

GSS/SSS MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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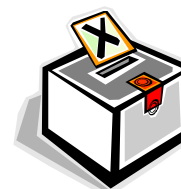
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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

|                           |                                                              |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May</b>                |                                                              |
| 26                        | JSM 2011: Early-bird registration ends                       |
| 31                        | H2R 2010: Contributed call for submissions closes            |
| <b>June</b>               |                                                              |
| 1                         | ICES IV: Online submission of proposals and abstracts opens  |
| <b>July 30-<br/>Aug 4</b> | 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami Beach, Florida      |
| <b>August</b>             |                                                              |
| 31                        | ICES IV: Online submission of proposals and abstracts closes |

**2011 ASA ELECTION RESULTS    NEW!**

*Submitted by Natalya Verbitsky-Savitz, GSS/SSS Newsletter Editor*



The results of the 2011 ASA election are now available. We would like to thank all candidates for volunteering their time and efforts to serve our statistical community and to congratulate the newly elected officers!

**Government Statistics Section's election results:**

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chair-elect:         | Lisa M. Blumerman, U.S. Census Bureau |
| Program Chair-elect: | Eric Rancourt, Statistics Canada      |

**Social Statistics Section's election results:**

|                           |                                                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair-elect:              | Linda A. Jacobsen, Population Reference Bureau        |
| Program Chair-elect:      | Deborah H. Griffin, U.S. Census Bureau                |
| Secretary/Treasurer:      | Natalya Verbitsky-Savitz, Mathematica Policy Research |
| Section Chapter Revision: | Approved                                              |

Officers' terms will begin January 1, 2012. The Charter revisions are effective immediately. All ASA election results are available at

<http://www.amstat.org/news/pdfs/ASA2011ElectionResults.pdf>

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JENISE SWALL RECEIVES THE JEANNE GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD!

Submitted by Carol House, 2011 Chair, Griffith Award Selection Committee

Jenise Swall, a statistician with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was selected to receive the 2011 Jean Griffith Mentoring Award. The purpose of the award is to encourage mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in the federal, state, and local government. The award is sponsored by the Government Statistics Section, the National Opinion Research Center, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, the American Institutes for Research, the American Educational Research Association, and the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy. Dr. Swall works in a research area where statisticians are greatly outnumbered by other scientists. She has been instrumental in mentoring students, postdocs, younger statisticians and scientists in promoting statistical quality in all research projects.

Dr. Swall will be presented the award at a ceremony scheduled for **4 pm on Wednesday, June 8**, at the **Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center**. The ceremony will follow the monthly meeting of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy.

If you would like to attend, please email your first and last name to Carol House, housca@gmail.com. She will add your name to the list at the guard station. Please bring a picture ID.

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**MAXIMIZING YOUR JSM EXPERIENCE: A CHECKLIST FOR JSM 2011    NEW!**

*Reprint, Edited by Sonya L. Vartivarian, GSS Publications Officer*

Time for our annual checklist to help you get ready for the 2011 meetings in Miami Beach, Florida. If you're like a lot of us, you keep meaning to make your plans and start working on the slides for your presentation, and, oh, yes, sign up for that Roundtable Luncheon. The list goes on and on ....

So, it's a good thing you're reading this article, because the Government Statistics Section (GSS) and Social Statistics Section (SSS) Executive Board members believe that your JSM experience should be enjoyable, stimulating, and stress-free. To help you achieve this goal, once again we offer ten suggestions for getting the most out of your 2011 JSM experience:

1. **Prepare Ahead of Time** – For those who are session chairs, authors, discussants, or poster presenters, the American Statistical Association's (ASA's) Web site offers excellent, useful guidelines for preparing for your role. Don't wait until the last minute, but, rather, take advantage of the material available to prepare yourself. The following link leads you to information that will help you prepare for any role you may have this year: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/index.cfm?fuseaction=speakers>.
2. **Be Informed** – Being a member of ASA and one or more sections will be a much more rewarding experience if you know what's going on. One way, of course, is to go to ASA's Web site at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org). Another is to regularly read ASA's monthly membership magazine *Amstat News*. When you do, be sure to check under the Section News each month for the GSS and SSS articles.
3. **Plan Your Schedule for JSM 2011 in Advance** – Because the program for JSM is online, you don't have to wait until you get to Miami Beach to decide on which sessions you want to attend. There is so much to choose from that you may run into conflicts, but doing a careful review of the sessions, business meetings, luncheons, and special events you want to attend will allow you to maximize your participation. In fact, ASA offers a function online called "My Program" to help you create and prioritize a virtual program of the things you want to attend. Check out: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/onlineprogram/index.cfm>.
4. **Know Your Section's Sessions** – The Section's Program Chairs for 2011 and 2012 have worked very hard to put together an exciting group of sessions, roundtables, and other activities for this year's program. In recent and upcoming GSS-SSS Newsletters and columns in *Amstat News* issues, you will find details about the invited sessions, roundtable luncheons, and topic contributed and contributed sessions.
5. **Know Your Section's Activities** – Join the Business Meeting and Mixer. At the Business Meeting and Mixer, you'll get a chance to meet your fellow section members and hear what's been going on over the past year, as well as look ahead to what's coming. And last, but not least, you'll be able to enjoy food and drink in a very relaxed atmosphere where we can all get to know each other a little better. SSS and GSS Business Meetings are Monday (8/1) and Tuesday (8/2), respectively, at 5:30 pm. (Details on locations are available through the JSM online program).

6. **Meet the Section Officers** – If you come to number 5 above, you'll get to meet the current officers in person.

Current officers for the GSS include:

**Steven P. Paben**, Chair, 2011; **Brian A. Harris-Kojetin**, Chair-elect, 2011; **John S. Dixon**, Past Chair, 2011; **Iris M. Shimizu**, Program Chair, 2011; **Daniell S. Toth**, Program Chair-elect, 2011; **Kevin Cecco**, Secretary/Treasurer, 2011-2012; **Kennon Copeland**, Council of Sections Representative, 2010-2012; **Robert Lussier**, COPAFS Representative, 2011-2012; **Carol C. House**, COPAFS Representative, 2010-2011; **Sonya Vartivarian**, Publications Officer, 2007-2012; **Natalya Verbitsky-Savitz**, Newsletter Editor, 2009-2011; **Bill Wong**, Assistant Editor, *Amstat Online*; **Tai Phan**, GSSLIST Coordinator; and **Rick Peterson**, Staff Liaison.

Current officers for the SSS include:

**John Thompson**, Chair, 2011; **Joseph Salvo**, Chair-elect, 2011; **Sharon M. Stern**, Past Chair, 2011; **Nancy Clusen**, Program Chair, 2011; **Elizabeth Stuart**, Program Chair-elect, 2011; **Kirsten K. West**, Secretary/Treasurer, 2010-2011; **Robert Santos**, Council of Sections Representative, 2010-2012; **Joanna M. Turner**, Publications Officer, 2011-2012; and **Rick Peterson**, Staff Liaison.

7. **Express Your Opinion** – We welcome your thoughts and ideas about the Sections' sessions, activities, newsletter, *Amstat News* column in Section News, the GSS/SSS portion of the ASA Web site, or anything else on your mind that relates to our organization. We want to better serve our membership well, but we need your input to help us do that. To contact the GSS officers, go to ASA's Web site at: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>. To contact the SSS officers, go to ASA's Web site at: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>. At both sites, click on "Officers" to view contact information. We're looking forward to hearing from you!
8. **Find Out What Your Association Is Doing** – Attend the ASA Open Meeting, the President's Address, and any other open meeting sponsored by a section you may be interested in joining. Check the online program for dates and times: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/index.cfm>.
9. **Do Something New** – If you're not a member of the Government Statistics Section or the Social Statistics Section and are interested in learning more, plan to attend both Business Meetings to find out what we're all about. We welcome your attendance. Or, attend the Student Paper Awards Session to be held **Tuesday August 2, 8:30am**. Take a closer look at the program this year and plan on doing or attending something you've never done or attended before! Try it! You'll like it!

**And last, but not least –**

10. **Make Your Travel Plans** – By now, you should at least have made your hotel reservations (online reservations opened on April 28<sup>th</sup>, for more information see <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/index.cfm?fuseaction=housing>) if you're planning to stay in the conference hotels, as they are the most convenient to the meetings. And don't wait till the last minute to make airline reservations, because August is a busy

time for vacations and flights are often booked months in advance. Pick up the phone now!

See you in Miami Beach!

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JSM 2011: CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS!

Submitted by Nancy Clusen, 2011 SSS Program Chair

Each year the Social Statistics Section co-sponsors with the Government Statistics Section and the Survey Research Methods Section a student paper competition. The overall quality of submissions was excellent, and we found ourselves having to decide between papers that were extremely close in terms of quality. We are pleased to announce this year's winners:

- **Brady Thomas West**, Program in Survey Methodology, University of Michigan, "Bayesian Analysis of Between-Group Differences in Variance Components in Hierarchical Generalized Linear Models"
- **Qi Dong**, Program in Survey Methodology, University of Michigan, "Combining Information from Multiple Complex Surveys"
- **Dan Liao**, RTI International, "Variance Inflation Factors in the Analysis of Complex Survey Data"
- **Joseph Sakshaug**, University of Michigan, "Synthetic Data Generation for Small Area Estimation in the American Community Survey"
- **Anna Sikov**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, "Imputation and Estimation under Nonignorable Nonresponse for Household Surveys with Missing Covariate Information"

The authors will present their papers at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Miami and will be recognized at the Sections' business meetings. A subsidy of up to \$800 is provided to each winner to cover JSM 2011 expenses. Please add this session to your schedule for JSM!

Social Statistics Section Student Paper Competition Winners — Topic Contributed Papers
Tuesday, August 2, 2011, 8:30 am - 10:20 am

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**JSM 2011: DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR ROUNDTABLES!    UPDATED!**

*Submitted by Elizabeth Stuart, 2011 SSS Program Chair-elect, and Daniell Toth, 2011 GSS Program Chair-elect*

The Social Statistics and Government Statistics sections have 5 exciting roundtables planned for JSM in Miami Beach! Each is from 12:30-1:50 and includes lunch. The three roundtables are:

1. **Can Statisticians Add Value to Teacher Value-Added?**, Dan McCaffrey, RAND. (Monday, Registration Code: ML32)
2. **American Community Survey Data Products - Past and Future**, J. Trent Alexander, US Census Bureau. (Tuesday, Registration Code: TL34)
3. **Balancing Data Quality and Data Confidentiality**, Larry Cox, National Institute of Statistical Sciences. (Tuesday, Registration Code: TL22)

4. **Who is Poor? A New Look with the Supplemental Poverty Measure**, Kathleen Short, US Census Bureau. (Wednesday, Registration Code: WL33)
5. **Career Development for Statisticians: Making Creative Use of Future Opportunities and Challenges**, John Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (Wednesday, Registration Code: WL20) **SOLD OUT!**

The full descriptions are below.

If you have not yet registered for JSM you can sign up for the roundtables with your registration. If you have already registered and would like to add a roundtable to your registration, you will need to fill out the PDF Registration Form

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/pdfs/2011RegistrationForm.pdf>. Note the PM Roundtable Registration Code is in parentheses. Please be sure to include new payment information and a note stating that you have previously paid for your registration.

Please contact Elizabeth Stuart, [estuart@jhsph.edu](mailto:estuart@jhsph.edu), or Daniell Toth, [Toth.Daniell@bls.gov](mailto:Toth.Daniell@bls.gov), with any comments, questions, or suggestions for future roundtables. We look forward to seeing you in Miami!

**Monday, August 1, 2011 12:30 PM – 1:50 PM**

**Can Statisticians Add Value to Teacher Value-Added?** (Dan McCaffrey, RAND, Session #205, Registration Code: ML32).

Measuring teachers' performance using "value-added," estimated from their students' longitudinal achievement test score data, is the center of education policy and controversy. It is the centerpiece of the \$4 billion US Department of Education Race to the Top Grant Program and a \$500 million study by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a part of growing number of state and school district accountability programs, and the source of controversy in Los Angeles and New York, where local newspapers reported or went to court for the right to report individual teacher's value-added. What role are statisticians playing in the estimation of value-added? What are the key statistical issues in the estimation of value-added? And what role can our profession play in the coming years to make the data most useful for improving the education of our country's children?

**Tuesday, August 2, 2011, 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM**

**American Community Survey Data Products - Past and Future.** (J. Trent Alexander, US Census Bureau, Session #377, Registration Code: TL34)

Since there was no long-form census in 2010, American Community Survey (ACS) data have become the most relevant and timely source for a broad range of social and economic statistics, especially for small geographic areas. In December 2010, the Census Bureau released the first-ever 5-year estimates from the ACS. This roundtable will discuss the potential uses of these data, as well as the ways in which the Census Bureau could change or improve ACS data products in the next few years.



**Balancing Data Quality and Data Confidentiality** (Larry Cox, National Institute of Statistical Sciences, Session #370, Registration Code: TL22)

This roundtable will discuss the challenges of releasing data to the public while protecting confidential micro-data. A discussion of current methods will address the benefits and drawbacks of the methods as well as experiences from the participants. We will discuss the goal of releasing high-quality disclosure-protected data from both qualitative and quantitative standpoints.

- **Qualitatively:** For a given data set (tabular or microdata), how should quality and confidentiality be defined, and evaluated? What does it mean to "balance" quality and confidentiality--is one more important than the other? Are these dual objectives always in conflict?
- **Quantitatively** (you may wish to bring paper and pencil): How effective is complementary cell suppression for achieving high-quality disclosure-protected tabular data? How effective are controlled tabular adjustment and rounding, and pre-tabulation perturbation of underlying microdata? How effective is microaggregation for achieving high-quality disclosure-protected microdata? How effective is synthetic microdata? Contributions to the discussion of actual participant experiences will be welcome.

Wednesday, August 3, 2011, 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM

**Career Development for Statisticians: Making Creative Use of Future Opportunities and Challenges** (John Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Session #537, Registration Code: WL20)  
**SOLD OUT!**

Over the next decade, all statisticians working with the federal statistical system will encounter an extraordinary range of opportunities and challenges arising from the increasing need for sophisticated statistical information. This roundtable discusses career development for statisticians within the context of these opportunities and challenges, with emphasis on the development and use of skills to do the following:

- a. Understand the societal and scientific context in which we carry out statistical work. Of special importance are the professional norms and perceived utility functions of primary stakeholders.
- b. Exercise well-informed judgment on where and how sophisticated statistical methodology can add substantial value to areas in which stakeholders need high-quality information.
- c. Develop a rigorous understanding of the balance among benefits, costs and risks encountered in development, implementation and operation of the methodology identified in (b).
- d. Articulate all of the ideas above in ways that are clear, accessible and tuned to the norms and perceived utility functions of the statistical profession, primary stakeholders, and the public

**Who is Poor? A New Look with the Supplemental Poverty Measure.** (Kathleen Short, US Census Bureau, Session # 546, Registration Code: WL33)

For many years, there have been critiques of the official poverty measure in the U.S. On March 2, 2010, the Commerce Department announced plans for the development of a Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) "that will use the best new data and methodologies to obtain an

improved understanding of the economic well-being of American families and of how federal policies affect those living in poverty.” This roundtable will discuss many of the elements recommended by the Interagency Technical Working Group to include in a preliminary Supplemental Poverty Measure. Measurement issues, updating methods, and plans for future research on poverty estimates at the Census Bureau will be described and discussed.

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JSM 2011: GSS AND SSS SECTIONS SHOWCASE INVITED SESSIONS **NEW!**

Submitted by Iris Shimizu, 2011 GSS Program Chair, and Nancy Clusen, 2011 SSS Program Chair

The Social Statistics Section (SSS) and the Section on Government Statistics (GSS) have organized one invited panel and seven invited papers sessions covering a range of topics in social and government statistics for the 2011 JSM. One or two invited sessions are scheduled each day, Sunday through Thursday. Future columns will highlight contributed sessions.

In addition, this is the third year of the GSS sponsored poster contest which was initiated to encourage the quantity and quality of poster submissions to the JSM. For the 2011 JSM, the presenter of the best poster will receive \$500.

Visit JSM’s online program at

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/onlineprogram/index.cfm> to develop your full itinerary. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Nancy Clusen, the 2011 SSS program chair, at NClusen@Mathematica-MPR.com or Iris Shimizu, the 2011 GSS program chair, at IShimizu@cdc.gov.

Invited Sessions

Effective Global Statistical Capacity with Organic Leadership (Panel Session 12)

Organizer: Juanita T Lott, Tamayo Lott Associates

Chair: Alan M. Zaslavsky, Harvard Medical School

Panelists: Nilupa Gunaratna, Harvard University

Misrak Gezmu, National Institutes of Health

Olivia Blum, Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics

Sonya Vartivarian, U.S. Government Accountability Office

A Summary of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments with an Eye Toward the 2020 Census (Papers Session 152)

Organizer: Frank A. Vitrano, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: James B. Treat, U.S. Census Bureau

Discussant: Daniel Cork, The Committee on National Statistics, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

Papers:

- “Summary of the 2010 Census Evaluation Program and Early Results,” Jennifer W Reichert, U.S. Census Bureau
- “The 2010 Census Experiments,” Joan Marie Hill, U.S. Census Bureau

- “Early Proposed 2020 Census Research,” Kevin Deardorff, U.S. Census Bureau; Heather Madray, U.S. Census Bureau; Sally M. Obenski, U.S. Census Bureau

Cutoff Sampling in Federal Establishment Surveys: An Inter-Agency Review (Papers Session 210)

Organizer/chair: Janice Lent, Energy Information Administration

Discussant: Phil Kott, RTI International

Papers:

- “Cutoff Sampling in Federal Establishment Surveys: An Inter-Agency Review,” Daniel R. Yorgason, Bureau of Economic Analysis; Janice Lent, Energy Information Administration; Benjamin Russell Bridgman, Bureau of Economic Analysis; Yan K. Liu, Statistics of Income/IRS; Alan H. Dorfman, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Yang Cheng, U.S. Census Bureau; Javier Miranda, U.S. Census Bureau; Scot Rumburg, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- “New Technique for Modifying the Cutoff Sample and Its Application,” Yang Cheng, U.S. Census Bureau
- “Theory and Methods for Cut-off Sampling,” Jay Breidt, Colorado State University; Daniel Bonner, CREST-ENSAI; Francois Coquet, CREST-ENSAI
- “Cut-Off Approach To The Design Of Longitudinal Business Surveys,” Marco Bee, University of Trento; Roberto Benedetti, University of Chieti-Pescara; Federica Piersimoni, Italian National Statistical Institute; Giuseppe Espa, University of Trento

Statewide Education Longitudinal Data Systems: A Federal/State Partnership to Support Data-Driven Decision Making (Papers Session 280)

Organizer(s): Marilyn Seastrom, National Center for Education Statistics

Chair(s): Rochelle Martinez, Office of Management and Budget

Discussant: Fritz Scheuren, NORC

Papers:

- “Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems: The Federal Role in Supporting SLDS Development,” Andrew White, National Center for Education Statistics, US Dept of ED; Jack Buckley, National Center for Education Statistics
- “Statewide Education Longitudinal Data Systems: Privacy and Data Protection Plans,” Kathleen Styles, National Center for Education Statistics
- “Statewide Education Longitudinal Data Systems: A Federal/State Partnership to Support Data-Driven Decision Making,” Jeff Sellers, Consultant
- “Statewide Education Longitudinal Data Systems: A Federal/State Partnership to Support Data-Driven Decision Making,” Kathy Gosa, Kansas State Department of Education

Understanding Intervention Mechanisms: Causal Mediation Analysis and Principal Stratification (Papers Session 326)

Organizer: Booil Jo, Stanford University

Chair: Elizabeth A Stuart, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Discussant: Hendricks Brown, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Papers:

- “Conventional and Principal Stratification Perspectives on Mediation,” Booil Jo, Stanford University; Elizabeth A Stuart, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- “Experimental Designs for Identifying Causal Mechanisms,” Kosuke Imai, Princeton University; Dustin Tingley, Harvard University; Teppei Yamamoto, Princeton University
- “Augmented Designs to Assess Principal Strata Effects,” Fabrizia Mealli, Department of Statistics - University of Florence; Alessandra Mattei, Department of Statistics - University of Florence
- “Mixture Modelling of Treatment Effects with Multiple Compliance Classes and Missing Data,” Michael Sobel, Columbia University; Bengt Muthén, University of California, Los Angeles

What We Know So Far About the 2010 Census - Operational Outcomes (Papers Session 446)

Organizer/chair: Frank A. Vitrano, U.S. Census Bureau

Discussant: Terri Ann Lowenthal, Legislative and Policy Consultant

Papers:

- “The 2010 Census Communications Campaign,” Burton Reist, U.S. Census Bureau; Megan Kindelan, U.S. Census Bureau
- “The Effect of Programs to Increase Response in Census 2010,” Robin Amie Pennington, U.S. Census Bureau
- “Field Enumeration Outcomes in the 2010 Census,” Maryann McCormick Chapin, U.S. Census Bureau; Annetta Clark Smith, U.S. Census Bureau

Re-sampling Methods for Variance Estimation in Surveys of Governments (Papers Session 556)

Organizer: Yang Cheng, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Lisa Blumerman, U.S. Census Bureau

Discussant: Robert Fay, Westat Inc

Papers:

- “Decision-Based Estimation for Governments Statistics,” Jun Shao, University of Wisconsin; Sheng Wang, University of Wisconsin
- “Re-sampling Variance Estimation Methods for Decision-based Stratified Regression Estimates” Eric Victor Slud, U.S. Census Bureau
- “Techniques for High Accuracy in Estimation of the Mean Squared Prediction Error in General Small Area Model,” Ansu Chatterjee, University of Minnesota; Partha Lahiri, University of Maryland at College Park

Utility and Development of Federal Restricted-use Data Analysis Systems (Papers Session 646)

Organizer(s): Jonaki Bose, Statistician

Chair(s): Jacob Bournazian, U.S. Energy Information Administration

Discussant: Jennifer Park, The National Institute for Child Health and Human Development

Papers:

- “The NCES Data Analysis System: Public Access to Restricted-Use Data,” J. Neil Russell, National Center for Education Statistics
- “Developing a Restricted-Use Data Analysis System (R-DAS) for the National Survey on Drug Use and Health,” Jonaki Bose, Statistician; Joe Gfroerer, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality; Art Hughes, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality; Mike Jones, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality
- “NCHS' Search for Extending Data Access via an On-line Analysis System” Eve Powell-Griner, National Center for Health Statistics/CDC

Ways to help our sections

Attend SSS and GSS sessions with your colleagues at the 2011 JSM. Also help plan invited sessions for the sections to sponsor in 2012. Start now to think about topics for invited sessions and be ready to submit proposals for those sessions shortly after the 2011 JSM. More information will be given in future *Amstat News* articles and the Sections' e-newsletter. If you have specific ideas or general suggestions for sessions, contact the SSS 2012 program chair **Elizabeth Stuart** at estuart@jhsphe.edu or the GSS 2012 program chair **Daniell S. Toth** at Toth.Daniell@bls.gov.

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**ICES IV: CALL FOR TOPIC-CONTRIBUTED SESSIONS, CONTRIBUTED PAPERS, AND POSTERS  
NEW!**

*Submitted by Lauren D. Harris-Kojetin, Chief, Long-Term Care Statistics Branch, National Center for Health Statistics*

The Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES IV) will be held at the Sheraton Centre Montréal, in Montréal, Québec, Canada on June 11-14, 2012. The ICES-IV Program Committee invites you to submit a proposal for a topic-contributed session, an abstract for a contributed paper, or an abstract for a poster presentation. Online submission of proposals and abstracts opens **June 1, 2011**, and closes **August 31, 2011**.

ICES-IV will explore the current state of the art of establishment surveys. The ICES series of conferences serves an important role in the world of survey methodology. Few other conferences focus on methods and applications for establishment surveys. ICES-IV will build on the cross-national interdisciplinary research cooperation on the unique features of establishment surveys started at ICES-I in Buffalo, NY in 1993, and continued at ICES-II in 2000, also in Buffalo, and ICES-III in 2007 in Montréal, Québec, Canada. ICES-IV will include short courses, a keynote speaker, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and invited and contributed sessions. The ASA section on Government Statistics is a conference sponsor.

Examples of possible establishment survey topics for topic-contributed sessions, contributed papers, and posters include (but are not limited to):

- Survey design, redesign and integration
- Business registers and sampling frames
- Sampling methods and strategies
- Survey questionnaire design, testing and standards
- Data collection methodology
- Response process
- Response burden: measurement, control and reduction
- Response rates
- Non-response adjustment methods
- Sources of non-sampling error
- Edit and imputation
- Estimation methods and strategies, including variance estimation
- Time series/seasonal adjustment/benchmarking
- Confidentiality, privacy
- Disclosure issues in data dissemination and linkage
- Administrative data--efficient use in establishment surveys and data quality
- Quality measurements, indicators and standards
- Paradata
- Metadata
- Standardization of surveys
- Small area estimation
- National or satellite accounts (e.g., transportation, tourism)
- Price indices
- Convergence of international classifications (e.g., industrial classifications)
- Measurement issues and bridging changes in classification systems
- Subject area-specific establishment surveys
- Implementing establishment surveys in developing countries
- General issues affecting statistical agencies

Topic-contributed-paper sessions consist of four 20-minute oral presentations on related topics, arranged by a session organizer, and a 15–20-minute floor discussion. Variations on the format

are allowed (e.g., four 20-minute oral presentations, a 10-minute formal discussion in which a discussant draws out the main themes and addresses questions to the authors, and a 5–10-minute floor discussion).

Regular contributed papers are organized by the ICES-IV Program Committee into sessions consisting of four 20-minute oral presentations and a 15–20-minute floor discussion.

Poster presentations are organized by the ICES-IV Program Committee into sessions consisting of a set of topic-related posters. Presenters will be designated a time to present their posters to interested conference attendees. Regular contributed paper abstracts not placed in a regular contributed paper session will automatically be considered for a poster presentation session.

Abstracts for individual contributed papers and posters should not exceed 1,200 characters (including spaces). To assist the ICES-IV Program Committee in grouping individual contributed papers and poster presentations into cohesive sessions, abstract submitters will need to indicate up to two topics that their presentations address.

Topic-contributed session organizers need to submit a proposal that describes the session topic and why it is important or what has changed since ICES-III in 2007, includes the names of session presenters, and provides abstracts for each presentation. The Program Committee encourages topic-contributed session proposals that incorporate presenters and perspectives from different countries and agencies/organizations.

The ICES-IV Program Committee will review the submissions and notify submitters by the end of December 2011 whether their submissions have been accepted.

For more information about the ICES-IV conference and preparing submissions see the flyer: [http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012/pdfs/FINAL\\_ICES2012TopicContributedFlyer.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012/pdfs/FINAL_ICES2012TopicContributedFlyer.pdf) or go to the conference website: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012/index.cfm?fuseaction=main>

For further information, please send an email message to [ices4@amstat.org](mailto:ices4@amstat.org).

## GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION

*The mission of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) is to promote the use of sound statistical theory and methods in the production of data at all levels of government--be it Federal, State, local, or international; assist in the broad dissemination of those data; and encourage good statistical practice by all users. Areas of interest for the Section include all that involve the production, dissemination, and application of governmental statistics, including concern with statistical policy issues, quality and usefulness of governmental data products, special problems of State and local data, comparability of data among different countries, and the role of professional statisticians in the public sector.*

### OFFICERS AND CONTACTS

**Steven P. Paben**

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*The Social Statistics Section seeks to advance research in social statistics, both in areas which involve the use of methods of statistical inquiry, and in those which involve the use of statistical data and the development of statistical measurement. This section will also plan for active participation in the affairs of the American Statistical Association by those interested in these matters and for representation of activities in this major field in the program of the ASA.*

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