NEWS from CNSTAT

Committee on National Statistics

The National Academies of
SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

— May 2, 2018 —

PEOPLE *News*

We welcome **James L. Woodworth** as **commissioner** of the **National Center for Education Statistics** (NCES). He assumed his position on April 2, 2018, and will serve the remainder of a 6-year term expiring June 21, 2021. He previously was with the Center for Research on Educational Outcomes (CREDO) at Stanford University's Hoover Institute. Prior to joining CREDO in 2012, he carried out research and program evaluations and administered performance pay programs at the Office for Education Policy as part of his duties as distinguished doctoral fellow in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas. He also was a public school teacher in Arkansas. He has a B.A. in in music education and an M.Ed. in educational leadership from Arkansas Tech University and a Ph.D. in education policy from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

We congratulate two former CNSTAT members for receiving 2018 HPSS Long-Term Excellence Awards. The awards recognize significant contributions to health care policy and health services research through mentoring or service that advance the aims of the Health Policy Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association. The two are:

- **Sally Morton**, dean of the College of Science of Virginia Tech, and
- **Paul Rosenbaum**, Robert G. Putzel professor, Department of Statistics, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

We congratulate **Francine Blau**, Frances Perkins professor of industrial and labor relations and professor of economics, Cornell University, and member of CNSTAT, who has been elected a ***distinguished fellow*** of the **American Economic Association (AEA)**. The description of her contributions on the AEA web site reads as follows: "Francine Blau is a labor economist who has made seminal contributions to the study of labor market inequality. Her research on the sources of gender wage gaps in the labor market has transformed the field, and much of what is known today is due to her high quality, innovative, and timely work in the area. She has made notable contributions to other areas of labor economics as well, including studies of other types of wage inequality, immigration, and international labor market comparisons."

PUBLICATION *News*

RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE IN PRINTED FORM

Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 2: New Systems for Measuring Crime, released in prepublication format, March 21, 2018.
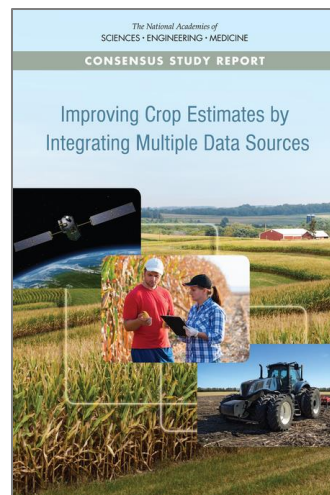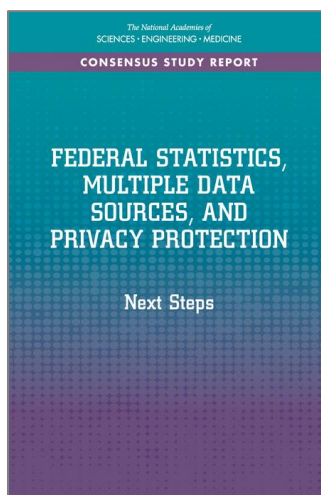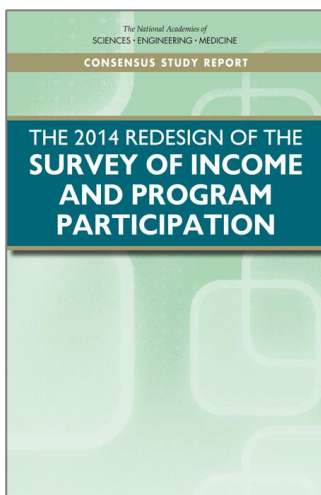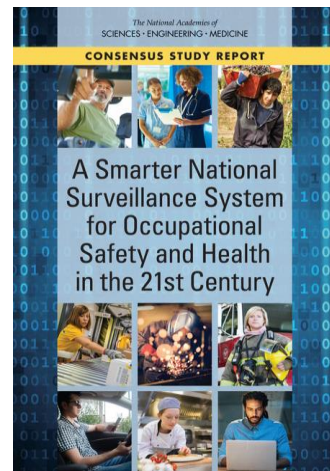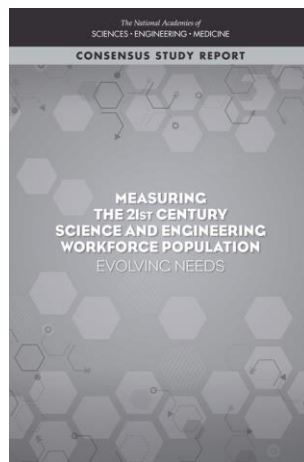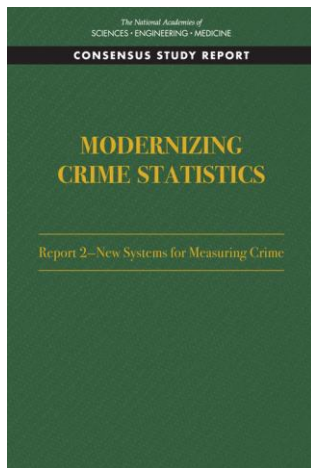
Measuring the 21st Century Science and Engineering Workforce Population: Evolving Needs, released in prepublication format, January 9, 2018.

A Smarter National Surveillance System for Occupational Safety and Health in the 21st Century, released in prepublication format, January 9, 2018.

The 2014 Redesign of the Survey of Income and Program Participation: An Assessment, released August 28, 2017

Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps, released October 2, 2017

Improving Crop Estimates by Integrating Multiple Data Sources, released October 11, 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 October 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, "New Directions for 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*

We note that past CNSTAT member and American Statistical Association president-elect, **Karen Kafadar**, Commonwealth professor and chair of statistics at the University of Virginia, will be giving the **Washington Statistical Society's President's 2018 Invited Seminar**, on "The Critical Role of Statistics in Evaluating Forensic Evidence." The seminar will be held Thursday, May 3, 2018, 2:30-4:00 pm, reception to follow, at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Rooms 9 and 10, 2 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington DC. To be placed on the attendance list, e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss').

Abstract Statisticians have been important contributors to many areas of science, including chemistry (chemometrics), biology (genomics), medicine (clinical trials), and agriculture (crop yield), leading to valuable advances in statistical research that have benefitted multiple fields (e.g., spectral analysis, penalized regression, sequential analysis, experimental design). Yet the involvement of statistics specifically in forensic science has not been nearly as extensive, given the importance of the field (ensuring proper administration of justice) and the value it has demonstrated thus far (e.g., forensic DNA, assessment of bullet lead evidence, significance of findings in the U.S. anthrax investigations, reliability of eyewitness identification). Forensic methods in many areas remain unvalidated, as recent investigations have highlighted (notably, bite marks and hair analysis). In this talk, I will provide three examples where statistics played a vital role in the evaluating forensic evidence. I then will propose ways in which statisticians can enhance its involvement in forensic science with the ultimate goal of strengthening forensic evidence to achieve its mission in achieving low error rates (false positives and false negatives), and thereby helping to raise the level of confidence in the reliability of evidence presented in the criminal justice system.

We call your attention to a new statement on **Principles of Economic Measurement**, released by the **American Economic Association (AEA)**, available at: https://www.aeaweb.org/content/file?id=6847). According to Kitty Smith Evans, AEA Washington area representative, "The statement took inspiration from CNSTAT's invaluable *Principles and Practices for Federal Statistical Agencies*, but is differently focused and more narrowly applied. It is meant as a succinct tool for communicating to policy influencers who may not have backgrounds in economics or statistics, the value of economic measures, professional standards for their development, and the complexity of their construction. This resulted from efforts by the AEA Committees on Economic Statistics (John Haltiwanger, chair) and Government Relations (Phillip Swagel, chair)."

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 136th 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 **"Big Data Day"** featuring posters and demos, beginning at 1:00 pm, with a plenary panel and

lightning presentations at 2:00 pm, and ending with a reception at 4:00 pm. Please find the agenda at the bottom of the newsletter, and register to attend through the CNSTAT web site.

CNSTAT's 137th 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.

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

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 (Consumer Data and Nutrition Research [CDNR] Program)
Duration: October 2017–December 2019
Study director: Christopher Mackie; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Michael Siri
Chair: Marianne Bitler (UC-Davis)
Publication planned: Final report
Upcoming meetings: Second meeting scheduled for June 14-15, 2018, in Washington, DC.

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

Workshop on Model-Based Methods for Producing Estimates of Livestock with Appropriate Measures of Uncertainty
Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service
Duration: September 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 scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann
Chair: Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
Publication planned: Final report has cleared review and is being prepared for release on May 3, 2018
Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, in Washington, DC

Workshop on Looking Beyond the 2020 Census
Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau
Duration: October 2017 – September 2019
Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Anthony Mann
Chair: Joseph Salvo (NYC Department of City Planning)
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings
Upcoming meeting: Workshop TBD

Workshop on Improving the American Community Survey
Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau
Duration: April 2018 – September 2019
Study director: Daniel Cork; senior program officer: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Anthony Mann
Chair: TBD
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: Elizabeth Townsend (BCYF); research associate: Dara Shefska (BCYF); project assistant: Pamella Atayi (BCYF)

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Seventh in-person meeting (closed) scheduled for May 14-15, 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 will be released May 4, 2018, at 9:00 am

Meetings: Workshop held January 18-19, 2018, in Washington, DC. The agenda and other workshop materials 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*, released in prepublication format, May 16, 2016—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available; second report, *Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 2: New Systems for Measuring Crime*, released in prepublication format, March 21, 2018—printed copies and free [PDFs](#) are available.

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, the first of which was held April 13, 2018

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: Fourth meeting scheduled for May 31-June 1, 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: Final report, *Measuring the 21st Century Science and Engineering Workforce Population: Evolving Needs*, released in prepublication format, January 9, 2018—printed copies and free PDFs are available.

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

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

Publication planned: Final report is being drafted

Upcoming meetings: Fourth in-person meeting (closed) scheduled for May 21-22, 2018, in Washington, DC

• *CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT* •

– 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.

The Big Data Day showcase is an opportunity for employees of federal statistical agencies to share their innovations around big, or alternative, data sources. The goal of the event, sponsored by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP), is to promote technical innovation related to Big Data across the statistical system.

Event Schedule

TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	**Exhibit Hall Opens** **Light Refreshments** Great Hall	**Posters and Demonstrations**
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	**Welcome** Auditorium **CNSTAT Panel** Auditorium	Brian Moyer**, Bureau of Economic Analysis, ICSP Employee Development Workshop Group Executive Sponsor** Bob Groves**, Georgetown University,** *CNSTAT Chair* Sallie Keller**, Virginia Tech University** Jerry Reiter**, Duke University**
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	**Lightning Presentations** Auditorium	**Megan Sweitzer, Economic Research Service** Scanner Data in the Economic Research Service Consumer Food Data Program **Adley Kloth, U.S. Census Bureau** Census Data Lake **Anne Parker, Internal Revenue Service** Recommendation System Application for Anomaly Detection and Missing Value Imputation

Erik Friesenhahn, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Linking Inter-Agency Databases

Nanda Srinivasan, U.S. Energy Information Administration
Innovative Uses of Administrative Data (in collaboration with BLS)

Carol DeFrances, National Center for Health Statistics
Moving the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and the National Hospital Care Survey to Electronic Health Data Collection and "Big Data" for Health Care

Abe Dunn, Bureau of Economic Analysis
A Dive into U.S. Expenditures on Treatment by Disease, 2000-2014

Carol Robbins, National Center for Science Engineering Statistics
New Opportunities to Observe and Measure Innovation, Modeling, Infrastructure, and Standards

* *Final order of presentations may vary. Presenters will also have a poster or demonstration.*

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	**Exhibit Hall Light Refreshments** Great Hall	**Posters and Demonstrations**

For more information and to register, see the [CNSTAT website](#).