



NEWS from CNSTAT

— December 19, 2018 —



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



PEOPLE *News*

We congratulate **Cynthia Z.F. Clark** on her appointment as the *executive director* of the **Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)**, effective November 28, 2018, succeeding John H. Thompson, who retired as executive director in August 2018. She has had a distinguished career in official statistics, most recently as administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to joining NASS, she served for 3 years as executive director for methodology and quality at the U.K. Office for National Statistics, and for 8 years as associate director for research, methodology, and standards at the U.S. Census Bureau. She is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association, and past chair of its Government Statistics Section and Privacy and Confidentiality Committee. She is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, an elected member of the International Statistical Association, and currently serves on the Statistics Canada Methodology Advisory Committee. In 2011, she received the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award. She served on CNSTAT panels that issued *Understanding American Agriculture: Challenges for the Agricultural Resource Management Survey* (2008) and *Reengineering the Census Bureau's Annual Economic Surveys* (2018). She received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Mills College, a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Denver, and a master's and doctoral degree in statistics from Iowa State University, from which she received its Distinguished Alumnae Award in 2014.

We note the following changes in leadership of the U.S. Census Bureau while it waits for confirmation of Steven Dillingham as director. **Ron Jarmin**, formerly associate director for economic programs and performing the nonexclusive functions and duties of the director, is now the deputy director of the Census Bureau, continuing to function as the director. **Enrique Lamas**, formerly associate director for demographic programs and performing the nonexclusive functions and duties of the deputy director, is now chief advisor and continuing to function as deputy director. **Victoria Velkoff**, formerly chief of the American Community Survey Office in the Decennial Directorate, is now associate director for demographic programs, and **Nick Orsini**, formerly assistant director for economic programs, is now associate director for economic programs. Congratulations to all.

RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS

(available as free PDFs)

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

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

Improving Data Collection and Measurement of Complex Farms, the final report of a consensus panel of CNSTAT, chaired by Catherine Kling (Cornell University) and sponsored by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Economic Research Service (ERS), was released in prepublication format on October 2, 2018. Free PDFs are available [here](#); printed copies will be available shortly.

America's farms and farmers are integral to the U.S. economy and, more broadly, to the nation's social and cultural fabric. A healthy agricultural sector helps ensure a safe and reliable food supply, improves energy security, and contributes to employment and economic development, traditionally in small towns and rural areas where farming serves as a nexus for related sectors from farm machinery manufacturing to food processing. The agricultural sector also plays a role in the nation's overall economic growth by providing crucial raw inputs for the production of a wide range of goods and services, including many that generate substantial export value. If the agricultural sector is to be accurately understood and the policies that affect its functioning are to remain well informed, the statistical system's data collection programs must be periodically revisited to ensure they are keeping up with current realities. This report reviews current information and makes recommendations to NASS and ERS to help identify effective methods for collecting data and reporting information about American agriculture, given increased complexity and other changes in farm business structure in recent decades.

RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE IN PRINTED FORM

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

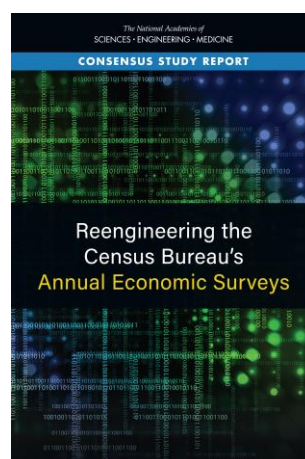
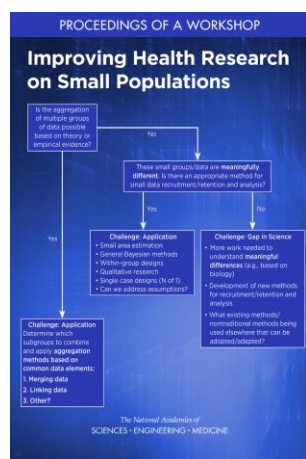
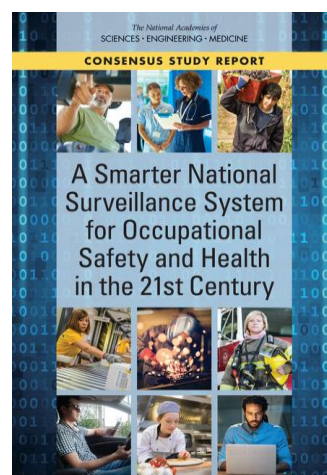
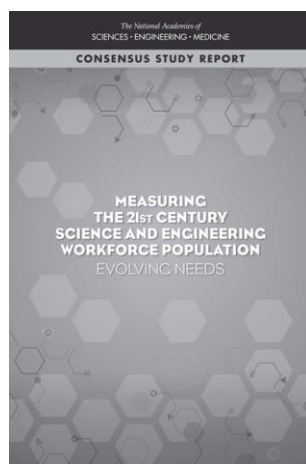
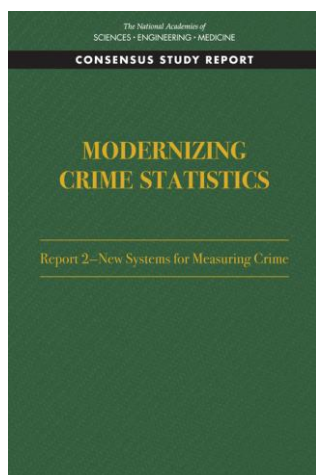
[*Improving Health Research on Small Populations: Proceedings of a Workshop*](#), released May 4, 2018.

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

[*Modernizing Crime Statistics—Report 2: New Systems for Measuring Crime*](#), released March 21, 2018.

[*Measuring the 21st Century Science and Engineering Workforce Population: Evolving Needs*](#), released January 9, 2018.

[*A Smarter National Surveillance System for Occupational Safety and Health in the 21st Century*](#), released January 9, 2018.



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

Reminder: Slides from previous CNSTAT public seminars are available on the CNSTAT [public seminars and symposia](#) page. Presentations and posters from the **Big Data Day** event on May 11, 2018, are available [here](#). Presentations from the October 19, 2018 seminar **Leveraging and Integrating Data for Disasters** are available [here](#).

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

CNSTAT Meetings

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

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

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

CNSTAT’s 140th meeting will be held **October 17-18, 2019**, at the **National Academy of Sciences Building** at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. On the **18th**, the meeting will feature a luncheon with statistical agency heads (members of the ICSP), followed by a public seminar, beginning with light refreshments at 1:30 pm and ending with a reception at 4:30 pm.

Active PANELS & WORKSHOPS

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

CNSTAT Core Sponsors

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

Sponsors: CNSTAT Core Sponsors

Duration: August 2018–December 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

Chair: Jerome P. Reiter (Duke University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

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

Department of Agriculture

Improving Consumer Data for Food and Nutrition Policy Research

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

Duration: October 2017–December 2019

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

Chair: Marianne Bitler (University of California, Davis)

Publication planned: Consensus report

Upcoming meetings: Fourth meeting scheduled for January 17-18, 2019, in Berkeley, 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–March 2019

Study director: Christopher Mackie; project assistant: Michael Siri

Chair: Catherine Kling (Iowa State University)

Publication: Final consensus report issued in prepublication format on October 2, 2018; free PDFs are available [here](#), printed copies will be available shortly

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

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

Sponsor: National Agricultural Statistics Service

Duration: September 2014–September 2019

Study director: Nancy Kirkendall; project assistant: Anthony Mann

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

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meeting: Workshop scheduled for March 12, 2019

Department of Commerce

Workshop on Improving the American Community Survey

Sponsor: U.S. Census Bureau

Duration: April 2018 –March 2019

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

Chair: Warren Brown (Cornell University)

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings are being drafted

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

Department of Education

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

Department of Health and Human Services

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

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

Duration: October 2016–April 2019

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

Chair: Greg Duncan (UC Irvine)

Publication planned: Final consensus report is in response to review

Meetings: Closed electronic meetings held in August 2018.

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

Sponsor: Office of Women's Health

Duration: September 2018-December 2019

Study director: Jordyn White; project assistant TBD

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

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

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

Duration: 15 months

Study director: TBD

Chair: TBD

Publication planned: Workshop proceedings

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Department of Labor

Panel on Contingent Work and Alternate Work Arrangements

Sponsor: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Duration: September 2018-March 2020

Study director: Chris Mackie; project assistant Anthony Mann

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

Publication planned: Consensus report

Upcoming meetings: TBD

Department of Transportation

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

Sponsor: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Duration: October 2017–September 2020

Study director: Michael Cohen; TRB Studies and Special Programs Division director: Tom Menzies; 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 held its second on-site meeting November 16, 2018, at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA.

National Science Foundation

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

Sponsor: NSF director's office (congressionally mandated)

Duration: August 2017 – March 2019

Study director: Jennifer Heimberg (DELS); board director: Michelle Schwalbe (BMSA); senior program officer: Adrienne Stith Butler (BBCSS); senior program officer: Michael Cohen (CNSTAT)
Chair: Harvey Fineberg (Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation)
Publication planned: Final report is being drafted
Meetings: Fifth (and final) meeting held July 26-27, 2018, in Woods Hole, MA.

Panel on Transparency and Reproducibility for NCSES Statistics

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
Duration: September 2018-November 2020
Study director: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Michael Siri
Chair: TBD
Publication planned: Consensus report
Upcoming meetings: TBD

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

Sponsor: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
Duration: September 2018-August 2019
Study director: TBD
Chair: TBD
Publication planned: Workshop proceedings
Upcoming meetings: TBD

Workshop on Transparency and Reproducibility in Federal Statistics

Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Duration: March 2016–December 2018
Study director: Michael Cohen; project assistant: Michael Siri
Chair: William Eddy (Carnegie Mellon University)
Publication: Proceedings of the workshop released in prepublication format, December 11, 2018; free PDFs are available [here](#); printed copies will be available shortly.
Meeting: Workshop held June 21-22, 2017, in Washington, DC

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

Committee on Developing Indicators of Educational Equity

Sponsors: See above list
Duration: December 2016–June 2019
Study director: Judith Koenig; senior scholar: Constance Citro; senior program officer: Jordyn White; project assistant: Kelly Arrington
Chair: Christopher Edley, Jr. (The Opportunity Institute, Berkeley, CA)
Publication planned: Final consensus report is in review
Meetings: Fifth and final in-person meeting (closed) held September 18-19, 2018, in Washington, DC, and Irvine, CA

• **CONTACT INFORMATION for CNSTAT** •

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>

Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin, *Director*
bkojetin@nas.edu
(202) 334-2077 or 3096
Rebecca Krone, *Program Coordinator*
rkrone@nas.edu
(202) 334-2515 or 3096
Dr. Constance F. Citro
Senior Scholar and Newsletter Editor
ccitro@nas.edu (202) 334-3009

– 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.