We call your attention to the forthcoming CNSTAT Workshop on Improving the American Community Survey, to be held September 26-27, 2018, in Room 100 of the National Academies Keck Center, 500 5th St, NW. The workshop will address two critical topic areas: Uses of Administrative Records and Third-Party Data to Improve ACS Operations (9/26) and Boosting Respondent Participation Through Improved Communication (9/27). An agenda and a registration link will be on this site shortly.

PEOPLE News

We note with sadness the death of William (Bill) Morrill in Newtown, PA, at age 88. Bill held high-level administrative positions at what is now the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he served as assistant secretary for planning and evaluation from 1973–1977. He then held executive positions with Mathematica, Martin Marietta Data Systems, and Mathtech. He was a senior fellow at ICF International from 2000 until his retirement in 2013. He served on the board of the National Academy of Public Administration, on the advisory committee to the predecessor to the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, and on CNSTAT from 1989–1992. He served on the CNSTAT panels that produced Modernizing the U.S. Census (1995), Assessment of Performance Measures for Public Health, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health (1997), and Health Performance Measurement in the Public Sector: Principles and Practices for Implementing an Information Network (1999). He had a B.A. in government from Wesleyan College and an M.P.A. from Syracuse University.

We thank Mary Bohman for her years of distinguished and dedicated service to objective, high-quality agricultural statistics and research and to the federal statistical system as a whole in her career at the Economic Research Service (ERS) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She is leaving her position as ERS administrator, which she has held since November 2011, effective September 2, 2018. She joined ERS in 1997 and served as director of the Resource and Rural Economics Division, deputy director for research for the Market and Trade Economics Division (MTED), and chief of MTED’s Europe, Africa, and Middle East Branch. Other public-sector positions she has held include details to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and to USDA's under secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. From 1990 to 1997, she was on the Agricultural Sciences faculty at the University of British Columbia. She first worked in agriculture and rural development as a Peace Corps Volunteer for cooperative development in Togo, West Africa, in the early 1980s. She is a member of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, and the International Association of Agricultural Economists. She has a B.S. from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and a Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis Department of Agricultural Economics.
We congratulate two individuals who received Founders Awards from the American Statistical Association at the 2018 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, BC, July 31, 2018, who have also been major contributors to CNSTAT. These awards honor individual(s) who “have served the association for an extended time, usually in a variety of leadership roles wherein effective service or leadership was provided within the ASA or through ASA outreach to other organizations. The individual’s contributions will have had significant impact on the association beyond the time of her/his incumbency.”

- **Alicia Carriquiry**, distinguished professor of liberal arts and sciences, Department of Statistics, Iowa State University: “For leadership of the profession at the national level through the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; National Institutes of Health; and Environmental Protection Agency; for service to many other statistical organizations; for two decades of enthusiastic participation in ASA activities, including serving as president of the Iowa Chapter and vice president of the ASA Board of Directors; and for serving as an officer of the Biometrics Section, as chair of the Section on Bayesian Statistical Science, as chair of the 1999 JSM Program Committee, and as chair of the JSM Task Force.” Alicia is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, served on CNSTAT and several panels, and serves on the DBASSE advisory committee and on the National Academies’ Report Review Committee.

- **Daniel Kasprzyk**, senior fellow with NORC at the University of Chicago: “For an active career supporting innovations in survey methodology, having designed and directed many large-scale surveys in diverse areas, both domestically and internationally; for two decades of enthusiastic participation in ASA activities, including serving as president of the Washington Statistical Society and vice president of the ASA Board of Directors; and for exemplary contributions to many ASA committees, sections, and councils, including outstanding leadership as chair of ASA’s Committee on Statistics and Disability, Council of Chapters Governing Board, and Survey Research Methods Section.” Dan has served on CNSTAT and Division of Health and Medicine panels.

We congratulate **Frauke Kreuter**, director of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland, College Park, on being the first recipient of the **Links Lecture Award**, recently established by the American Statistical Association: “for adding important links in the progress of official statistics through leadership in education and training and distinguished contributions to the literature on social and economic measurement.” The Links Lecture Award was created to honor the contributions of Constance Citro, Robert Groves, and Fritz Scheuren and to contribute to advancement of work in official statistics through the statistical use of administrative records and alternative data sources, record linkage, statistical methods for creating blended estimates, and issues associated with these activities such as privacy, confidentiality, researcher access, and reproducibility of results. Frauke will present the inaugural Links Lecture, which will be hosted by CNSTAT at the National Academies’ Keck Center, on November 5, 2018—watch this space for details. She recently served on the CNSTAT panel that produced Innovations in Federal Statistics: Combining Data Sources While Protecting Privacy (2017) and Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection: Next Steps (2017).

**PLEASE NOTE:** We will congratulate ASA Fellows and other awardees at the recent JSM meetings in the September newsletter.

**PUBLICATION**

**News**

**RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS**

*(available as free PDFs)*

A **Letter Report** concerning the proposed inclusion of a citizenship question in the 2020 census was issued by the CNSTAT Task Force on the 2020 Census on August 7, 2018, in response to the initial
**Federal Register** notice required under the Paperwork Reduction Act for Office of Management and Budget approval of the 2020 census. The Task Force concluded that the Department of Commerce’s decision to add the question is inconsistent with the “proper performance of the functions” of the Census Bureau. The Task Force noted that the American Community Survey already meets the stated need for citizenship data and that adding the question without proper testing would impair the quality of the 2020 census as a whole. Furthermore, adding the citizenship question and using the method described in the Secretary of Commerce’s memo and the Census Bureau’s review would create a new register of citizens. Such a register has unclear statistical purposes, and it could not under current law be used for nonstatistical purposes, such as law enforcement against individuals, and still comport with the Bureau’s mission as a federal statistical agency. While citizenship is an important public policy topic and worthy of high-quality data collection, adding this question to the 2020 census risks undermining the credibility of the Census Bureau and the decennial census, the trust of its respondents, and the independence of the Census Bureau’s professional staff to develop, produce, and disseminate objective information while protecting the confidentiality of respondents.


**Reengineering the Census Bureau’s Annual Economic Surveys**, the final report of a consensus panel of CNSTAT, chaired by Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland) and sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau, was released in prepublication form on May 3, 2018. Free PDFs are available here; printed copies will be available soon.

The U.S. Census Bureau maintains an important portfolio of economic statistics programs, including quinquennial economic censuses, annual economic surveys, and quarterly and monthly indicator surveys. Government, corporate, and academic users rely on the data to understand the complexity and dynamism of the U.S. economy. Historically, the Bureau’s economic statistics programs developed sector by sector (e.g., separate surveys of manufacturing, retail trade, and wholesale trade), and they continue to operate largely independently. Consequently, inconsistencies in questionnaire content, sample and survey design, and survey operations make the data not only more difficult to use, but also more costly to collect and process and more burdensome to the business community than they could be. This report reviews the Census Bureau’s annual economic surveys. Specifically, it examines the design, operations, and products of 11 surveys and makes recommendations to enable them to better answer questions about the evolving economy.

**RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE IN PRINTED FORM**


**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](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](http://www.nap.edu) page. Presentations from the October 2017 CNSTAT meeting public seminar, “New Directions for Federal Statistics,” are available [here](http://www.nap.edu). Presentations and posters from the [Big Data Day](http://www.nap.edu) event on May 11, 2018, are available [here](http://www.nap.edu).

Slides from several major workshops are available on the [presentations](http://www.nap.edu) page on the CNSTAT website. This page also includes a section on “[Multiple Data Sources Presentations](http://www.nap.edu),” 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](http://www.nap.edu).
The 27th **Annual Morris Hansen Lecture**, sponsored by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Washington Statistical Society, and Westat, will be held on Thursday, **October 11, 2018**, at the USDA Jefferson Auditorium on Independence Ave. (between 12th and 14th Streets) from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., followed by a reception on the Whitten Building patio. The lecture honors Morris Hansen, who made pioneering and long-lasting contributions to survey sampling and related statistical methods during his long and distinguished career at the U.S. Census Bureau and at Westat. Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1976, he served on the CNSTAT panel that produced the 3-volume report, *Incomplete Data in Sample Surveys* (1983).

The title of this year’s lecture is “**How Errors Cumulate: Two Examples**,” presented by **Roger Tourangeau**, vice president, Westat, and former member of CNSTAT. Discussion will be presented by **Kristen Olson**, associate professor, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and **Jill Dever**, senior research statistician, Division for Statistical and Data Sciences, RTI International. Please pre-register for this event to help facilitate access to the building at [https://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/).

**Abstract:** Are there systematic relationships between different sources of survey errors? This talk examines two cases in detail — how coverage, selection, and nonresponse errors in non-probability web panels cumulate and whether there is a relationship between response propensities and data quality. With non-probability web panels, there seems to be overlap in the variables that affect someone’s propensities to have Internet access, to join a web panel, and to respond to specific survey requests. As a result, the different forms of errors accentuate each other and produce larger errors than surveys based on probability samples, even ones with very low response rates. Weighting helps reduce the biases from non-probability web panels but does not eliminate them. With nonresponse and data quality, unit and item nonresponse seem to be related, but there is less evidence that reluctant or hard-to-reach respondents provide less accurate answers than other respondents. Thus, there is at least partial independence between nonresponse and measurement error.

**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 137th meeting** will be held **October 18-19, 2018**, at the National Academy of Sciences Building at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 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, C.A. It will be in retreat format; it will not have a public seminar or agency head lunch.

**CNSTAT’s 139th meeting** will be held **May 9-10, 2019**, at the National Academy of Sciences Building at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. On the 10th, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning at 1:30 pm, with refreshments, and ending with a reception at 4:00 pm.
Active PANELS & WORKSHOPS

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

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 (University of California, Davis)
Publication planned: Final report
Upcoming meetings: Third meeting scheduled for September 20-21, 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 in response to review
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–September 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: Final report issued in prepublication format on May 3, 2018; free PDFs are available here; printed copies will be available shortly.
Meetings: Sixth and final in-person meeting held June 8-9, 2017, in Washington, DC
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: Warren Brown (Cornell University)
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings
Upcoming meeting: Workshop scheduled for September 26-27, 2018, in Washington, DC. See this site for more information.

Department of Education

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

Department of Health and Human Services

Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years (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: Closed electronic meetings are being held in August 2018.

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: Workshop proceedings released in prepublication format on May 4, 2018; printed copies and free PDFs are available here
Meetings: Workshop held January 18-19, 2018, in Washington, DC. The agenda and other workshop materials are available here.

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 meeting primarily by teleconference; it also held an on-site meeting, July 18, 2018, at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA.

**National Science Foundation**

**Committee on Reproducibility and Replicability in Science** (led by the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences, with the Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, CNSTAT, and the Division of Earth and Life Sciences)
Sponsor: NSF director’s office (congressionally mandated)
Duration: August 2017 – March 2019
Study director: Jennifer Heimberg (DELS); board director: Michelle Schwalbe (BMSA); senior program officer: Adrienne Stith Butler (BBCSS); senior program officer: Michael Cohen (CNSTAT)
Chair: Harvey Fineberg (Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation)
Publication planned: Final report is being drafted
Upcoming meetings: Fifth (and final) meeting held July 26-27, 2018, in Woods Hole, MA.

**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 in review
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: Fifth in-person meeting (closed) scheduled for September 18-19, 2018, in Washington, DC, and Irvine, CA
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.