado-Denver; and Rudy professor of statistics at Indiana University. She chairs the ASA's Committee on Statistics in Forensic Science, serves on NIST's Forensic Science Standards Board, and served as chair of CNSTAT's sister Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics (CATS) and on many National Academies' study committees. She is a fellow of the ASA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and an elected member of the ISI. She has a B.S. in mathematics and an M.S. in statistics from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in statistics from Princeton University.

We congratulate **Peter Miller**, senior researcher for survey measurement at the U.S. Census Bureau and chief scientist in the Bureau's Center for Adaptive Design, on receiving the **2017 AAPOR Award for Exceptionally Distinguished Achievement**. From the award announcement: "Few people have contributed so much to the field in so many different ways as Peter Miller. His scholarly work, his work as a faculty member and administrator at Northwestern University, his more recent work at the Bureau of the Census, and his years of service to AAPOR have all left indelible marks on the field and on AAPOR. His commitment to quality and to transparency in research embody AAPOR's highest ideals." His service to AAPOR includes the posts of editor-in-chief of *Public Opinion Quarterly* from 2001 to 2008 and president in 2009-2010. He received the Harry W. O'Neill Award for Outstanding Achievement from the New York AAPOR Chapter and was named a fellow of the Midwest AAPOR Chapter in 2012. As AAPOR president, one of his major accomplishments was launching the [Transparency Initiative](#), which has proven to be a particularly long-lasting and influential achievement. He also headed up the AAPOR committee that developed the proposal for the AAPOR-ASA *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*. He is presently co-chairing an AAPOR-ASA Survey Climate Task Force with **Cynthia Clark**, former administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

We congratulate **Amy O'Hara** who is joining the **Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research**, July 17, 2017. From 2014 until June 30, 2017, she was chief of the Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications (CARRA) in the research and methodology directorate at the U.S. Census Bureau. She began her career at the Bureau in 2004 as an economist/statistician in the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division before moving to CARRA in 2008. Among other accomplishments in her efforts to integrate administrative records data into the full suite of Census Bureau processes, she led the 2010 Census Match Study—an unprecedented complete match/linkage of the full set of returns from the 2010 decennial census to a composite of administrative records data from eight federal agencies, used to examine differences in coverage and possible sources of error in both sources. She received an Arthur S. Flemming Award, recognizing outstanding achievement and leadership in federal government service, from the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, George Washington University, in 2012. She is a member of the CNSTAT study panel that produced *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime* (2016) and is working on its final report. She has M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Notre Dame.

We congratulate the following members of the Washington statistical community who have been elected as **2017 American Statistical Association Fellows**. They will be recognized at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore, MD, August 1, 2017. [Note: This is an update from the May 2017 newsletter, in which we inadvertently omitted several new fellows.]

- **Michelle Dunn**, senior adviser for data science training, diversity, and outreach, National Institutes of Health
- **Joe Fred Gonzalez**, mathematical statistician, National Center for Health Statistics
- **Ron S. Jarmin**, associate director for economic programs who, as noted above, is performing the duties of the director, U.S. Census Bureau
- **Thomas R. Krenzke**, senior statistician, Westat
- **Jennifer D. Parker**, senior statistician, National Center for Health Statistics
- **Katherine J. Thompson**, mathematical statistician, U.S. Census Bureau
- **Daniell S. Toth**, senior research mathematical statistician, Bureau of Labor Statistics

We thank **John Thompson** for his years of government service, most recently as director of the U.S. Census Bureau, from which position he retired June 30, 2017. John is an acknowledged expert in the field of social science research, with a special emphasis on large and complex surveys. Previously, he served as president and executive vice president for survey operations at NORC at the University of Chicago. He

started at NORC in 2002 after a 27-year career at the U.S. Census Bureau, serving as one of the Bureau's most senior career officers, with responsibility for many aspects of the 2000 census, including management, operations, and methodology. He served on CNSTAT from 2011-2013 and on panels that produced *Envisioning the 2020 Census* (2010) and *Change and the 2020 Census: Not Whether But How* (2011). He is a fellow of ASA and past chair of the association's Social Statistics Section and Committee on Fellows. He will be very much missed.

It is at this time of year that we thank *outgoing members of CNSTAT* for their service, welcome *new members*, and acknowledge *continuing members*. CNSTAT members, who serve pro bono to oversee CNSTAT's portfolio, develop new project ideas, and stimulate conversations on improved statistical methods and information across the statistical and research communities, are appointed by the president of the National Academy of Sciences. They serve for 3-year terms, beginning July 1, with the opportunity for reappointment for a second term.

- We thank profusely for their service *outgoing members*, **Lawrence (Larry) Brown**, Department of Statistics, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and **Ruth Peterson**, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Research Center (emerita), Ohio State University. **Larry**, having previously served as a member of CNSTAT from 1999-2005, just stepped down as CNSTAT chair, having served in that capacity since 2010. Among his many other activities for CNSTAT and the National Academies, he served on the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) Advisory Committee, the Board on Mathematical Sciences, and the Report Review Committee, and chaired or served on the study panels that produced *The 2000 Census: Counting Under Adversity* (2004), *Measuring Research and Development Expenditures in the U.S. Economy* (2005), *Coverage Measurement in the 2010 Census* (2008), and *Envisioning the 2020 Census* (2010). **Ruth** served as a member from 2011-2017. Among her many other activities for CNSTAT and the National Academies, she serves as vice-chair of the Committee and Law and Justice (CLAJ) and served on the CNSTAT-CLAJ panels that produced *Ensuring the Quality, Credibility, and Relevance of U.S. Justice Statistics* (2009) and *Estimating the Incidence of Rape and Sexual Assault* (2014).
- We welcome as *incoming chair*, **Robert Groves**, provost and Gerard Campbell professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics and Sociology, Georgetown University. Bob's research has focused on the impact of mode of data collection on responses in sample surveys, the social and political influences on survey participation, the use of adaptive research designs to improve the cost and error properties of statistics, and public concerns about privacy affecting attitudes toward statistical agencies. Prior to joining Georgetown, he was director of the U.S. Census Bureau, and before that director of the University of Michigan Survey Research Center, professor of sociology, and research professor at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the ISI, and an elected fellow of the ASA. His 1989 book, *Survey Errors and Survey Costs*, was named one of the 50 most influential books in survey research by AAPOR. His service to CNSTAT and the National Academies has included membership on CNSTAT from 2000-2006, membership on the DBASSE Advisory Committee, and service as chair or member of study panels that produced *The Bureau of Transportation Statistics: Priorities for the Future* (1997), *The Dynamics of Disability: Measuring and Monitoring Disability for Social Security Programs* (2002), and *Ensuring the Quality, Credibility, and Relevance of U.S. Justice Statistics* (2009). He is currently chairing the panel that produced *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy* (2017) and is preparing its final report. He has a B.A. from Dartmouth College and M.A.s in statistics and sociology and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

- We welcome as *incoming members*, **Anne Case**, Department of Economics, Princeton University; **Jerome Reiter**, Department of Statistics, Duke University; and **Judith Seltzer**, Department of Sociology, UCLA:
  - **Anne Case** is the Alexander Stewart 1886 professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University. She is also the director of the Research Program in Development Studies and a faculty fellow in the Center for Health and Wellbeing and the Office of Population Research. Her main research interests are in microeconomic foundations of development, health, and economics of the family. She currently serves on the Advisory Council for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science. She is a research associate of the NBER, a fellow of the Econometric Society, and an affiliate of the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town. She served on the National Academies' Committee on Population. She has received the Kenneth J. Arrow Prize in Health Economics from the International Health Economics Association for her work on the links between economic status and health status in childhood, and the Cozzarelli Prize from the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* for her research on midlife morbidity and mortality. She has a B.A. from the State University of New York at Albany and an M.P.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Princeton.
  - **Jerry Reiter** is professor of statistical science at Duke University. He previously held positions with the University of California, Santa Barbara, Williams College, the Triangle Research Data Center, and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences. His methodological research focuses mainly on data confidentiality, missing data, and survey methodology. He currently serves on the CNSTAT *Standing Committee for the American Opportunity Study-Phase 1*. He previously served on CNSTAT study panels that produced *Reengineering the Survey of Income and Program Participation* (2009), *Conducting Biosocial Surveys: Collecting, Storing, Accessing, and Protecting Biological Specimens and Biodata* (2010), and *Realizing the Potential of the American Community Survey* (2015). He is a fellow of the ASA, an elected member of the ISI, principal investigator of the Triangle Census Research Network (funded by the National Science Foundation to improve the practice of data dissemination among federal statistical agencies), and deputy director of the Information Initiative at Duke, an institute dedicated to research and applications in the analysis of large-scale (and not large-scale) data. He has a B.S. in mathematics from Duke University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in statistics from Harvard University.
  - **Judy Seltzer** is professor of sociology and director of the California Center for Population Research at the University of California, Los Angeles. Previously, she was on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she contributed to the development and implementation of the National Survey of Families and Households. Her research interests include kinship patterns, intergenerational obligations, relationships between nonresident fathers and children, and how legal institutions and other policies affect family change. She also explores ways to improve the quality of survey data on families. She currently serves on the CNSTAT *Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations* and previously served on the study panels that produced *Once, Only Once, and in the Right Place: Residence Rules in the Decennial Census* (2006), *Envisioning the 2020 Census* (2010), and *Change and the 2020 Census: Not Whether But How* (2011). She is a past president of the Population Association of America and previously served on the Board of Overseers for the General Social Survey. She has a B.A. in sociology from Princeton University and both an M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Michigan.
- We acknowledge with gratitude the *continuing service* of the following CNSTAT members:
  - **Francine Blau**, Department of Economics, Cornell University
  - **Mary Ellen Bock**, Department of Statistics, Purdue University (emerita)
  - **Michael Chernew**, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School

- **Janet Currie**, Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs, Princeton University
- **Don Dillman**, Center for Survey Research, Washington State University
- **Constantine Gatsonis**, Center for Statistical Sciences, Brown University
- **James House**, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan (emeritus)
- **Thomas Mesenbourg**, Deputy Director (retired), U.S. Census Bureau
- **Susan Murphy**, Department of Statistics, University of Michigan
- **Sarah Nusser**, Vice President for Research and Department of Statistics, Iowa State University
- **Colm O'Muircheartaigh**, Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago
- **Roberto Rigobon**, Sloan School of Management, MIT
- **Edward Shortliffe**, Department of Biomedical Informatics, Arizona State University and Columbia University

We announce with pride that **Brian Harris-Kojetin** will be the sixth *director* of the *Committee on National Statistics*, effective July 8, 2017. He joined CNSTAT in spring 2015 as deputy director and study director for the panel that produced *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy* (2017) and is working on its final report. He was previously senior statistician in the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office, where he chaired the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology and was the lead on issues related to standards for statistical surveys, survey nonresponse, survey respondent incentives, and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). He also served as the desk officer for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the demographic programs of the U.S. Census Bureau. Prior to joining OMB in 2001, he was the senior project leader of Research Standards and Practices at the Arbitron Company. He also served as a research psychologist in the Office of Survey Methods Research in the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He is a fellow of the ASA. He has a B.A. from the University of Denver and a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Minnesota.

**Constance Citro** is stepping down as director, effective July 8, having served in that position since May 2004. She will continue with CNSTAT in a part-time capacity as *senior scholar*. She has greatly appreciated the opportunity to lead CNSTAT's outstanding staff and work with its outstanding volunteers on behalf of federal statistics and is looking forward to continuing to be of service in her new role. She began her career with CNSTAT in 1984 as study director for the panel that produced *The Bicentennial Census: New Directions for Methodology in 1990* (1985; reissued in 2015 in a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition). Prior to joining CNSTAT, she held positions as vice president of Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., and Data Use and Access Laboratories, Inc. She was an American Statistical Association/National Science Foundation/Census research fellow in 1985-1986, and is a fellow of the ASA and an elected member of the ISI. She received the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics in 1997 and the Waksberg Award in Survey Methodology in 2014. For CNSTAT, she directed evaluations of the 2000 census, the Survey of Income and Program Participation, microsimulation models for social welfare programs, and the NSF science and engineering personnel data system, in addition to studies on institutional review boards and social science research, estimates of poverty for small geographic areas, data and methods for retirement income modeling, and a new approach for measuring poverty. She co-edited the 2nd–5th editions and edited the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, and contributed to studies on measuring racial discrimination, expanding access to research data, the usability of estimates from the American Community Survey, the National Children's Study research plan, and the Census Bureau's 2010 census program of experiments and evaluations. She received her B.A. in political science from the University of Rochester and her M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Yale University.

# PUBLICATION *News*

***Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement***, released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017, is the final report of the Panel on the Review of the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability (CSA) Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), co-chaired by Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon University) and Sharon-Lise Normand (Harvard Medical School). The report is available in [PDF](#) and will be available in print shortly. The study was congressionally mandated and carried out jointly with the Transportation Research Board.

Every year roughly 100,000 fatal and injury crashes occur in the United States involving large trucks and buses. FMCSA, in the U.S. Department of Transportation, works to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. FMCSA uses information that is collected on the frequency of approximately 900 different violations of safety regulations discovered during (mainly) roadside inspections to assess motor carriers' compliance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, as well as to evaluate their compliance in comparison with their peers. Through use of this information, FMCSA's Safety Measurement System (SMS) identifies carriers to receive its available interventions in order to reduce the risk of crashes across all carriers. *Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement* examines the effectiveness of SMS, finding that its conceptual approach for assessing motor carrier safety culture is sound but recommending that its ad hoc model be replaced with a statistically principled item response theory (IRT) model. IRT models are used to evaluate safety and quality in other settings (e.g., health care). The report also recommends improvements in data for input to an improved model.

***Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency: Sixth Edition***, released on-line, July 6, 2017, is a report of CNSTAT acting as a committee of the whole. The first edition of *P&P*, also known as the "purple book," was released in 1992, and, beginning in 2001, new editions have been prepared every 4 years to be available to new appointees and others at the beginning of a presidential term. CNSTAT director Connie Citro edited this edition, which is dedicated to CNSTAT's 3<sup>rd</sup> director, *Miron Straf*. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition has been reformatted for ease of access; the on-line version, available as a [PDF](#), contains the body plus appendixes on legislation and regulations that govern federal statistics and the organization of the federal statistical system, with links to sections of the report and references. Printed copies will be available in a few weeks; the printed version contains the body only. Summing up *P&P*'s message:

*Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency . . .* is intended to support the invaluable role of widely available, trustworthy, relevant, accurate, and timely government statistics. Such statistics are essential not only for policy makers and program administrators at all government levels, but also for individuals, households, businesses, and other organizations to make informed decisions, and for scientists to add to knowledge. Even more broadly, the effective operation of a democratic system of government depends on the unhindered flow of impartial, scientifically based statistical information to its citizens on a wide range of issues. . . .

In the United States, federal statistical agencies . . . are the entities whose principal function is to compile, analyze, and disseminate information for such statistical uses as monitoring key economic indicators, allocating representation and funds, deciding on the location of services, evaluating programs, and conducting scientific research. Statistical uses encompass only descriptions of groups; they exclude interest in or identification of any individual person, institution, or economic unit. To facilitate understanding, statistical agencies may analyze their data to describe trends, make comparisons, and evaluate data quality, but never to advocate policies or take partisan positions. The work of these agencies is coordinated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. . . .

Statistical agency decisions—managerial, programmatic, and technical—are guided by four well-established and fundamental principles: relevance to policy issues, credibility among data users, trust among data providers, and independence from political and other undue external influence.

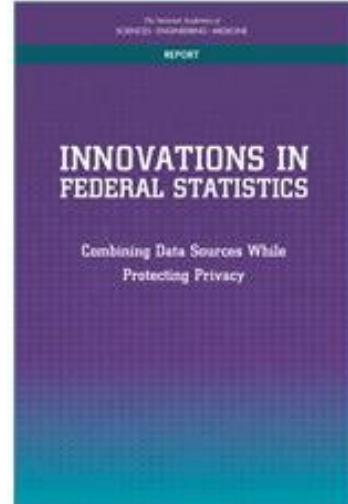
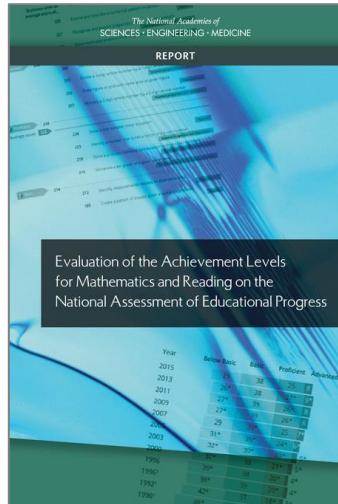
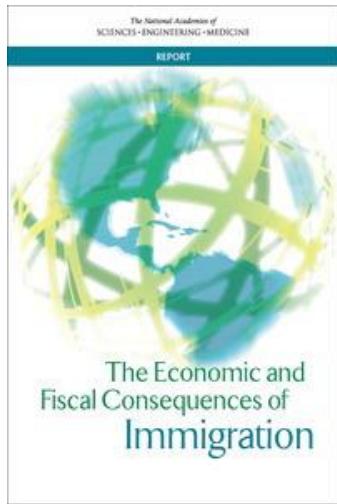
***Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation: Proceedings of a Workshop***, issued in prepublication format, July 7, 2017, summarizes the presentations and discussions at a workshop, October 27, 2016, chaired by Grover (Russ) Whitehurst (Brookings Institution) for the Administration for Children and Families and Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Institute of Education Sciences; U.S. Department of Labor; and OMB. It is available as a [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly. The scope of the workshop included evaluations of interventions, programs, and practices intended to affect human behavior, carried out by the federal government or its contractual agents and leading to public reports intended to provide information on impacts, cost, and implementation. Workshop participants commented on existing agency policies, which reference such principles as rigor, relevance, transparency, independence, and ethics, as well as objectivity, clarity, reproducibility, and usefulness. Participants also considered ways to strengthen existing practices and institutionalize the principles. The goal would be to bolster the integrity and protect the objectivity of the evaluation function in federal agencies—which is essential for evidence-based policy making. A [proceedings in brief](#) was issued for the workshop in March 2017.

#### **REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2017 (available in printed form and as free PDFs)**

[\*\*\*The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration\*\*\*](#) (released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016)

[\*\*\*Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress\*\*\*](#) (released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016)

[\*\*\*Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy\*\*\*](#) (released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017)



**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 from the May 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "CIPSEA at 15 Years: Benefits to Federal Statistics" 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](#).

## **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 134<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 19-20, 2017**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **20th**, 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.

**CNSTAT's 135<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

**CNSTAT's 136<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, 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 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, 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 in 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–March 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Publication planned: Final report is in review

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

### **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–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting scheduled for September 11-12, 2017, in Washington, DC

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2015– September 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **Department of Commerce**

### **Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau's Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)

Publication: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; research associate: Adrienne Bradford

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication planned: Final report is in review

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Ninth meeting scheduled for August 24, 2017, in Washington, DC

## **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** (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

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 program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for August 17-18, 2017, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Mary Ann Kasper

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Workshop on a Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation**

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Department of Labor; Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education); and U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Grover (Russ) Whitehurst, Brookings Institution

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief was released March 20, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; full proceedings was released in prepublication format, July 7, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly

Meeting: Workshop held October 27, 2016, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on a Research Agenda for Longitudinal Studies**

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

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: James Jackson, University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings in brief is being drafted; presentation slides from the workshop are available [here](#)

Meeting: Workshop held June 5-6, 2017, 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–September 2017

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted

Meetings: Final in-person meeting held January 13–14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

## **Department of Transportation**

### **Panel to Review the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: March 2016–September 2017

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin; off-site research associate: Jacob Spertus (Harvard)

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

Publication: Final report, *Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement*, was released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017, and is available in [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly

Meetings: Fourth and last meeting held February 16–17, 2017

## **National Science Foundation**

### **Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting held July 6–7, 2017, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

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

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings is being drafted

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

**The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation**

**Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity**

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistants: Kelly Arrington (beginning April 2017) and Agnes Gaskin (January–April 2017)

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (University of California, Berkeley); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Second in-person meeting scheduled for October 2-3, 2017, in Washington, DC

**The Carnegie Corporation of New York**

**Standing Committee on Creating the American Opportunity Study, First Phase**

Sponsor: The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Duration: April 2015–March 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Michael Hout (NYU)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee facilitated a workshop, May 9, 2016, on research uses of the American Opportunity Study (AOS), which is being developed to measure intergenerational mobility by linking 1990 census records (after capturing the necessary information) with subsequent census records, American Community Survey records, and administrative records that become available. The result will be a facility for researchers to obtain extracts of linked files for analysis within the Federal Statistical Research Data Center network (formerly the Census Bureau RDC network). The First-Phase AOS is to address the challenges of capturing linking information for the 1990 census short-form and long-form records, to evaluate the likely quality of matches with other records, and to propose the next phase of work. A “workshop in brief” proceedings of the May workshop was released July 19, 2016, and is available for download as a free [PDF](#). Presentation [slides](#) from the May workshop are also available.

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting TBD

**The Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

**Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods**

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; second report is in review; a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •**

**[effective July 8, 2017]**

Committee on National Statistics	Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin, <i>Director</i>
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education	<a href="mailto:bkojetin@nas.edu">bkojetin@nas.edu</a>
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	(202) 334-2077 or 3096
500 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001	Eileen LeFurgy, <i>Coordinator</i>
<a href="http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat">http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat</a>	<a href="mailto:elefurgy@nas.edu">elefurgy@nas.edu</a>
	(202) 334-1616 or 3096

– 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.



# NEWS from CNSTAT

— August 18, 2017 —

**6th Edition of *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*  
released on-line, July 6, 2017; printed copies now available  
[see "Report News" below]**

## PEOPLE *News*

We congratulate **J. Michael (Mike) Brick** for receiving the **2017 Monroe G. Sirken Award in Interdisciplinary Survey Methods Research**. He was cited for: "significant contributions to our understanding of the growing problem of survey nonresponse and its impact on survey data quality; for seminal research on the properties and design of estimators for multiple frame samples; for leadership in addressing both the potential and the challenges of nonprobability sampling; and for pioneering work on the implementation of replication variance estimation methods." Mike is vice president at Westat, co-director of its survey methods unit, and associate director of its Statistical Staff. He gave the Sirken Lecture, "Quality with Non-Probability Samples, Administrative Records, and 'Found' Data," at the Joint Statistical Meetings held in Baltimore, MD, July 29–August 3. Mike served on the CNSTAT panel that produced *Nonresponse in Social Science Surveys: A Research Agenda* (National Academies Press, 2013).

[See the May and July newsletters on the contributions to federal statistics of **Monroe Sirken**.]

We congratulate **John Eltinge** on receiving the **2017 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics** at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore, MD, August 1, 2017. John was recognized for two fundamental sets of contributions to statistical methodology and practice. The first set centers on his 17 years of service at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), including more than 12 years as the associate commissioner for survey methods research, where his office contributed to significant modernization and improvement of many BLS programs in collaboration with other BLS staff. The second set arose from his leadership with interagency, international, and editorial work, including contributions to the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, which he now chairs; workshops on data collection for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; and service as an associate editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *The American Statistician*, *Journal of Official Statistics*, and *Survey Methodology*. John became assistant director for research and methodology at the U.S. Census Bureau in December 2016.

[**Roger Herriot** was the associate commissioner of statistical standards and methodology at the National Center for Education Statistics when he died in 1994 and before that chief of the Population Division at the Census Bureau. Soon after his death, the American Statistical Association (ASA) Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections, along with the Washington Statistical Society, established the award, which is intended to recognize individuals or teams who, like Herriot, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data-collection programs.]

We congratulate **John Eltinge** and **Wendy Martinez** on receiving **Founders' Awards** from the **American Statistical Association** at the Joint Statistical Meetings, held in Baltimore, MD, on August 1, 2017. John is assistant commissioner of research and methodology at the U.S. Census Bureau; Wendy is director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ASA gives up to 5 Founders' Awards each year (sometimes skipping a year) in recognition of members who have rendered distinguished service to the association.

We congratulate **Wayne Fuller** on receiving the **Samuel S. Wilks Memorial Award** at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore, MD, on August 1, 2017. He was cited: "For his outstanding contributions to three broad areas of statistical theory: time series analysis, measurement error models, and survey sampling; for his translation of this theoretical work into applied statistical methods and practices that have contributed significantly to the U.S. federal statistical system; and for other statistical programs in the U.S. and internationally." Wayne is emeritus professor at Iowa State University; he served on CNSTAT and on its panel that produced *The Bicentennial Census: New Directions for Methodology in 1990* (first published by the National Academies Press in 1985 and reissued in a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition in 2015).

[**Samuel Wilks**, who chaired the Division of Mathematics at Princeton University, was noted for his work on multivariate statistics and unit-weighted regression.]

We congratulate **Cynthia Ogden**, chief of the Analysis Branch in the Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys at the National Center for Health Statistics and adjunct professor with the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, on receiving the 2017 **Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award** in July. The award encourages the mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community and is awarded annually based on advising, counseling, encouraging and motivating junior staff in their career development in addition to serving as a role model through expertise, information and insight. The Griffith award is supported by the ASA Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections, NORC at the University of Chicago, Westat, the American Institutes for Research, the American Educational Research Association, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, the Washington Statistical Society, and the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy.

[**Jeanne Griffith** worked for more than 25 years in the federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of her highest priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, grow, and recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.]

We congratulate **Neomi Rao** on her confirmation by the U.S. Senate, July 11, 2017, as **administrator** for the **Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)** in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. OIRA is the U.S. government's central authority for review of executive branch regulations, approval of government information collections, establishment of government statistical practices, and coordination of federal privacy policy. In this capacity, she oversees the Statistical and Science Policy Office, headed by chief statistician **Nancy Potok**. Dr. Rao was most recently at George Mason University, where she founded and directed the Center for the Study of the Administrative State. Her research and teaching focused on constitutional and administrative law. She was also a public member of the Administrative Conference of the United States. She previously served as associate counsel to President George W. Bush; counsel for nominations and constitutional law to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; and law clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court. She practiced public international law and arbitration at Clifford Chance LLP in London. She has a J.D. from the University of Chicago and a B.A. from Yale University.

We congratulate **Fritz Scheuren** on delivering the **Deming Lecture** at the 2017 Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore, MD, on August 1. His topic was "A Rake's Progress Revisited." He discussed the algorithm called raking, or raking ratio estimation, which W. Edwards Deming and Franklin Stephan first advanced for use in the 1940 decennial census. The algorithm adjusts the weights of a dataset iteratively within

categories until the weights produce estimates that match, within tolerance, two sets of pre-specified population totals (e.g., population by race/ethnicity and population by detailed age category). Fritz is senior fellow and vice president in the Center for Excellence in Survey Research at NORC at the University of Chicago.

[**W. Edwards Deming** was renowned for his innovations in statistics and quality control. He helped pioneer the development and use of sampling techniques at the U.S. Census Bureau, assisted Japanese industry to improve the quality of its products after World War II, and was a much-sought-out management consultant and lecturer for many years thereafter. He was a member of the National Academy of Engineering and received the National Academy of Science's Distinguished Career in Science award.]

We congratulate **Cynthia Thomas**, senior program officer with the Committee on National Statistics, on her election in May as one of 72 new fellows of the **Gerontological Society of America (GSA)** — the nation's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging. According to GSA, the status of fellow acknowledges outstanding and continuing work in gerontology, which may include research, teaching, administration, public service, practice, and notable participation within the organization. Cynthia has been with CNSTAT since spring 2015. Before that she worked at Westat, NORC at the University of Chicago, Montefiore Medical Center, and Mathematica Policy Research. She has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Rochester.

We congratulate **John Thompson**, recently retired from serving as director of the Census Bureau (see the July newsletter), on his appointment as executive director of the **Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)**. He takes over from **Kitty Smith Evans**, who took a position as Washington area representative for the **American Economic Association (AEA)** in March 2017 (see the March newsletter). She works with the AEA's Committee on Economic Statistics and Committee on Government Relations to, among other things, promote the involvement of economists in improving the collection, analysis, and reporting of economic statistics.

[**COPAFS** is a membership organization of professional associations, such as AEA and ASA, with an interest in the health of the federal statistical system (see [copafs.org](http://copafs.org)—many other organizations are affiliates). COPAFS reaches out to the executive and congressional branches to demonstrate the value of federal statistics, holds open quarterly meetings on current issues related to federal statistics and their use, and organizes conferences and forums, such as the research and policy conferences sponsored by the **Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology** (see <https://fcsm.sites.usa.gov/>). COPAFS was formed in 1981 in response to the Reagan Administration's extensive cut backs to federal statistical programs. Its first executive director, who served for more than 10 years, was **Katherine Wallman**, who retired in January 2017 after 24 years as chief statistician in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. She was followed as COPAFS executive director by Ed Spar, Kitty, and now John.]

## PUBLICATION News

***Developing a Methodological Research Program for Longitudinal Studies: Proceedings of a Workshop—In Brief*** was released online and in print, August 4, 2017. This report summarizes the discussions at a workshop, held June 5-6, 2017, and chaired by James Jackson (University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation) for the National Institute on Aging, Division of Behavioral and Social Research (NIA/BSR). The report is available on-line as a [PDF](#). One of the strategic objectives of NIA/BSR is to “support the development of population-based data sets, especially from longitudinal studies, suitable for analysis of biological, behavioral, and social factors affecting health, well-being, and functional status through the life course.” To contribute to that objective and to inform the development of a methodological research program for longitudinal studies, the Committee on National Statistics held

a public workshop in June 2017. The discussion focused on challenges that are specific to the types of longitudinal studies supported by NIA/BSR and aimed to identify areas of methodological research that could be pursued in order to benefit from emerging methods, new techniques, or other opportunities to enhance the data and increase data collection efficiency. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.

***Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency: Sixth Edition***, released online, July 6, 2017, is a report of CNSTAT acting as a committee of the whole. The first edition of *P&P*, also known as the “purple book,” was released in 1992, and, beginning in 2001, new editions have been prepared every 4 years to be available to new appointees and others at the beginning of a presidential term. Senior scholar Connie Citro (CNSTAT’s 5<sup>th</sup> director) edited this edition, which is dedicated to CNSTAT’s 3<sup>rd</sup> director, ***Miron Straf***. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition has been reformatted for ease of access; the on-line version, available as a [PDF](#), contains the body plus appendixes on legislation and regulations that govern federal statistics and the organization of the federal statistical system, with links to sections of the report and references.

***Printed copies are now available; the printed version contains the body only.*** Summing up *P&P*’s message:

*Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency . . .* is intended to support the invaluable role of widely available, trustworthy, relevant, accurate, and timely government statistics. Such statistics are essential not only for policy makers and program administrators at all government levels, but also for individuals, households, businesses, and other organizations to make informed decisions, and for scientists to add to knowledge. Even more broadly, the effective operation of a democratic system of government depends on the unhindered flow of impartial, scientifically based statistical information to its citizens on a wide range of issues. . . .

In the United States, federal statistical agencies . . . are the entities whose principal function is to compile, analyze, and disseminate information for such statistical uses as monitoring key economic indicators, allocating representation and funds, deciding on the location of services, evaluating programs, and conducting scientific research. Statistical uses encompass only descriptions of groups; they exclude interest in or identification of any individual person, institution, or economic unit. To facilitate understanding, statistical agencies may analyze their data to describe trends, make comparisons, and evaluate data quality, but never to advocate policies or take partisan positions. The work of these agencies is coordinated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. . . .

Statistical agency decisions—managerial, programmatic, and technical—are guided by four well-established and fundamental principles: relevance to policy issues, credibility among data users, trust among data providers, and independence from political and other undue external influence.

***Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation: Proceedings of a Workshop***, issued in prepublication format, July 7, 2017, summarizes the presentations and discussions at a workshop, October 27, 2016, chaired by Grover (Russ) Whitehurst (Brookings Institution) for the Administration for Children and Families and Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Institute of Education Sciences; U.S. Department of Labor; and OMB. It is available as a [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly. The scope of the workshop included evaluations of interventions, programs, and practices intended to affect human behavior, carried out by the federal government or its contractual agents and leading to public reports intended to provide information on impacts, cost, and implementation. Workshop participants commented on existing agency policies, which reference such principles as rigor, relevance, transparency, independence, and ethics, as well as objectivity, clarity, reproducibility, and usefulness. Participants also considered ways to strengthen existing practices and institutionalize the principles. The goal would be to bolster the integrity and protect the objectivity of the evaluation function in federal agencies—which is essential for evidence-based policy making. A [proceedings in brief](#) was issued for the workshop in March 2017.

***Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement***, released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017, is the final report of the Panel on the Review of the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability (CSA) Program of

the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), co-chaired by Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon University) and Sharon-Lise Normand (Harvard Medical School). The report is available in [PDF](#) and will be available in print shortly. The study was congressionally mandated and carried out jointly with the Transportation Research Board.

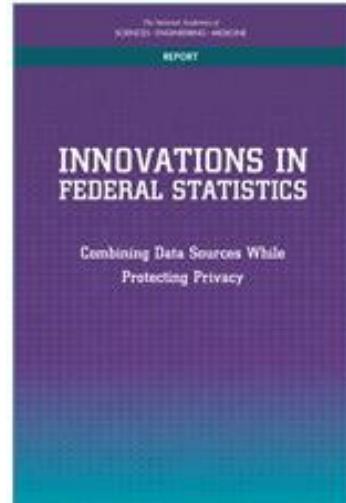
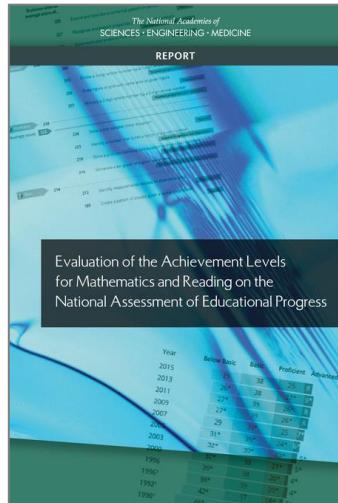
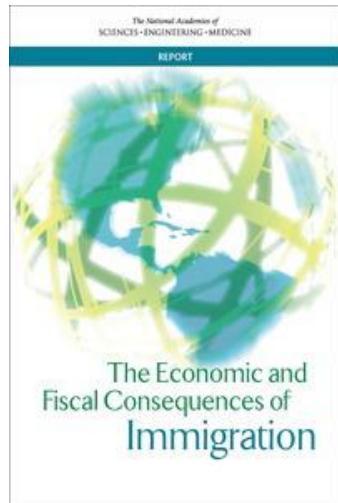
Every year roughly 100,000 fatal and injury crashes occur in the United States involving large trucks and buses. FMCSA, in the U.S. Department of Transportation, works to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. FMCSA uses information that is collected on the frequency of approximately 900 different violations of safety regulations discovered during (mainly) roadside inspections to assess motor carriers' compliance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, as well as to evaluate their compliance in comparison with their peers. Through use of this information, FMCSA's Safety Measurement System (SMS) identifies carriers to receive its available interventions in order to reduce the risk of crashes across all carriers. *Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement* examines the effectiveness of SMS, finding that its conceptual approach for assessing motor carrier safety culture is sound but recommending that its ad hoc model be replaced with a statistically principled item response theory (IRT) model. IRT models are used to evaluate safety and quality in other settings (e.g., health care). The report also recommends improvements in data for input to an improved model.

#### **OTHER REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2017 (available in printed form and as free PDFs)**

[The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration](#) (released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016)

[Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress](#) (released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016)

[Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy](#) (released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017)



**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 from the May 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "CIPSEA at 15 Years: Benefits to Federal Statistics," 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](#).

## 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 134<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 19-20, 2017**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **20th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:450 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm. The seminar will feature the report of the **Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking**, co-chaired by Katharine Abraham and Ron Haskins, and the final report of the CNSTAT **Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research**, chaired by CNSTAT chair Robert Groves. The seminar will honor **Connie Citro**, former director of CNSTAT, for her numerous contributions to the federal statistical system and the social science research community. Connie stepped down as director in July, and she now serves as a senior scholar at CNSTAT.

**CNSTAT's 135<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

**CNSTAT's 136<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, 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 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, 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 in 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–March 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Publication planned: Final report is in response to review

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

### **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–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting scheduled for September 11-12, 2017, in Washington, DC

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2015– September 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **Department of Commerce**

### **Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau's Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Anthony Mann; research associate: Adrienne Bradford

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication planned: Final report is in response to review

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: Ninth meeting (closed) scheduled for August 24, 2017, in Washington, DC

## **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** (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

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 program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting (closed) scheduled for August 17-18, 2017, in Washington, DC; information-gathering session (open) scheduled for September 21, 2017, in Washington, DC, 1-5 pm; fourth meeting (closed) scheduled for October 12-13, 2017, in Irvine, CA

**Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Graham Colditz (Washington University, St. Louis)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: November 30–December 1, 2017, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on a Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation**

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Department of Labor; Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education); and U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Grover (Russ) Whitehurst (Brookings Institution)

Publications: Workshop proceedings in brief was released March 20, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; full proceedings report was released in prepublication format, July 7, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly

Meeting: Workshop held October 27, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on a Research Agenda for Longitudinal Studies**

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

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: James Jackson (University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation)

Publication: Workshop proceedings in brief was released August 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; presentation slides from the workshop are available [here](#)

Meeting: Workshop held June 5-6, 2017, 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–September 2017

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted

Meetings: Final in-person meeting held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

### **Department of Transportation**

#### **Panel to Review the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: March 2016–September 2017

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Michael Siri; off-site research associate: Jacob Spertus (Harvard)

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

Publication: Final report, *Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement*, was released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017, and is available in [PDF](#); printed copies will be available shortly

Meetings: Fourth and last meeting held February 16-17, 2017

### **National Science Foundation**

#### **Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting held July 6-7, 2017, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

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

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings report is being drafted

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

### **The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation**

#### **Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity**

Sponsors: See above list

Duration: December 2016–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Kelly Arrington

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Second in-person meeting scheduled for October 2-3, 2017, in Washington, DC

### **The Carnegie Corporation of New York**

#### **Standing Committee on Creating the American Opportunity Study, First Phase**

Sponsor: The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Duration: April 2015–March 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Michael Hout (NYU)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee facilitated a workshop, May 9, 2016, on research uses of the American Opportunity Study (AOS), which is being developed to measure intergenerational mobility by linking 1990 census records (after capturing the necessary information) with subsequent census records, American Community Survey records, and administrative records that become available. The result will be a facility for researchers to obtain extracts of linked files for analysis within the Federal Statistical Research Data Center network (formerly the Census Bureau RDC network). The First-Phase AOS is to address the challenges of capturing linking information for the 1990 census short-form and long-form records, to evaluate the likely quality of matches with other records, and to propose the next phase of work. A “workshop in brief” proceedings of the May workshop was released July 19, 2016, and is available for download as a free [PDF](#). Presentation [slides](#) from the May workshop are also available.

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting TBD

### **The Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

#### **Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods**

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel; project assistant: Agnes Gaskin

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data*

*Sources While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; second report is in review; a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •**

**[effective July 8, 2017]**

Committee on National Statistics

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,  
and Medicine

500 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat>

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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.



# NEWS from CNSTAT

— September 29, 2017 —

**Register now for the CNSTAT Fall Seminar, Friday, October 20, 2017—see announcement on pp. 10-11!**

## PEOPLE *News*

We note with sadness the death of **Courtenay Slater** on September 10, 2017, in Annapolis MD at age 84. Courtenay earned her Ph.D. in economics from American University and held positions as staff economist with the Joint Economic Committee of Congress and the Council of Economic Advisers. During the Carter administration, she was chief economist at the U.S. Department of Commerce, with responsibility for overseeing the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau generally and the 1980 decennial census specifically. After her retirement from government, she formed a demographic data consulting firm with the late George Hall, Slater-Hall Information Products, Inc., and was president of her own consulting firm, CEC Associates. In that capacity, she worked extensively with Bernan Press on books that provided federal statistical data, often replacing publications that had been discontinued by statistical agencies for budgetary reasons. Courtenay served on CNSTAT from 1982 to 1988 and was a member of the CNSTAT panel that produced *The Bicentennial Census: New Directions for Methodology in 1990* (1985, reissued by the National Academies Press on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015).

We thank **Howard Gruenspecht** for his 14 years of dedicated federal service as deputy administrator of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Howard left his position on August 31, 2017, to join the staff of the MIT Energy Initiative. From July 2011 to May 2012 and January to August 2017, he served as EIA's acting administrator. Before becoming deputy administrator in 2003, he served as director of economic, electricity, and natural gas analysis in the DOE Office of Policy, having originally come to DOE as deputy assistant secretary for economic and environmental policy. His accomplishments as a career senior executive at DOE were recognized with three Presidential Rank Awards. Prior to his service at DOE, he was a senior staff economist at the Council of Economic Advisers, with primary responsibilities in the areas of environment, energy, regulation, and international trade. He has a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University.

## PUBLICATION *News*

### RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS (available as free PDFs with printed copies to follow)

***The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment***, released in prepublication format on August 28, 2017, is the final report of the Panel to Review and Evaluate the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation Content and Design, chaired by John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research).

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a national, longitudinal household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. SIPP serves as a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of government-sponsored social programs and to analyze the impacts of actual or proposed modifications to those programs. SIPP was designed to fill a need for data that would give policy makers and researchers a much better grasp of how effectively government programs were reaching their target populations, how participation in different programs overlapped, and to what extent and under what circumstances people transitioned into and out of these programs. SIPP was also designed to answer questions about the short-term dynamics of employment, living arrangements, and economic well-being. The Census Bureau has reengineered SIPP—fielding the initial redesigned survey in 2014. This report evaluates the new design compared with the old design. It compares key estimates across the two designs, evaluates the content of the redesigned SIPP and the impact of the new design on respondent burden, and considers content changes for future improvement of SIPP.

#### **OTHER REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2017 (available in printed form and as free PDFs)**

[\*\*Developing a Methodological Research Program for Longitudinal Studies: Proceedings of a Workshop—In Brief\*\*](#) (released online and in print, August 4, 2017).

[\*\*Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation: Proceedings of a Workshop\*\*](#) (released in prepublication format, July 7, 2017)

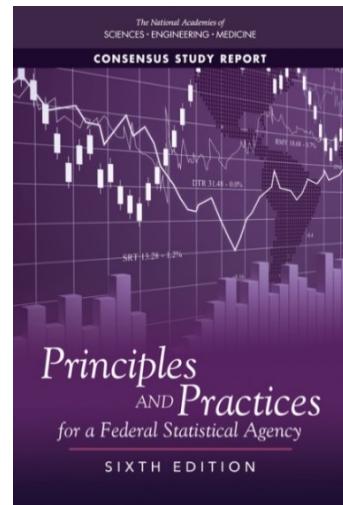
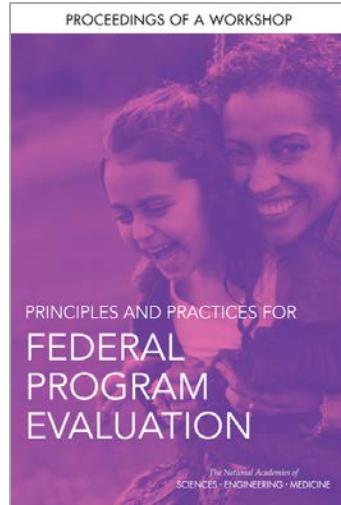
[\*\*Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency: Sixth Edition\*\*](#) (released online, July 6, 2017—printed copies contain the body; the on-line version includes appendixes)

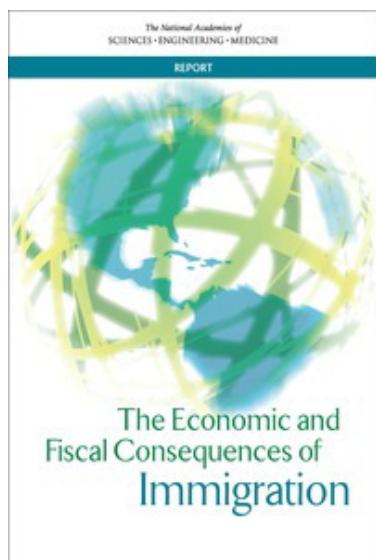
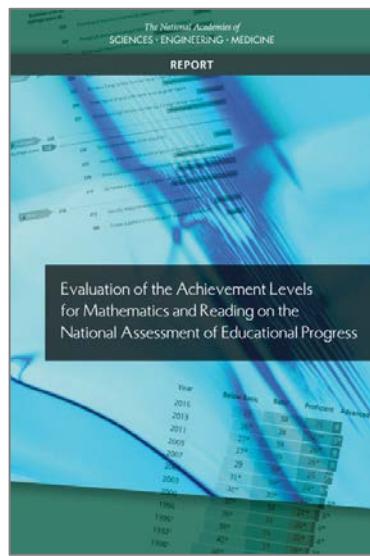
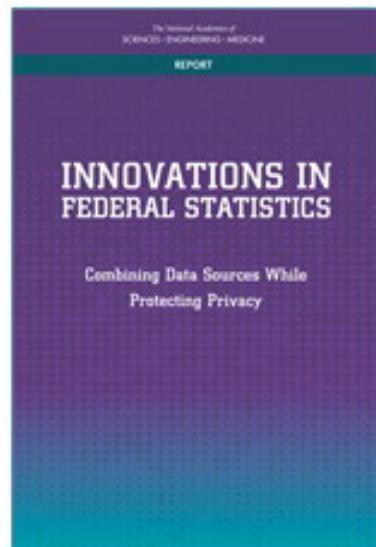
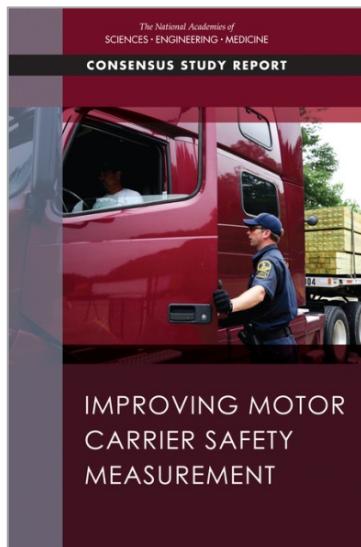
[\*\*Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement\*\*](#) (released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017)

[\*\*Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy\*\*](#) (released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017)

[\*\*Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress\*\*](#) (released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016)

[\*\*The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration\*\*](#) (released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016)





**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 from the May 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "CIPSEA at 15 Years: Benefits to Federal Statistics," 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*

The **Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking** released its congressionally mandated report, [The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking](#), on September 7, 2017. It has recommendations that follow from its determination that “greater use of existing data is now possible in conjunction with stronger privacy and legal protections, as well as increased transparency and accountability” to support improved federal statistics, policy analysis, program evaluation, and other research. A bill is being drafted to introduce into the U.S. Congress this fall to implement selected recommendations, followed by a second bill in 2018 to implement the recommended National Secure Data Service and make other changes in legislation to facilitate secure access to administrative records for statistical use. The commission’s co-chairs, Katharine Abraham and Ron Haskins, will discuss the report at the CNSTAT seminar on October 20, 2017.

The **Board of the American Statistical Association** at its July 28, 2017, meeting endorsed the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of CNSTAT’s flagship publication, **Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency**. The Board previously endorsed the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> editions of *P&P*.

## 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 134<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 19-20, 2017**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **20th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:45 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm. The seminar will feature the report of the **Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking**, co-chaired by Katharine Abraham and Ron Haskins, and the final report of the CNSTAT **Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research**, chaired by CNSTAT chair Robert Groves. The seminar will honor **Connie Citro**, former director of CNSTAT, for her numerous contributions to the federal statistical system and the social science research community. Connie stepped down as director in July, and she now serves as a senior scholar at CNSTAT.

**CNSTAT’s 135<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

**CNSTAT’s 136<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, 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 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, 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 in oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]*

## **Department of Agriculture**

### **Improving Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research for the Economic Research Service, USDA**

Sponsor: Economic Research Service

Duration: October 2017–December 2019

Study director: TBD

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–March 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Publication: Final report, *Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources*, has cleared review and is being prepared for release in prepublication format on October 11, 2017

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

### **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–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for December 13, 2017, in Washington, DC

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2015– September 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **Department of Commerce**

### **Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau's Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Michael Siri; research associate: Adrienne Bradford  
Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication: Final report, [The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment](#), released in prepublication format on August 28, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports”)  
Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics  
for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on  
reengineering the Census Bureau’s annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops  
on central topics for 2020 census planning. A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **Workshop on the Census Bureau’s 2018 End-to-End Test and Concept of Operations for Reengineering the 2020 Census**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: October 2017 – September 2018

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

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop scheduled for November 30-December 1, 2017, in Washington, DC

## **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** (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

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 program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate  
program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting (closed) scheduled for October 12-13, 2017, in Irvine, CA

### **Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann  
Chair: Graham Colditz (Washington University, St. Louis)  
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings  
Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for January 18-19, 2018 in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on a Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation**

Sponsors: Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services); U.S. Department of Labor; Institute of Education Sciences (U.S. Department of Education); and U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Jordyn White; senior program officer: Cynthia Thomas; project assistant: Michael Siri  
Chair: Grover (Russ) Whitehurst (Brookings Institution)

Publications: Workshop proceedings in brief was released March 20, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; full proceedings report was released in prepublication format, July 7, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print

Meeting: Workshop held October 27, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on a Research Agenda for Longitudinal Studies**

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

Duration: September 2016–September 2017

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann  
Chair: James Jackson (University of Michigan and Russell Sage Foundation)

Publication: Workshop proceedings in brief was released August 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; presentation slides from the workshop are available [here](#)

Meeting: Workshop held June 5-6, 2017, 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 2018

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri  
Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted

Meetings: Final in-person meeting held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

## **Department of Transportation**

### **Panel to Review the Compliance, Safety, and Accountability Program of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** (joint with the Transportation Research Board)

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: March 2016–September 2017

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Richard Pain; associate program officer: Esha Sinha; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Stephen Godwin; project assistant: Michael Siri; off-site research associate: Jacob Spertus (Harvard)

Co-chairs: Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon) and Sharon-Lise Normand (Harvard Medical School)  
Publication: Final report, *Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement*, was released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017, and is available in [PDF](#) and in print

Meetings: Fourth and last meeting held February 16-17, 2017

**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; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: TBD

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

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **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: TBD

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is in review

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting held July 6-7, 2017, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

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

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings report is being drafted

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–December 2018

Study director: Judith Koenig; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Jordyn White;  
project assistant: Kelly Arrington  
Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA); Lorraine McDonnell (UC  
Santa Barbara)  
Publication planned: Final report  
Upcoming meetings: Second in-person meeting scheduled for October 2-3, 2017, in Washington, DC;  
Third meeting scheduled for January 29-30, 2018 in Irvine, CA

## The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

### Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; second report, *Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps*, has cleared review and is being prepared for release on October 2, 2017; a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

### • CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •

Committee on National Statistics	Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin, <i>Director</i>
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The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	(202) 334-2077 or 3096
500 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001	Eileen LeFurgy, <i>Coordinator</i>
<a href="http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat"><u>http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat</u></a>	<a href="mailto:elefurgy@nas.edu"><u>elefurgy@nas.edu</u></a>
	(202) 334-1616 or 3096

– 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.

# Public SEMINAR



## New Directions for Federal Statistics from the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking and the CNSTAT “Innovations in Federal Statistics” Report—A Seminar in Honor of Constance Citro

**Friday, October 20, 2017, 2:15–4:30 pm**

National Academy of Sciences Main Building  
**2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC – Auditorium**

1:45	<i>Light refreshments for Seminar Guests (Great Hall)</i>
2:15	<i>Welcome</i> — <b>Brian Harris-Kojetin</b> , Director, CNSTAT
2:20	<i>Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office</i> — <b>Nancy Potok</b> , Chief Statistician, U.S. Office of Management and Budget
2:30	<i>New Directions for Federal Statistics from the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking and the CNSTAT “Innovations in Federal Statistics” Reports</i> — <b>Katharine Abraham</b> , University of Maryland and Co-chair, Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking — <b>Ron Haskins</b> , The Brookings Institution and Co-chair, Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking — <b>Robert M. Groves</b> , Georgetown University, and Chair, Panel on Improving Federal Statistics Using Multiple Data Sources
4:00	<i>Floor discussion</i>
4:20	<i>Presentation to Connie Citro</i> — <b>Brian Harris-Kojetin</b> , Director, CNSTAT
4:30-5:30	<i>Reception – Great Hall</i>

**Register now!**

*Presentations will be available via WebEx—click [here](#) to register for the WebEx.*

*For any questions, contact Eileen LeFurgy, CNSTAT Program Coordinator  
elefurgy@nas.edu • (202) 334-1616*

**ABSTRACT:** The Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking recently released their final report, [The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking](#), which provides a number of recommendations that will directly impact national statistics. At the center of their recommendations is the establishment of a National Secure Data Service in the Department of Commerce to facilitate access to data for evidence building while ensuring privacy and transparency in how those data are used. Other recommendations call for improved access to administrative data, modernizing privacy protections, and enhancing data access for external researchers. Similar themes were echoed in the CNSTAT report [Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy](#), released in January 2017. The second report from this panel, [Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps](#), due out in early October, will review in greater depth than the first report statistical methods for combining data sources, quality frameworks, and approaches for protecting privacy, as well as elaborate on considerations for creating the recommended new entity for improving access to administrative and private-sector data. Presentations by the leaders of the Commission and the CNSTAT panel will focus on the key recommendations and implications for federal government statistical activities.



# NEWS from CNSTAT

— October 26, 2017 —

## PEOPLE *News*

We congratulate **Anne Case**, Alexander Stewart 1886 professor of economics and public affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Economics Department at Princeton University, on her election as a member of the **National Academy of Medicine**, October 16, 2017. She also directs the research program in development studies and is a faculty fellow in two research centers sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson School: the Center for Health and Wellbeing and the Office of Population Research. Her main research interests are in microeconomic foundations of development, health, and economics of the family. She is a new member of CNSTAT and served on the National Academies' Committee on Population (CPOP) from 2005 to 2008. She is currently an external member of the World Bank's research committee; a member of the UNAIDS Economic Reference Group; an affiliate of the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town; and a visiting scientist at the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies. She is an elected member of the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has a B.S. from the State University of New York, Albany, an M.P.A. from Princeton University, and a Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University.

We congratulate **John Conti** on his appointment, September 1, 2017, as **deputy administrator and acting administrator** of the **Energy Information Administration** (EIA). Previously, John was the assistant administrator for energy analysis and director of the Office of Integrated Analysis and Forecasting (OIAF), a predecessor organization to the Office of Energy Analysis. John returned to EIA in 2002 when he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service to become the division director for the International, Economic, and Greenhouse Gases Division of OIAF. Between 1992 and 2002, John worked in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Policy and International Affairs. From 1980 to 1992, John worked for EIA in the Offices of Energy Markets and End Use, Oil and Gas, and Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternative Fuels, focusing on economic analysis of the refinery and electric power sectors and integrated forecasting activities, including the development of EIA's National Energy Modeling System (NEMS). John has an M.S. in management and policy sciences and a B.A. in economics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

## PUBLICATION *News*

### RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS (available as free PDFs with printed copies to follow)

[Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources](#), released in prepublication format on October 11, 2017, is the final report of the Panel on Methods for Integrating Multiple Data Sources to Improve Crop Estimates, chaired by Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University).

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is the primary statistical data collection agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NASS conducts hundreds of surveys each year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Among the small-area estimates produced by NASS are county-level estimates for crops (planted acres, harvested acres, production, and yield by commodity) and for cash rental rates for irrigated cropland, nonirrigated cropland, and permanent pastureland. Key users of these county-level estimates include USDA's Farm Services Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA), which use the estimates as part of their processes for distributing farm subsidies and providing farm insurance, respectively. *Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources* assesses county-level crop and cash rents estimates, and offers recommendations on methods for integrating data sources to provide more precise county-level estimates of acreage and yield for major crops and of cash rents by land use. This report considers technical issues involved in using the available data sources, such as methods for integrating the data, the assumptions underpinning the use of each source, the robustness of the resulting estimates, and the properties of desirable estimates of uncertainty.

**Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps**, released in prepublication format on October 2, 2017, is the second (and final) report of the Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods, chaired by Robert Groves and funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.

New data sources provide opportunities to develop a new paradigm that can improve timeliness, geographic or subpopulation detail, and statistical efficiency, and also has the potential to reduce the costs of producing federal statistics. The panel's first report described the current situation and challenges for federal statistical agencies' current paradigm, which relies heavily on sample surveys for producing national statistics, the legal frameworks and mechanisms for protecting the privacy and confidentiality of statistical data and for providing researchers access to data, and statistical agencies' access to alternative sources of data. The panel recommended a new approach for federal statistical programs that would combine diverse data sources from government and private sector sources and the creation of a new entity that would provide the foundational elements needed for this new approach, including legal authority to access data and protect privacy.

This second of the panel's two reports builds on the first one. It assesses alternative methods for implementing a new approach that would combine diverse data sources from government and private sector sources, including describing statistical models for combining data from multiple sources; examining statistical and computer science approaches that foster privacy protections; evaluating frameworks for assessing the quality and utility of alternative data sources; and various models for implementing the recommended new entity. Together, the two reports offer ideas and recommendations to help federal statistical agencies examine and evaluate data from alternative sources and then combine them as appropriate to provide the country with more timely, actionable, and useful information for policy makers, businesses, and individuals.

**The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment**, released in prepublication format on August 28, 2017, is the final report of the Panel to Review and Evaluate the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation Content and Design, chaired by John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research).

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a national, longitudinal household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. SIPP serves as a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of government-sponsored social programs and to analyze the impacts of actual or proposed modifications to those programs. SIPP was designed to fill a need for data that would give policy makers and researchers a much better grasp of how effectively government programs were reaching their target populations, how participation in different programs overlapped, and to what extent and under what circumstances people transitioned into and out of these programs. SIPP was also designed to answer questions about the short-term dynamics of employment, living arrangements, and economic well-being. The Census Bureau has reengineered SIPP—fielding the initial redesigned survey in 2014. This report evaluates the new design compared with the old design. It compares key estimates across the two designs, evaluates the content of

the redesigned SIPP and the impact of the new design on respondent burden, and considers content changes for future improvement of SIPP.

## OTHER REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2017 (available in printed form and as free PDFs)

[Developing a Methodological Research Program for Longitudinal Studies: Proceedings of a Workshop—In Brief](#) (released online and in print, August 4, 2017).

[Principles and Practices for Federal Program Evaluation: Proceedings of a Workshop](#) (released in prepublication format, July 7, 2017)

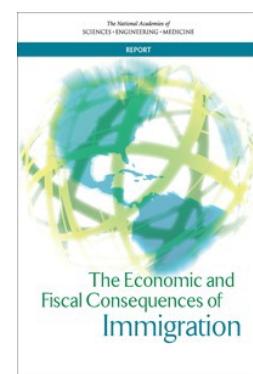
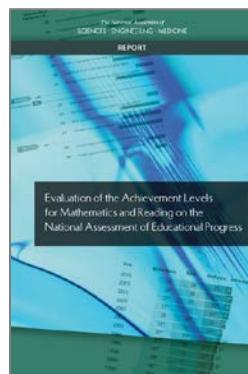
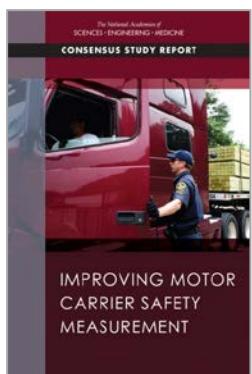
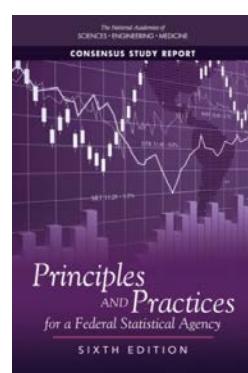
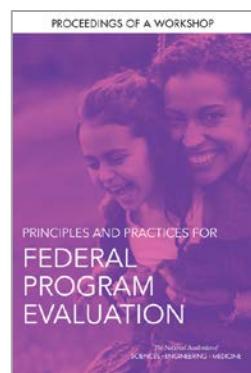
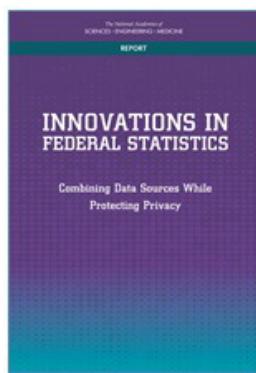
[Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency: Sixth Edition](#) (released online, July 6, 2017—printed copies contain the body; the on-line version includes appendixes)

[Improving Motor Carrier Safety Measurement](#) (released in prepublication format, June 20, 2017)

[Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy](#) (released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017)

[Evaluation of Achievement Levels for Mathematics and Reading on the National Assessment of Educational Progress](#) (released in prepublication format, November 17, 2016)

[The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration](#) (released in prepublication format, September 21, 2016)



**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 from the May 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "CIPSEA at 15 Years: Benefits to Federal Statistics," are available [here](#). Look for presentations from the October 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "New Directions for Federal Statistics," to be posted soon.

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*

We call your attention to the upcoming inaugural conference of the *Administrative Data Research Facilities (ADRF) Network, "Building Foundations for Data Sharing and Ethical Use," November 13-14, 2017*, at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. According to its director, Monica King, "The ADRF Network is a new, Sloan Foundation-funded collective working to promote the access to and use of administrative data in social science research. Our conference seeks to bring together the research community in academia, business, and government involved in this emerging field to share approaches and build collaborative opportunities." The conference is co-convened by ADRF, Office of the Provost, Georgetown University, and Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, University of Pennsylvania. To register, visit <http://www.adrfconference.org>.

We call your attention to the NSF *search* for a *director* for the *National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics* (NCSES) to replace John Gawalt, who is retiring in early January 2018. If you know of anyone who might be interested, the vacancy announcement (NCSES-2018-0001) for this position at USAJOBS is at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/482478100>. The application deadline is December 4, 2017. See the attached advertisement at the end of the newsletter for additional information.

We take this opportunity to thank the many agencies that contribute *core support* each year to the Committee on National Statistics. Core funds enable CNSTAT to maintain a small executive staff who, among other things, organize the CNSTAT meetings, prepare the newsletter, are active in the Washington statistical community, develop new projects of interest to the entire statistical system, and every 4 years prepare a new edition of CNSTAT's flagship publication, *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, released in a 6<sup>th</sup> edition in July 2017. Agencies contributing core support during fiscal 2017 include the following (we hope to welcome back next year several agencies that experienced difficulties in providing core support this year):

- Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, DHHS
- Bureau of Economic Analysis, DOC
- Bureau of Justice Statistics, DOJ
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, DOL
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics, DOT
- Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA, DHHS
- Economic Research Service, USDA
- Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

- Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program, NSF
- National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA
- National Center for Education Statistics, DoED
- National Center for Health Statistics, CDC, DHHS
- National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, NSF
- National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, VA
- National Institute on Aging, NIH, DHHS
- Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD
- Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, SSA
- Research Evaluation Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS
- Statistics of Income Division, IRS, Treasury
- U.S. Census Bureau, DOC

## 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 135<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

**CNSTAT’s 136<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, 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 with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

**CNSTAT’s 137<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 18-19, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **19th**, 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, 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 in oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]*

### Department of Agriculture

#### **Improving Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research for the Economic Research Service, USDA**

Sponsor: Economic Research Service

Duration: October 2017–December 2019

Study director: Christopher Mackie; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD  
Publication planned: Final report  
Upcoming meetings: TBD

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Duration: September 2014–March 2018  
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann  
Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)  
Publication: Final report, [\*Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources\*](#), was released in prepublication format on October 11, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports” above)  
Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

**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–September 2018  
Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri  
Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)  
Publication planned: Final report is being drafted  
Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for December 13, 2017, in Washington, DC

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Duration: September 2015– September 2019  
Study director: Nancy Kirkendall  
Chair: TBD  
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings  
Upcoming meetings: TBD

**Department of Commerce**

**Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau  
Duration: May 2015–May 2018  
Study director: Glenn White; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann  
Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)  
Publication planned: Final report is being drafted  
Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017  
Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Michael Siri; research associate: Adrienne Bradford  
Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)  
Publication: Final report, [\*The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment\*](#), released in prepublication format on August 28, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports”)  
Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

### **Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau's annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning (see below). A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **Workshop on the Census Bureau's 2018 End-to-End Test and Concept of Operations for Reengineering the 2020 Census**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: October 2017 – September 2018

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

Chair-designate: Joseph Salvo (NYC Department of City Planning)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop scheduled for November 30–December 1, 2017, in Washington, DC

## **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** (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

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 program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting (closed) scheduled for February 1–2, 2018, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Graham Colditz (Washington University, St. Louis)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for January 18–19, 2018, 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 2018

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying*

*Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is being drafted

Meetings: Final in-person meeting held January 13–14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

## 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; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: TBD

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

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## 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: TBD

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

### **Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is in response to review

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting held July 6–7, 2017, in Washington, DC

### **Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

Study director: Michael Cohen; senior program officer: Hermann Habermann; project assistant: Michael Siri  
Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)  
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings report is being drafted  
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–December 2018  
Study director: Judith Koenig; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Kelly Arrington  
Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)  
Publication planned: Final report  
Upcoming meetings: Third meeting (closed) scheduled for January 29-30, 2018, in Irvine, CA

### **The Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

#### **Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods**

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation  
Duration: April 2015–December 2017  
Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel  
Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)  
Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; second report, [Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps](#), was released in prepublication format, October 2, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports” above); a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.  
Meetings: Seventh and final meeting held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •**

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Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
and Education  
The National Academies of Sciences,  
Engineering, and Medicine  
500 Fifth Street NW, Washington, DC 20001  
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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.

**Division Director, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
(NCSES)**  
**Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)**  
**National Science Foundation**  
**Alexandria, VA 22314**

The Division Director of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) provides leadership and direction to NCSES, which is responsible for critical data collections related to the science and engineering enterprise. The Division Director is expected to direct the data collection, statistical analyses, and publications within the domains of the Division. The incumbent implements overall strategic planning and policy setting for the Division, provides leadership and guidance to Division staff members, determines funding requirements, prepares and justifies budget estimates, balances program needs, allocates resources, oversees the development and administration of nationwide surveys, and represents NCSES to internal working groups and NSF to relevant external groups. The NCSES Division Director fosters partnerships with other Divisions, Directorates, Federal agencies, scientific organizations, and the academic community. The Division Director also oversees performance management of the scientific and administrative staff.

Appointment will be considered for one of the following tracks: Permanent Career Senior Executive Service.

Announcement **#NCSES-2018-0001**, with position requirements and application procedures, is posted on the Office of Personnel Management's USAJobs website at <https://go.usa.gov/xnYUR>.

**Applications must be received by December 4, 2017.**

**NSF is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

— November 28, 2017 —

## PEOPLE *News*

We congratulate **Nicholas (Nick) Jewell**, professor of biostatistics and statistics in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, on his election as a member of the **National Academy of Medicine**, October 16, 2017. His research interests are in the application of statistical methodology to the design and analysis of studies related to medicine and public health, with a particular emphasis on infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, SARS, dengue, chikungunya, and Zika. Other interests include pharmacovigilance and adverse effects, human rights assessments, and health consequences in vulnerable populations. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received the 2012 Marvin Zelen Leadership Award in Statistical Science from Harvard University and the 2005 Snedecor Award from the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS). In 2000, he was honored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for providing "extraordinary leadership and vision in implementing strategies that enhance the disaster resistance of the University of California, Berkeley, and universities throughout America." He served on CNSTAT from 1993–1996 and on the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics at about the same time. He has a B.Sc. in applied mathematics and a Ph.D. in mathematics, both from the University of Edinburgh.

We congratulate **Krisztina Marton**, CNSTAT senior program officer, and **Michael Siri**, CNSTAT program associate, on receiving **DBASSE staff awards** from CNSTAT's parent unit, the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education on October 30, 2017. Krisztina's award was for "Sustained Achievement"—since joining CNSTAT in 2009, she has directed numerous studies and provided advice on data collection to many other National Academies' units (she is vice-chair of the Academies' Institutional Review Board). Michael's award was for "Achievement in a Support Role"—he has provided outstanding service to numerous panels and workshops since joining CNSTAT in 2001.

## PUBLICATION *News*

### RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS (available as free PDFs with printed copies to follow)

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pastureland. Key users of these county-level estimates include USDA's Farm Services Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA), which use the estimates as part of their processes for distributing farm subsidies and providing farm insurance, respectively. *Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources* assesses county-level crop and cash rents estimates, and offers recommendations on methods for integrating data sources to provide more precise county-level estimates of acreage and yield for major crops and of cash rents by land use. This report considers technical issues involved in using the available data sources, such as methods for integrating the data, the assumptions underpinning the use of each source, the robustness of the resulting estimates, and the properties of desirable estimates of uncertainty.

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New data sources provide opportunities to improve the timeliness, geographic or subpopulation detail, and statistical efficiency of many of the statistics produced by the federal government. *Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps* is the second of two reports that explores those opportunities and ways to take advantage of those sources. It builds on the analysis, conclusions, and recommendations of the panel's first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, which recommended a new approach for federal statistical programs and the creation of a new entity that would provide the foundational elements for this new approach. In this report the panel discusses how to combine diverse data sources from government and private-sector sources to enhance federal statistics, including describing statistical models for combining data from multiple sources; examining statistical and computer science approaches that foster privacy protections; evaluating frameworks for assessing the quality and utility of alternative data sources; and various models for implementing the recommended new entity.

Together, the two reports offer ideas and recommendations to help federal statistical agencies evaluate a wide range of data from many sources and combine them as appropriate to provide the country with more timely, actionable, and useful information for policy makers, businesses, and individuals.

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The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a national, longitudinal household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. SIPP serves as a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of government-sponsored social programs and to analyze the impacts of actual or proposed modifications to those programs. SIPP was designed to fill a need for data that would give policy makers and researchers a much better grasp of how effectively government programs were reaching their target populations, how participation in different programs overlapped, and to what extent and under what circumstances people transitioned into and out of these programs. SIPP was also designed to answer questions about the short-term dynamics of employment, living arrangements, and economic well-being. The Census Bureau has reengineered SIPP—fielding the initial redesigned survey in 2014. This report evaluates the new design compared with the old design. It compares key estimates across the two designs, evaluates the content of the redesigned SIPP and the impact of the new design on respondent burden, and considers content changes for future improvement of SIPP.

## OTHER REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2017 (available in printed form and as free PDFs)

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## EVENT & OTHER *News*

We call your attention to the ***First FCSM/WSS Workshop on Transparent Reporting on the Quality of Integrated Data***, December 1, 2017, in the BLS Janet Norwood Conference Center, from 9:30 am to 4:25 pm. Registration information is [here](#). The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) and the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) are sponsoring a series of workshops about transparent reporting on the quality of data produced through the integration of multiple data sources. Integrated data provide tremendous opportunities to learn more than from single data sets in isolation. They also pose a large number of challenges, several of which revolve around how to transparently: (1) document the quality of the input data sources; (2) describe how the input data were processed into an integrated data set and how the integrated data are structured; and (3) convey information about the quality of the resulting output data and information drawn from those data. These challenges are compounded to the extent that the input data may be in formats that federal agencies and the statistical community are less familiar with in terms of quality metrics, and analyses of the integrated data may require analytic decisions guided by fewer well accepted standards than agencies have typically followed. This is the first in a series of workshop to explore these challenges.

We call your attention to the NSF *search* for a *director* for the ***National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics*** (NCSES) to replace John Gawalt, who is retiring in early 2018. If you know of anyone who might be interested, the vacancy announcement (NCSES-2018-0001) for this position at USAJOBS is at: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/482478100>. The application deadline is December 4, 2017.

We congratulate the ***National Center for Education Statistics*** (NCES) on its ***150th anniversary***, which was celebrated at a forum and reception at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Wednesday, November 15, 2017. NCES can trace its lineage back to the establishment by Congress in 1867 of a Department of Education with a primary mission of “collecting such statistics and facts as shall show the condition and progress of education in the several States and Territories, and of diffusing such information respecting the organization and management of schools and school systems and methods of teaching” (P.L. 39-73, 14 Stat. 434). The legislation also charged the department’s commissioner to issue an annual report. Only 2 years later, the department was abolished, but an Office of Education was established in the U.S. Department of the Interior, where it remained through 1939. The Office of Education was made part of the newly created Federal Security Agency in 1939 and then part of the newly created U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1953. A separate Department of Education was reestablished in 1980. A major function of the Office of Education throughout its history was the collection and publication of education statistics. NCES was established in 1965 as a staff office reporting to the Commissioner of Education and received statutory authority in 1974.

Speakers at the event were the Honorable Paul Mitchell (R-MI) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR); Jack Buckley (American Institutes for Research and former NCES commissioner); Larry Hedges (Northwestern University and chair of the National Board of Education Sciences); and Bridget Terry Long (Harvard Graduate School of Education and former chair of the National Board of Education

Sciences). The event was moderated by Felice Levine, executive director of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and introduced by Peggy Carr, NCES acting commissioner. AERA, ASA, and COPAFS hosted the event, which was sponsored by several other groups as well.

We note that the U.S. House of Representatives, without opposition, passed the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2017* (H.R. 4174) on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. H.R. 4174, which must now be acted upon by the U.S. Senate, implements 10 of the recommendations in the [report](#) of the *Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking*, released September 6, 2017. Highlights of H.R. 4174 include: codification of *Statistical Policy Directive No. 1* on the fundamental responsibilities of federal statistical agencies and the proactive duty of parent departments and agencies to support their statistical agency or agencies; enactment of the provisions in the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 as Title III of H.R. 4174; stipulations that each cabinet department and independent agency is to designate a chief evaluation officer, a chief data officer, and a statistical official (to be the head of a principal statistical agency where applicable, or someone with appropriate expertise if there is no statistical agency); and declarative statements that agencies are to make their data assets publicly available except where the data are restricted (e.g., due to confidentiality considerations) and also available to statistical agencies for purposes of developing evidence unless data sharing is clearly prohibited by law. See the Bipartisan Policy Center [website](#) for information on the efforts to follow up on the work of the Commission.

## 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 135<sup>th</sup> meeting* will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

*CNSTAT’s 136<sup>th</sup> meeting* will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, 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 with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

*CNSTAT’s 137<sup>th</sup> meeting* will be held **October 18-19, 2018**, at the *National Academy of Sciences Building* at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **19th**, 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, 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 in [oneword@nas.edu](mailto:oneword@nas.edu)). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]*

## Department of Agriculture

### **Improving Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research for the Economic Research Service, USDA**

Sponsor: Economic Research Service

Duration: October 2017–December 2019

Study director: Christopher Mackie; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–March 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Publication: Final report, [\*Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources\*](#), was released in prepublication format on October 11, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports” above)

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

### **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–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting scheduled for December 13, 2017, in Washington, DC

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2015– September 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## Department of Commerce

### **Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)

Publication planned: Final report is in review

Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Michael Siri; research associate: Adrienne Bradford

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication: Final report, [The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment](#), released in prepublication format on August 28, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports”)

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

## **Workshop on the Census Bureau’s 2018 End-to-End Test and Concept of Operations for Reengineering the 2020 Census [postponed]**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: October 2017 – September 2018

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

Chair-designate: Joseph Salvo (NYC Department of City Planning)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop TBD

## **Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau’s annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning (see below). A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **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** (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

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 program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting (closed) scheduled for February 1-2, 2018, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsors: National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities (NIMHD), and Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) of the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann  
Chair: Graham Colditz (Washington University, St. Louis)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for January 18-19, 2018, 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 2018

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri-St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is in review

Meetings: Final in-person meeting held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

## **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; project assistant: 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: First meeting in December, date TBD

## **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

Upcoming meetings: First meeting, December 12-13, 2017, in Washington, DC

**Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is in response to review

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting held July 6-7, 2017, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

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

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings report is being drafted

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–December 2018

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

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting (closed) scheduled for January 29-30, 2018, in Irvine, CA

**The Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

**Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods**

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; second report, [Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps](#), was released in prepublication format, October 2, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports” above); a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •**

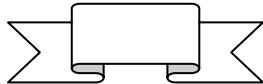
Committee on National Statistics  
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
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The National Academies of Sciences,  
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<http://www.nationalacademies.org/cnstat>

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*Senior Scholar and Newsletter Editor*  
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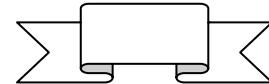
– See our website for previous issues of *News from CNSTAT*, under “CNSTAT News” –

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.

— December 21, 2017 —



*Best Wishes from CNSTAT to All for  
the Holiday Season and the New Year*



## PEOPLE *News*

We congratulate **Nancy Potok**, chief statistician of the United States and head of the Statistical and Science Policy Office in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, on receiving a **2017 Presidential Meritorious Rank Award** for “sustained accomplishment.” The award recipients were honored on December 7, 2017. Nancy joined OMB in January 2017. She was formerly deputy director and chief operating officer of the U.S. Census Bureau and previously served as the Bureau's associate director for demographic programs, and as the principal associate director and chief financial officer in charge of field operations, information technology, and administration during the 2000 Census. She has also held appointments in the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and the U.S. Department of Commerce as deputy undersecretary for economic affairs. She was senior vice president at NORC at the University of Chicago and chief operating officer at McManis & Monsalve Associates. She is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a recipient of numerous awards, including The George Washington University Trachtenberg School Distinguished Alumni Award, the Secretary of Commerce's Silver Medal, and the Arthur S. Flemming Award. She has a B.A. from Sonoma State University, an M.A.S. from the University of Alabama, and a Ph.D. from George Washington University.

We welcome **Jeffrey H. Anderson** as the new presidentially appointed director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), effective December 18, 2017. Since the departure of director William Sabol in April 2016, BJS principal deputy director Jeri Mulrow has served as acting director. Prior to joining BJS, Jeffrey Anderson held positions as director of the Office of Health Reform in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, and professor of American government and political philosophy at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has a Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University.

## PUBLICATION *News*

<b>RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS</b> <b>(available as free PDFs with printed copies available in early January)</b>
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***Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources***, released in prepublication format on October 11, 2017, is the final report of the Panel on Methods for Integrating Multiple Data Sources to Improve Crop Estimates, chaired by Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University).

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is the primary statistical data collection agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NASS conducts hundreds of surveys each year and prepares reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. Among the small-area estimates produced by NASS are county-level estimates for crops (planted acres, harvested acres, production, and yield by commodity) and for cash rental rates for irrigated cropland, nonirrigated cropland, and permanent pastureland. Key users of these county-level estimates include USDA's Farm Services Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA), which use the estimates as part of their processes for distributing farm subsidies and providing farm insurance, respectively. *Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources* assesses county-level crop and cash rents estimates, and offers recommendations on methods for integrating data sources to provide more precise county-level estimates of acreage and yield for major crops and of cash rents by land use. This report considers technical issues involved in using the available data sources, such as methods for integrating the data, the assumptions underpinning the use of each source, the robustness of the resulting estimates, and the properties of desirable estimates of uncertainty.

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New data sources provide opportunities to improve the timeliness, geographic or subpopulation detail, and statistical efficiency of many of the statistics produced by the federal government. *Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps* is the second of two reports that explores those opportunities and ways to take advantage of those sources. It builds on the analysis, conclusions, and recommendations of the panel's first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, which recommended a new approach for federal statistical programs and the creation of a new entity that would provide the foundational elements for this new approach. In this report the panel discusses how to combine diverse data sources from government and private-sector sources to enhance federal statistics, including describing statistical models for combining data from multiple sources; examining statistical and computer science approaches that foster privacy protections; evaluating frameworks for assessing the quality and utility of alternative data sources; and various models for implementing the recommended new entity.

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## EVENT & OTHER *News*

It is not too late to [register](#) at the early bird rate for the **2018 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research and Policy Conference**, taking place on March 7-9, 2018, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. Early Bird registration rates end on December 31, 2017. Standard registration rates of \$215.00 will begin on January 1, 2018. The preliminary program is available [here](#). Organized by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics working with and on behalf of the FCSM, this conference is a must for the federal statistical community.

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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 135<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **February 9-10, 2018**, 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 luncheon.

**CNSTAT's 136<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **May 10-11, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **11th**, 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 with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

**CNSTAT's 137<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held **October 18-19, 2018**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. On the **19th**, 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, 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 in oneword@nas.edu). Also see the CNSTAT [web site](#) under “Our Work.”]*

## **Department of Agriculture**

### **Improving Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research for the Economic Research Service, USDA**

Sponsor: Economic Research Service

Duration: October 2017–December 2019

Study director: Christopher Mackie; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–March 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; senior program officer: Glenn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Mary Ellen Bock (Purdue University)

Publication: Final report, [\*\*\*Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources\*\*\*](#), was released in prepublication format on October 11, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports” above)

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held May 30-31, 2017, in Irvine, CA

### **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–September 2018

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Sixth meeting (closed) scheduled for 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 2015– September 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **Department of Commerce**

### **Panel to Reengineer the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: May 2015–May 2018

Study director: Glenn White; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)

Publication planned: Final report is in response to review

Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, 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–August 2017

Study director: Carol House; project assistant: Michael Siri; research associate: Adrienne Bradford

Chair: John Czajka (Mathematica Policy Research)

Publication: Final report, [The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment](#), released in prepublication format on August 28, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports”)

Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting held October 10-11, 2016, in Washington, DC

## **Workshop on the Census Bureau’s 2018 End-to-End Test and Concept of Operations for Reengineering the 2020 Census [postponed]**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: October 2017 – September 2018

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

Chair-designate: Joseph Salvo (NYC Department of City Planning)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop TBD

## **Standing Committee on Reengineering Census Operations**

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

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

Chair: Thomas Cook (Decision Analytics International)

Publications: Standing committees do not issue reports; they meet for discussion; they also identify topics for separate workshops or consensus panels; this committee has facilitated a consensus panel on reengineering the Census Bureau’s annual economic surveys (see above) and may spin off workshops on central topics for 2020 census planning (see below). A [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Upcoming meetings: TBD

## **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** (joint with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families, which has the lead)

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 program officer: Christopher Mackie; associate program officer: Rebekah Hutton (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Fifth meeting (closed) scheduled for February 1-2, 2018, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on Improving Health Research on Small Subpopulations** (joint with the Health and Medicine Division)

Sponsors: National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities (NIMHD), and Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) of the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Duration: March 2017–July 2018

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Graham Colditz (Washington University, St. Louis)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: Workshop scheduled for January 18-19, 2018, in Washington, DC, in the Lecture Room, National Academy of Sciences Building, 2101 Constitution Ave, NW. A preliminary agenda and registration information are available [here](#).

## **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 2018

Study director: Daniel Cork; program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri–St. Louis)

Publications planned: First report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 1: Defining and Classifying Crime*, was released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report is in response to review

Meetings: Final in-person meeting held January 13-14, 2017, in Coral Gables, FL

## **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; project assistant: 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 initially meeting by teleconference.

## **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

Upcoming meetings: Second meeting scheduled for February 22-23, 2018, in Washington, DC

**Panel to Evaluate the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Approach to Measuring the Science and Engineering Workforce**

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

Duration: September 2015–March 2018

Study director: Krisztina Marton; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Co-chairs: Rita Colwell (University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University) and James House (University of Michigan)

Publication planned: Final report is being prepared for release in January 2018

Meetings: Sixth and final meeting held July 6-7, 2017, in Washington, DC

**Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Duration: March 2016–March 2018

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

Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings report is being drafted

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–December 2018

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

Co-chairs: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA); Lorraine McDonnell (UC Santa Barbara)

Publication planned: Final report

Upcoming meetings: Third meeting (closed) scheduled for January 29-30, 2018, in Irvine, CA

**The Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

**Panel on Improving Federal Statistics for Policy and Social Science Research Using Multiple Data Sources and State-of-the-Art Estimation Methods**

Sponsor: The Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Duration: April 2015–December 2017

Study director: Brian Harris-Kojetin; research assistant: George Schoeffel

Chair: Robert Groves (Georgetown University)

Publications planned: Two reports; first report, *Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy*, was released in prepublication format, January 12, 2017, and is available as a [PDF](#) and in print; second report, [Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps](#), was released in prepublication format, October 2, 2017 (see “Recently Released Reports” above); a [website](#) is maintained for the committee.

Meetings: Seventh and final meeting held March 16-17, 2017, in Washington, DC

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT •**

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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.