

GSS/SSS OCTOBER 2006 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

GSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>

SSS web site: <http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/>

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**Government Statistics Section**

**INTRODUCING THE NEW GSS OFFICERS**

*By Nathaniel Schenker, 2005 GSS Past-Chair*

As the Past Chair of the GSS in 2005, I was responsible for submitting a slate of candidates for GSS officers to the ASA for the 2006 elections. In this article, it's my pleasure to introduce the elected officers, who will begin their terms in 2007. Before I get around to that, however, let me say a little bit about the process of putting together a slate.

Elections are carried out once every year for Chair-Elect and Program Chair-Elect, once every two years for Secretary/Treasurer and Publications Officer, and once every three years for Representative to the Council of Sections. Thus, once every six years, candidates are needed for all five offices. As luck had it, I was responsible for the slate during one of those years, and the prospect of needing to find ten volunteers (two candidates for each office) made me a bit nervous. It turned out, however, that filling the slate wasn't too much of a problem, because the GSS has such enthusiastic members.

I solicited suggestions for candidates at the GSS business meeting at the 2005 Joint Statistical Meetings and via an e-mail message to all GSS members. The responses to those solicitations provided more than enough potential candidates to fill the ten slots. I tried to set up contests for the five offices that would result in diversity among the elected officers with respect to several characteristics, including gender, years in the profession, job sector, geographical location, and involvement in local versus federal government statistics. I think the effort proved to be quite successful.

Thanks go to all of the candidates in the 2006 elections. The ASA requires each election for an office to have at least two candidates, so win or lose, volunteering to run provides an important service to the GSS (not to mention exposure for the candidates). If you'd like to suggest candidates or express interest in being a candidate for the 2007 elections, please contact Chet Bowie ([chet\\_bowie@marketstrategies.com](mailto:chet_bowie@marketstrategies.com)), GSS Past Chair for 2006. Now, let's meet our new officers.



Pictured (left to right): Carol House, Michael Davern, Lester R. Curtin, Sonya Vartivarian, and Carolee Bush

**Chair-Elect:** Carol House ([carol\\_house@nass.usda.gov](mailto:carol_house@nass.usda.gov)) is the Deputy Administrator for Programs and Products of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). In this role she directs a staff of Federal, state, and contract employees in pursuit of the NASS mission to provide quality statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. She also serves as Chair of the Agricultural Statistics Board, a role that requires her to be "locked up" all night with staff about 15 times a year to prepare market-sensitive reports forecasting agricultural production. Carol has been with NASS for 30 years, serving previously in a variety of management and other positions. She has been very involved over the years in ASA activities, including as a current member of the Fellows Nomination Committee for the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and the Hansen Lecture Committee, as a former WSS Program representative for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and in several capacities within the ASA Council of Sections. She was also on the organizing committee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Establishment Surveys. Carol is an ASA Fellow and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

**Program Chair-Elect:** Michael Davern ([davern004@umn.edu](mailto:davern004@umn.edu)) is the Research Director at the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) and Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Services Research and Policy in the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Mike uses his expertise in federally-sponsored population surveys to help state health analysts use estimates produced by national surveys to inform state health policy. He also consults with states collecting their own survey data on sampling, weighting, data editing/imputation, data analysis strategies, and survey instrument design. He has published many articles recommending improvements in both state and federal surveys. Before joining SHADAC, Mike worked as a statistician for the United States Census Bureau, where he conducted evaluations of the Current Population Survey, the American Community Survey, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation. Mike has a Ph.D. degree in sociology from the University of Notre Dame. While at Notre Dame, he met his wife Dawn at a football game. They recently had a daughter, Erin.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Lester R. (Randy) Curtin (lcurtin@cdc.gov) is a senior statistician with the Division of Health Examination Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He is also currently serving as an advisor to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the sample design for the National Children's Study. Randy was the Federal project officer for the development of the SUDAAN (SURvey DATA ANALysis) software. He is currently involved in sample design and analytic issues for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), including sample selection, sample weighting, nonresponse adjustment, confidentiality aspects of microdata, variance estimation, analytic methods for missing data, and analytic methods for sparse data. He has contributed to the development of the CDC Growth Charts, the CDC Environmental Report Card, and the NHANES Analytic Guidelines. He has also served on several expert panels for the Health Resources and Services Administration and the National Science Foundation, the CDC review panel on design and estimation issues for HIV surveillance activities, and NIH Grant Review Panels.

**Publications Officer:** Sonya Vartivarian (svartivarian@mathematica-mpr.com) received her Doctorate in Statistics from the University of Michigan (UM) Department of Statistics in 2004. Her previous degrees are an M.A. in Applied Statistics from UM and a B.A. in Psychology/Sociology from the University of California, Irvine. Sonya's research interests include statistical analysis with missing data, analysis of complex surveys, and statistical disclosure limitation. She currently works at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. in Washington, DC where her projects have included applications in the area of impact analysis of educational interventions, health surveys, and disclosure limitation for public use files. Previous positions include Graduate Student Research Fellow and Research Assistant at the Survey Research Center, UM Institute for Social Research. Sonya is a member of the GSS, Social Statistics Section, Survey Research Methods Section, and WSS. She also serves as a Representative-at-Large for the Caucus for Women in Statistics.

**Representative to the Council of Sections:** Carolee Bush (cbush2000@aol.com) is no stranger to government, or to the ASA for that matter, having worked at the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the White House, and the ASA. Her ASA activities have included the ASA President's Self-Awareness Task Force; Program Chair, Social Statistics Section; Vice Chair, Council of Chapters Governing Board; Chair, ASA/Mathematical Association of America Committee on Women in Mathematical Sciences; Chair, Committee on Women in Statistics; and WSS District Vice Chair, Chapter Representative, Statistics and Public Policy Co-Chair, and Representative-at-Large. She has also served the Caucus for Women in Statistics, the International Association for Official Statistics, the Population Association of America, and the National Academies' Transportation Research Board. Carolee is an ASA Fellow, an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, and the American Association for Public Opinion Research's Representative to the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. She is married to Miron Straf, and they have three grandchildren.

If you have suggestions for Carol, Mike, Randy, Sonya, Carolee, or any of the other GSS officers regarding the Section and/or its activities, I'm sure they'd be happy to hear from you. Contact information for the current officers, along with lots of other information about the Section, can be found at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/>.

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SIX GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ELECTED ASA FELLOWS IN 2006

By Stephanie Shipp, 2006 GSS Chair

Six government employees were elected ASA Fellows this year. They received their awards at the JSM Conference in Seattle.

Christine Anderson-Cook, Technical Staff Member, Los Alamos National Laboratory, was selected for her research on the analysis of directional and cylindrical data and graphical

assessment of designed experiments, for being an ambassador of statistics to the engineering fields, and for her service to the statistics profession.

Stuart Baker, Mathematical Statistician, National Cancer Institute, received his award for his methodological contributions to the analysis of cancer biomarkers and screening, surrogate endpoints, twin genetics, graphical methods, the paired availability design, causal inference and missing data problems.

Virginia (Ginny) deWolf, Consultant, was selected for her extensive and enthusiastic contributions to the profession, particularly in the areas of disclosure limitation and data access, and for dissemination of novel disclosure limitation methods within the federal statistical agencies and social science research community.

Donald Malec, Principal Researcher, Census Bureau, received the award for improving statistical practice through methodological and collaborative research and consulting, and for important applied contributions in medical device clinical trials, small-area statistics, evaluation of census coverage, and nanoscale imaging.

Wendy Martinez, Program Officer, Probability and Statistics, Office of Naval Research, was selected for the insightful enlargement of statistical programs critical to the Navy, for research and teaching excellence in computational statistics, and for her service to the profession.

Jing Qin, Mathematical Statistician, National Institutes of Health, received the award for seminal contributions to statistical methodology, especially the development and adaptation of empirical likelihood to applied problems.

Let's all congratulate Christine, Stuart, Ginny, Don, Wendy, Jing!

The GSS Fellows Committee identifies worthy candidates and attempts to find sponsors for them. The committee coordinates its activities with the Washington Statistical Society and the Survey Research Methods Section of ASA. The members of the GSS Fellows Committee are Mary Batcher, Ernst and Young, Rich Allen, retired and formerly with the National Agricultural Statistics Center, and Stephanie Shipp, National Institute of Standards and Technology. If you have suggestions for potential candidates, please submit to Mary Batcher (mary.batcher@ey.com).

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### **Social Statistics Section**

#### **MEET THE SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION**

*By Beth Kilss, Publications Officer*

Welcome to the Social Statistics Section! If you're someone looking to join a section for the first time, we hope you'll take a few minutes to read this column and that by the time you do, you'll be ready to register to join. We think you'll agree that it's definitely easier to make a decision if you know what we're about. So, please read on, and if we're a good match for you, the information about how to register may be found at the end of the article.

#### **Who We Are**

Social Statistics Section (SSS) members are linked by common concerns focused on both the qualitative and quantitative measurements of social issues and trends, development of statistical models, and analysis of social phenomena. We study income and poverty, demographic characteristics, family composition, health, education, employment, and retirement. Our history

began with such distinguished ASA members as the legendary Florence Nightingale and Mollie Orshansky, who pioneered the evolving U.S. definition of poverty.

SSS members come from many fields--demography, sociology, and psychology. We represent many disciplines--economics, education, health, history, and statistics. We also work in many sectors--private consulting firms; Federal, State, and local governments; research institutes; and academia.

### **What We Do**

One of our major activities is organizing invited and contributed sessions for the annual Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). We also arrange roundtables. Participating in the JSM sessions enables our members to keep up with the latest achievements and findings in our field. It also provides an opportunity to meet other professionals in order to stimulate collaboration and exchange of ideas.

At this year's JSM in Seattle, WA, the SSS sponsored a wide range of interesting activities. First, there were four invited paper sessions on varied topics, including cross-national research on immigration, challenges facing the next generation of applied statisticians, the role of administrative records in 21<sup>st</sup> century surveys and censuses, and what makes a successful career in statistics. Rumor has it that the second and fourth sessions in that list had notable attendance – there was standing room only, and lots of young people attended both! In fact, there were at least 130 people at the fourth session (SRO and folks in the hall!), and, as one of the SSS board members described it, it was "...like the very best class one could ever imagine with favorite, affectionate teachers and students from undergraduates to retirees...Lots of humor, applause, and standing ovations in this bunch."

Other sessions sponsored by the SSS included three topic-contributed paper sessions on advances in item response theory, frontiers in demographic coverage measurement, and innovative uses of the Survey of Income and Program Participation for social program evaluation; three topic-contributed panels on ethical aspects of privacy in surveys, the promise and potential of the American Community Survey, and what is feminist statistics; and four regular contributed paper sessions on types of survey modes and their effects on response rates and performance, salient variables for select research populations, quality measures for human populations, and explorations in behavior and outcomes.

We also sponsored three very interesting roundtable luncheons on the future of U.S. income statistics, telephone surveys, and privacy protection; three committee and business meetings; and a short course on statistical demography. In addition, the SSS provided financial assistance to five students attending JSM.

But now that the Seattle meetings have come and gone, we thought this might be a good time to preview for you the important dates that will be coming up. We look forward to planning the 2007 JSM in Salt Lake City and hope you will actively participate in meeting sessions. Here's what you need to know:

- **JSM 2007 – Contact: Allen Schirm ([aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com))**
- **December 1, 2006** – Opening of online and mail-in submission of contributed abstracts and speaker registration.
- **January 22, 2007** – Deadline for mail-in receipt of contributed abstracts and speaker registration.
- **February 1, 2007** – Deadline for online submission of contributed abstracts and speaker registration.

### **How We Reach Out**

The Social Statistics Section is also always looking for ways to interact with organizations that have similar goals. These include the American Sociological Association (the other "ASA"), the

Population Association of America (PAA), the American Educational Research Association, and the American Economic Association. This helps us to assess the future direction of social statistics. In fact, one of SSS's topic-contributed panels at this year's JSM, "The Promise and Potential of the American Community Survey," was the first formal collaboration of SSS and PAA. And we know it won't be the last!

We also maintain strong ties with other ASA Sections, especially the Government Statistics Section and the Section on Survey Research Methods. We publish a joint newsletter and have a special discounted joint membership with the Government Statistics Section. We also share 20 years of common history and cosponsor numerous awards with both these Sections.

These efforts include the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics, the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship, the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award, and student paper awards. In fact, congratulations are in order to this year's winners: Nat Schenker of the National Center for Health Statistics on winning the Roger Herriot Award; Maria Ciarleglio, a doctoral candidate in biostatistics at Yale University, on winning the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship; Martin O'Connell of the Census Bureau on winning the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award; and our five outstanding winners of the Student Paper Competition – Hukum Chandra, University of Southampton; Joel Hanson, University of California, Berkeley; Juilin Li, University of Maryland, College Park; Yan Li, University of Maryland, College Park; and Pushpal Mukhopadhyay, Iowa State University. (All of these five students presented their award-winning papers in a JSM topic-contributed session on August 6, which was cosponsored by the Social Statistics, Government Statistics, and Survey Research Methods Sections.)

Looking forward to next year, some important information to keep in mind if you are considering making nominations for our various award categories for next year includes:

- **2007 Student Paper Competition: Contact: Allen Schirm**  
([aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com))  
Deadline: **December 15, 2006**
- **2007 ASA Fellows Nomination Package: Contact: Dan Weinberg**  
([daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov](mailto:daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov))  
Deadline: **March 1, 2007**, to ASA.
- **Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award: Contact: Ed Spar at COPAFS**  
([copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com))  
Deadline: **April 1, 2007**
- **Roger Herriot Award: Contact: Dan Weinberg**  
([daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov](mailto:daniel.h.weinberg@census.gov))  
Completed packages must be received by **April 1, 2007**
- **Wray Jackson Smith Memorial Award: Contact: Juanita T. Lott**  
([juanita.t.lott@census.gov](mailto:juanita.t.lott@census.gov))  
Deadline: **April 15, 2007**

On the international front, we discuss issues faced by other nations in health, demographics, and refugee matters. We have contact with the International Statistical Institute and keep SSS members informed through newsletters, columns in *Amstat News* (like the one you are reading now), and on our Web site:

[www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/](http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/) .

### **What We Are Planning**

As we move forward, we are looking for ways to improve our service to our members. We will be implementing new programs and activities that our members want, building on our strengths, and ensuring our viability in the years ahead. We want you to be part of that process.

### **What You Can Do**



Section members have access to all of these materials and activities. We need your help in organizing JSM sessions, developing short courses, and carrying out the other activities of the Section.

Are you involved in statistical analysis of social and socioeconomic issues in the United States or abroad? Are you concerned about measurement, statistical models, and analysis issues in the field of social statistics? Please contact us, and you will find many with similar interests. Your ideas and concerns can help us shape this Section's programs.

#### **2006 Social Statistics Section Contacts**

Susan Schechter, 2006 Chair, [susan\\_schechter@omb.eop.gov](mailto:susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov)

Gerald W. Gates, 2005 Chair, [gerald.w.gates@census.gov](mailto:gerald.w.gates@census.gov)

Jennifer H. Madans, 2007 Chair, [jennifer.madans@cdc.hhs.gov](mailto:jennifer.madans@cdc.hhs.gov)

Dawn V. Nelson, 2006-2007 Secretary/Treasurer, [dawn.v.nelson@census.gov](mailto:dawn.v.nelson@census.gov)

Trivellore E. Raghunathan, 2006 Council of Sections Representative, [teraghu@umich.edu](mailto:teraghu@umich.edu)

Juanita Tamayo Lott, 2006 Program Chair, [juanita.t.lott@census.gov](mailto:juanita.t.lott@census.gov)

Allen L. Schirm, 2007 Program Chair, [aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:aschirm@mathematica-mpr.com)

Beth A. Kilss, 2006 Publications Officer, [beth.a.kilss@irs.gov](mailto:beth.a.kilss@irs.gov)

And our new section officers are:

**Linda Gage, 2008 Chair**

**Jana L. Asher, 2008 Program Chair**

**Sharon M. Stern, 2007-2008 Publications Officer**

**Daniel H. Weinberg, 2007-2009 Council of Sections Representative**

**If you share our interests, we encourage you to join the Social Statistics Section today.** To join, access the ASA Chapter and Section Membership Application at – [www.amstat.org/membership/chapsection.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/membership/chapsection.pdf). We look forward to hearing from you!



**Social Statistics Executive Board:** Back row (l to r): Dan Weinberg, 2007-09 Council of Sections Rep; Jerry Gates, 2005 Section Chair; Jennifer Madans, 2007 Section Chair; Dawn Von Thurn Nelson, 2006 Secretary/Treasurer; Beth Kilss, 2006 Publications Officer; Jana Asher, 2008 Program Chair. Front Row (l to r): Allen Schirm, 2007 Program Chair; Susan Schechter, 2006 Section Chair; Juanita Tamayo Lott, 2006 Program Chair; Linda Gage, 2008 Section Chair; 2007-08 Publications Officer.

**COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL STATISTICS SEMINAR - CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTION AND INFORMED CONSENT: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED?**

**When:** Thursday, October 26, 2006, 3:00 PM  
Coffee, tea, and cookies available in the Great Hall at 2:30 PM  
Reception following the seminar in the Auditorium Gallery  
**Where:** Auditorium of the Main Building of the National Academy of Sciences, 2100 C Street, NW  
**RSVP:** By October 24 to Bridget Edmonds at (202) 334-3096 or [cnstat@nas.edu](mailto:cnstat@nas.edu)

All are welcome to attend.

For full information, please see the following brochure.



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FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY (FCSM) STATISTICAL POLICY SEMINAR – EIGHTH IN A SERIES

Seminar Eight: *Keeping Current: What We Know - What We Need To Learn*
Hosted by: The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)
When: November 28-29, 2006

Keynote Address: Kenneth Prewitt, Columbia University

Location and Cost:

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington D.C. 20024
To Reserve a Room Call: 202-484-1000

Seminar Registration Cost: \$195.00 per person

Registration Form can be downloaded from our site at: www.copafs.org

For Further Information, Contact the COPAFS Office at:

Phone: 703-836-0404 Email: copafs@aol.com

Topics:

- The Quality of Administrative Records for Statistical Uses
- Longitudinal Survey Designs: Current Best Practices and Continuing Challenges
- Providing Researchers Access to Federal Data
- The Future of Telephone Surveys
- Positioning the Federal Statistical System to Quickly Respond to Data Needs in Times of Crisis or Catastrophe
- Nonresponse Bias Analyses in Federal Surveys

- Incentives: New Results on the Effects of Incentives
- Total Survey Error in Economic Statistics
- How to Encourage Innovation
- Using Internet Panels For National Data
- Modeling Survey Costs: Towards a Research Agenda
- Establishing Archival Data Systems for Agency Historical Information

Participants will include: Statisticians, Economists, and Managers, as well as Other Professionals in the Broader Statistical Community who Share an Interest in Keeping Current on Issues Related to Federal Data

Support Provided by: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality * Bureau of Economic Analysis * Bureau of Justice Statistics * Bureau of Labor Statistics * Bureau of Transportation Statistics * Energy Information Administration * Environmental Protection Agency * National Agricultural Statistics Service * National Center for Education Statistics * National Center for Health Statistics * Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics of the Social Security Administration * Statistics of Income Division of the Internal Revenue Service * U.S. Census Bureau

ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE JOURNAL OF PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY (JPC)

Submitted by JPC Founders: Cynthia Dwork, Microsoft Research, Stephen E. Fienberg, Carnegie Mellon University, and Alan Karr, National Institute of Statistical Sciences

We are pleased to announce the formation of the JPC, under the editorship of

- * John M Abowd, Cornell University, USA
- * Kobbi Nissim, Ben Gurion University, Israel
- * Chris Skinner, University of Southampton, UK,

with an international board of associate editors.

JPC is an open-access multi-disciplinary electronic journal whose purpose is to facilitate the coalescence of research methodologies and activities in the areas of privacy, confidentiality, and disclosure limitation. It is dedicated to prompt review and publication of manuscripts.

JPC seeks to publish a wide range of research and review papers on the interrelated topics of confidentiality, disclosure limitation, and privacy, not only from academia, but also from government (especially, official statistics agencies) and industry. JPC also plans to serve as a forum for exchanges of views, discussion, and news. Disciplines represented on the editorial board include statistics, computer science, operations research, law and the biological, medical, and social sciences.

JPC is sponsored by CyLab at Carnegie Mellon University and supported in part by the CMU Department of Statistics. Papers should be submitted directly via the JPC webpage:

<http://jpc.cylab.cmu.edu>

The webpage also contains downloadable Latex macros along with general stylistic recommendations as well as other information. Submissions will be accepted beginning September 22, 2006 and the first issue of JPC is expected in early 2007.

MANAGEMENT OPENING - STATISTICS OF INCOME DIVISION, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The Statistics of Income Division (SOI), Internal Revenue Service, is seeking applications for the Chief of the Statistical Data Section, Special Studies Branch. SOI is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating tax return data. The Statistical Data Section is responsible for data dissemination and communication for SOI. The section produces the SOI Bulletin and other publications, and fields questions about and requests for SOI products. The position of Chief, Statistical Data Section, will be open from September 25 through October 14, 2006, and will be posted at www.usajobs.opm.gov. For a detailed position description and other information, please contact Denise Herbert, at Denise.R.Herbert@irs.gov.

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## **VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - STATISTICIAN**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

**Issue Date:** September 15, 2006

**Closing Date:** October 13, 2006

**Announcement Number:** OMB-06-64-VM

**Title, Series & Grade:** Statistician, GS-1530 - 14/15 (\$91,407 - \$139,774)

**Vacancy Location:** Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503

### **FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: GS-15**

**MORE THAN ONE POSITION MAY BE FILLED THROUGH THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.**

**AREA OF CONSIDERATION:** Status or Reinstatement Eligibles Only. (Veterans who are preference eligibles or who have been separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions after 3 years of continuous active service may apply).

**\*\*NOTICE:** Please note the Selective Placement and Quality Ranking Factors listed in this vacancy announcement. Failure to address these factors will result in you not receiving consideration for this vacancy.

**PLEASE NOTE:** To ensure safe and timely receipt of your application, we encourage applicants to submit an electronic application to [EOPJOBS@OA.EOP.GOV](mailto:EOPJOBS@OA.EOP.GOV) or fax it to (202)395-1194/1262. We cannot guarantee that applications mailed will be received by the closing date of this announcement.

**DUTIES:** The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Statistical and Science Policy Branch, is seeking applicants qualified to provide policy and technical oversight and evaluation of statistical programs carried out by agencies of the Federal Government.

The Statistical and Science Policy Branch promotes the quality, integrity, and efficiency of Federal Government statistical programs and evaluates the scientific underpinnings of regulatory impact analyses, risk assessments, and health and safety guidance. Statistical and Science Policy staff strive to improve the relevance, accuracy, and transparency of Federal information while maintaining the objectivity of Federal information products, respecting pledges of confidentiality, and minimizing both reporting burden on the public and the statistical system's use of Federal resources. Authorities derive from the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, and the 2001 Information Quality Law. Policies are expressed in a series of Statistical Policy Directives and related guidance documents.

The branches analysts foster the quality, objectivity, utility, and efficiency of Federal statistics; evaluate the scientific underpinnings of regulatory impact analyses, risk assessments, and health and safety guidance; and oversee information dissemination activities to ensure compliance with government-wide and agency information quality standards through six core activities: long-

range planning, policy and standard setting, statistical program evaluation and review, interagency and international coordination, scientific review, and information quality oversight.

Statistical policy staff collaborate with Resource Management Offices (RMOs) within OMB to ensure that budget proposals reflect priorities for the statistical system, provide technical advice to OIRA management and staff with respect to proposed regulations and information collections, and serve as expert advisors on matters of statistical methodology and data quality as requested by other OMB and Executive Office of the President officials.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must have a minimum of one year of specialized experience at a level of difficulty and responsibility comparable to the next lower grade in the Federal service. Specialized experience is experience directly related to the work of the position to be filled, which has equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position. **NOTE: This announcement contains Selective Placement Factors that are considered a basic requirement of the position. Applicants who do not meet these factors WILL NOT receive further consideration.**

**NOTE: EMPLOYEES MUST MEET ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO DATE OF APPOINTMENT.**

**SELECTIVE PLACEMENT FACTORS:** Candidates should prepare, using specific examples, a brief description of their qualifications as they relate to each of the selective factors listed below. Failure to address these factors WILL result in a rating of INELIGIBLE. Candidates who do not meet these factors are ineligible for this position.

1. Knowledge and understanding of statistical theory and techniques in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of quantitative information.
2. Extensive experience with all aspects of current Federal data collection, analysis, and dissemination programs and authoritative knowledge of techniques used to produce complex Federal statistics.

**QUALITY RANKING FACTORS:** Candidates must prepare, using specific examples, a brief description of their qualifications as they relate to each of the quality ranking factors listed below. Each candidate who meets the minimum qualifications and the Selective Factors listed above, will be rated and ranked based on their responses to the Quality Ranking Factors listed below. Failure to address these factors WILL result in a rating of INELIGIBLE.

1. Ability to analyze complex public policy matters, identify major issues and alternative solutions, and to recommend and implement practicable and workable solutions.
2. Ability to work in a high intensity workplace, and to present arguments and conclusions concisely and convincingly both orally and in writing.
3. Skill in establishing and maintaining excellent working relationships, and in carrying out negotiations on controversial issues, with senior executives in a broad array of Federal agencies.

Demonstrated leadership skills, and the ability to carry out responsibilities with only the most general supervision.

**BASIS OF RATING:** No written test is required. Applicants will be rated based on an evaluation of their experience/education as described in the application **AND** on their responses to the Selective Placement and Quality Ranking Factors listed above. **APPLICANTS SHOULD ADDRESS EACH SELECTIVE PLACEMENT FACTOR AND EACH QUALITY RANKING FACTOR SEPARATELY ON PLAIN PAPER.**

**STATUS APPLICANTS:** Current Federal employees serving under permanent appointments in the competitive service, or former Federal employees with reinstatement eligibility, will be considered under the component's Merit Promotion procedures. Those status applicants who want to receive consideration under the competitive delegated authority procedures of this announcement must submit two applications. Mark one application "Merit Promotion" and the other "Delegated Examining."

**NOTE:** Applicants who do not indicate their lowest acceptable grade/salary will be considered only at the highest grade for which they qualify. For example, if you qualify at the GS-11 level, and you have not indicated that you would accept a lower grade, you will be only considered at the GS-11 level.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

**ALL APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- OF 612, Optional Application for Federal Employment; -OR- Resume or other written format that includes the information identified in OF-510, Applying for
- a Federal Job;

**OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- If you are a current or former Federal Employee please provide your latest SF-50 "Notification of Personnel Action" and your most recent Performance Appraisal;
- On a separate sheet, a narrative summary of your experience and/or education which concisely addresses each of the Selective and Quality Ranking Factors listed above.

**IF YOU ARE CLAIMING VETERAN'S PREFERENCE:**

- You must clearly identify your claim for veteran's preference on your application
- If claiming 5 point veteran's preference, you must submit a copy of your DD 214 or other proof of entitlement;
- If claiming 10 point veteran's preference (based on service connected disability), you must submit a copy of your DD 214, and SF 15, and a copy of your Department of Veterans Affairs letter dated within the last 12 months (or other required proof).
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**OTHER INFORMATION:**

- Applicants will be notified of receipt of application and again at the point of selection/non-selection by the servicing personnel office.
- Failure to submit all required documents and information requested by the closing date of this announcement may result in your not receiving full consideration. Applicant's qualifications will be evaluated solely on the information submitted in their applications.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

- **FAVORABLE SECURITY SCREENING:** This position requires the selectee to be at least 18 years old and be able to obtain and maintain an Executive Office of the President (EOP) favorable security determination as a prerequisite to employment. EOP's offer of employment is conditional until the selectee passes a drug screen, pre-employment security interviews, appropriate credit checks, a criminal background record and identification check, and the EOP exercises its discretion to grant the selectee a favorable security determination. Any employment offer EOP management extends prior to a favorable security determination is merely tentative, and the EOP expressly reserves the right to rescind the tentative employment offer at any time before the selectee's start date.
- The applicant tentatively selected for this position will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. After appointment, the employee will be included in the component's random drug testing program.

- As a condition of employment, candidates appointed, competitively promoted or reassigned are required to enroll and participate in Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer.
- Male applicants born after December 31, 1959 must certify at the time of appointment that they have registered with the Selective Service System, or are exempt from having to do so under Selective Service Law.
- Under Executive Order 11935, only United States citizens and nationals residents of American Samoa and Swains Island) may compete for civil service jobs.

**WHERE TO APPLY:**    **Completed form(s) must faxed to:**  
**Executive Office of the President**  
**Office of Administration**  
**Human Resources Management Division**  
**(202) 395-1194/1262**

- Applications will also be accepted electronically. Please submit your application to EOPJOBS@OA.EOP.GOV.
  - Applications must be received by the closing date.
  - Applicants submitting applications in postage-paid Government envelopes are reminded of the legal prohibition against the use of such envelopes or other Government property for other than officially approved activities. These prohibitions are contained in 18 U.S.C.1719.
  - Applications will not be returned.
  - You must include the announcement number on your application.
  - The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, membership in an employee organization, or other non-merit factors.
  - Users of Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD) may call (202) 395-1160.
- Federal agencies, must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the hiring component directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

### **SPECIAL NOTE**

Displaced employees requesting special selection priority consideration under the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP). If you are a displaced Federal employee, you may be entitled to receive priority consideration under the ICTAP. To receive consideration you must:

1. Be a displaced Federal employee. The following categories of candidates below are considered displaced employees. You must submit a copy of the appropriate documentation such as RIF separation notice, letter from OPM, or a Certificate of Separation from your agency documenting your priority consideration status.
2. Former Military Reserve or National Guard Technicians who are receiving a special Office of Personnel Management (OPM) disability retirement under section 8337 (h), or 8456 of title 5 United States Code;

OR

1. Current or former career or career-conditional (tenure group 1 or 2) competitive service employees who: received a specific RIF separation notice; or separate because of a compensable injury, whose compensation has been terminated, and whose former agency certifies that it is unable to place; or retired with a disability and whose disability annuity has been or is being terminated; or upon receipt of a RIF separation notice



retired on the effective date of the RIF and submits a SF-50 that indicates "Retirement in Lieu of RIF"; or under the discontinued service retirement option; or was separated because he/she declined a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area.

2. Be applying for a position at or below the grade level of the position from which you were being separated. The position must not have greater promotion potential than the position from which you are being separated.
3. Have a current performance rating of record (or last) of at least fully successful or equivalent (does not apply to candidates who are eligible due to compensable injury or disability retirement).
4. Occupy or be displaced from a position in the same local commuting area of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration.
5. File your application by the vacancy announcement closing date and meet all the application criteria. Be rated well qualified for the position. To be considered well qualified you must earn a score of 90 or above (prior to the assignment of veterans' preference points) on the rating criteria developed for this position. Applicants must address the selective and quality ranking factors in order to receive a rating.

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Government Statistics Section
Mission Statement

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.

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