PREPARING FOR SAN DIEGO: CALL FOR PAPERS ISSUED FOR PAA 2015

With an estimated population of nearly 1.4 million in 2013, it’s the second largest city in California… and the eighth largest in the United States. Its deep-water harbor makes it a major U.S. port. Its mild year-round climate and extensive beaches help make tourism a major industry. It has a long association with the U.S. Navy and is home to several naval institutions and defense contractors. Much of its architecture and culture reflect its Spanish and Mexican past. And it’s home to a pair of major sports teams—baseball’s Padres and football’s Chargers. These are just some of the many facts about the city of: San Diego.

And from April 30-May 2, 2015, the city will have one more designation—as the leading “hot spot” for demographers. For it is during that time when San Diego will host the annual Population Association of America (PAA) meetings.

With the meetings only months away, PAA has issued its call for papers. As in previous years, there is an applied demography track, as well as several other sessions of potential interest to applied demographers.

All submissions need to be made online at the 2015 Annual Meeting Program website, (http://paa2015.princeton.edu). After logging into the site, authors will be requested to (1) enter the title, author(s), and a short (150-word) abstract; and (2) upload an extended (2-4 page) abstract or completed paper (either in Adobe PDF or Microsoft Word format). Authors may have their paper/abstract considered by two organizers, but they must indicate their first and second choices on the submission form. They also must indicate whether or not they would like their paper to be considered for a poster session. No participant may appear on the PAA program more than twice.

The deadline for submitting papers/abstracts is 11:59 PM (Pacific Time) on September 26, 2014.

(Continued on next page)
The following sessions are of special interest to applied demographers:

**Applied Demography Sessions (Topic 11)**

*Session 1101 – “Innovations in Applied Demography”* (Organizer: Stephen J. Tordella, Decision Demographics, stordella@decision-demographics.com).

*Session 1102 – “Immigration and Population Change: Implications for Business and Government”* (Organizer: Dowell Myers, University of Southern California, dowell@usc.edu).

*Session 1103 – “Baby Boomers and Millennials after the Great Recession”* (Organizer: Jason Devine, U.S. Census Bureau, jason.e.devine@census.gov).

**Other Sessions of Potential Interest**

*Session 1001 (under Topic 10, Data and Methods) – “Methods of Spatial Analysis”* (Organizer: Matt Ruther, University of Colorado, Boulder, matther.ruther@colorado.edu).

*Session 1005 (under Topic 10, Data and Methods) – “Big Data for Population Research”* (Organizer: Emilio Zagheni, Queens College, City University of New York [CUNY], emilio.zagheni@qc.cuny.edu).

*Session 1202 (under Topic 12, Other Topics) – “Spatial Demography”* (Organizer: Trent Alexander, U.S. Census Bureau, ellism@u.washington.edu).

**Other Submissions (Topic 13)**

*Session 1301 – Other Topics – please submit only if no other session is appropriate* (Organizer: Steven Ruggles, University of Minnesota, ruggles@umn.edu).

*Session 1302 – Poster Sessions* (Organizer: Lynne M. Casper, University of Southern California, lcasper@usc.edu). Poster sessions provide an important avenue for applied demographers—as well as graduate students interested in applied demography—to present their work. Some demographers, in fact, might find posters more conducive than papers. The Program Committee does request that potential presenters use this session for submissions they wish to have considered only as a poster.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** There might be other sessions of interest to many applied demographers. A complete list, along with more details about the submission process, is available at the 2015 Annual Program website (http://paa2015.princeton.edu/).
“GET ME MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE”: 2014 SOUTHERN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS SET

“Long distance information, get me Memphis, Tennessee…”

That opening line from rock-and-roll pioneer Chuck Berry’s 1959 composition “Memphis, Tennessee” (which under the shortened title “Memphis” went on to become top-five pop hits for both guitarist Lonnie Mack in 1963 and singer Johnny Rivers in 1964), may not seem a very appropriate way to begin an article about the upcoming Southern Demographic Association (SDA) meeting. Unless, that is, the city that’s also famous for Elvis, Graceland, Beale Street, Stax Records, and barbecue was also hosting the event.

Which is indeed the case: On October 15-17, Memphis will be the locale of the SDA’s 2014 Annual Meeting. The SDA is a national scientific and educational organization of professionals and students with interests in demography and population studies. Topics of interest cover the world, as well as any region, country, or subnational area.

Registration for the meetings include: (1) attendance and participation at all sessions; (2) one luncheon event; (3) a no-host reception and group dinner; and (4) SDA membership for 2015, including Volume 34 of the SDA’s professional journal Population Research and Policy Review. Registration and membership costs are on the following fee schedule:

- **Early (through September 18):** US$205; US$105 for full-time students.
- **Standard (September 19-October 14):** US$230; US$120 for full-time students.
- **On-site (October 15 and later):** US$250; US$135 for full-time students.

Participants can register for the meetings (or join SDA for 2015 if they are unable to attend) by visiting the SDA meeting registration page at [http://sda-demography.org/join/JoinSDA.php](http://sda-demography.org/join/JoinSDA.php). Members register for the meeting via a web form, and they will have the option of paying by credit card via the online service PayPal (which involves an additional US$2.50 handling fee), or mailing the SDA a check. (Members choosing the “web/credit card” option will be taken to PayPal’s website to complete the payment.) The SDA requests that participants use the web payment option only if they intend to use their credit card to make an immediate payment. SDA urges that persons interested in attending the meetings please pre-register.

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** The Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis is the official hotel for this year’s conference. Participants can make their reservations by either (1) booking their rooms online by going to the 2014 SDA meeting web page ([http://sda-demography.org/sda_2014_meeting.php](http://sda-demography.org/sda_2014_meeting.php)) and clicking on the “Hotel Registration” link, or (2) calling the hotel directly at 901-529-4000. The room rates per night are as US$179 (plus local taxes) for a single or double room; US$199 (plus local taxes) for a triple room; and US$219 (plus local taxes) for a quadruple room. Please note that these special SDA rates are only available until September 18, 2014. After then, the hotel’s standard rates apply. Therefore, SDA strongly recommends that participants make their reservations as early as possible.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** For further information about the meetings or the hotel, interest persons can visit the 2014 SDA meeting web page ([http://sda-demography.org/sda_2014_meeting.php](http://sda-demography.org/sda_2014_meeting.php)).
Since 1990, demographic, social, and economic changes, along with major policy developments, have combined to affect the lives of lower-income children in both positive and negative ways. This is the conclusion of the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation, according to newly released data in the 25th edition of its annual KIDS COUNT Data Book.

The good news in the 2014 report, released July 22, is that there has been steady improvement in the numbers of children attending preschool, as well as a decline in the number of schoolchildren not proficient in reading and math. There also is a positive trend in parental education: A smaller percentage of children live in families in which no parent has a high school diploma—15 percent in 2012, down from 22 percent in 1990. In addition, the teen birth rate is at a historic low, and the death rate for children and teens has fallen as a result of medical advances and the increased usage of seat belts, car seats, and bike helmets.

Worrisome trends from the Data Book include a rise in the official child poverty rate as defined by the federal government. Although the rate dropped from 18 percent to 16 percent from 1990 to 2000, it had reached 22 percent by 2010 and has remained at roughly that level ever since. In 2012, nearly 16.4 million kids were living in poverty. Meanwhile, the percentage of children living in single-parent families has risen significantly: In 1990, 25 percent of children lived in a single-parent household; the figure had risen to 35 percent by 2012. The rate of children growing up in poor communities has also increased since 1990, with 13 percent of children currently living in a neighborhood where the poverty rate is 30 percent or more.

“With advances in neuroscience, as well as solid research on what works, we now know more than ever before about how to give children a good start and help them meet major developmental milestones throughout childhood,” said Patrick McCarthy, the Foundation’s president and CEO. “On several fronts, we’ve seen the difference that smart policies, effective programs and high quality practice can make in improving child well-being and long term outcomes. We should all be encouraged by the improvements in many well-being indicators in the health, education and safety areas.”

“But we must do much more,” McCarthy continued. “All of us, in every sector—business, government, nonprofits, faith-based groups, families—need to continue to work together to ensure that all children have the chance to succeed. We should strengthen our commitment and redouble our efforts until every child in America develops to full potential. We simply cannot afford to endanger the futures of the millions of low-income children who don’t have the chance to experience high-quality early childhood programs and the thriving neighborhoods that higher-income families take for granted.”

To examine the more recent trends between 2005 and 2012, the new Data Book uses 16 indicators across four areas: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community.

- **Children continue to progress in the areas of education and health.** All four education indicators covering milestones such as preschool attendance and high school graduation showed steady improvements. Child health also improved across all four indicators, and more children have access to health insurance coverage than before the recession. There were also drops in child and teen mortality and teen substance abuse. The percent of low-birthweight babies declined slightly.

- **Economic progress still lags, even after the end of the recession.** Three of the four economic well-being indicators were worse than the mid-decade years, which is not surprising given the severity of the economic crisis over the past six years. However, the majority of the indicators in this area improved slightly at the national level since the 2013 Data Book, indicating modest but hopeful signs of recovery.
• **Mixed picture on Family and Community indicators.** The teen birth rate is at a historic low. There was a small drop in the percent of children living in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma. However, there was an increase in the percent of children living in single-parent families and more children living in high-poverty areas.

At the state level, Massachusetts, Vermont, Iowa, New Hampshire, and Minnesota rank highest for overall child well-being, while Arizona, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Mississippi rank lowest. Three southwestern states—Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico—are once again in the bottom five for the overall rankings. Other state highlights:

• While three New England states rank within the top five for overall well-being among the 50 states, the top five states in the area of economic well-being are in the heartland and Great Plains regions—North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

• The biggest improvements in overall rankings compared to last year’s *Data Book* are seen in Iowa, Utah, Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee. The biggest drops in overall rankings are seen in Wyoming, New Hampshire (moving from first to fourth), New Jersey, Montana, and Oklahoma.

• Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia saw improvements since 2005 in math proficiency, but a considerable gap lies between Massachusetts, with only 45 percent of its eighth-graders not proficient in the subject, and Alabama, with 80 percent.

“The Foundation’s partnership with state and national advocates for children has thrived since our first *Data Book* and has brought steady attention to how kids are faring, said Laura Speer, the Casey Foundation’s associate director for policy reform and advocacy. “The *Data Book* highlights the achievements of advocates across the country that have been critical in advancing increased investment in effective programs and services to help ensure that kids get the best possible start in life.”

The 2014 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* includes the latest data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia, and the nation. This information is available in the *KIDS COUNT Data Center*, which also contains the most recent national, state, and local data on hundreds of other measures of child well-being. The Data Center allows users to create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and to view real-time information on mobile devices.

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**COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS TO BE FOCUS OF UPCOMING PENN STATE SYMPOSIUM**

“Gender and Couple Relationships” will be the focus of Penn State’s 22nd Annual Symposium on Family Issues, to be held **October 13-14, 2014**, on the University Park campus. The Symposium is known for an interdisciplinary approach to topics of interest to family scholars as well as a focus on policies.

In her 1972 book *The Future of Marriage*, Jessie Bernard argued that two marriages exist within every relationship—his marriage and her marriage. That is, she explained, women and men have fundamentally different experiences in their shared relationship. Bernard’s review of the literature revealed that marriage had positive implications for men in domains ranging from employment and income to health and longevity. Married women, however, actually fared more poorly than both married men and single women. Bernard argued that the institution of marriage still had a future, but only if marriage relationships changed in ways that also supported women’s health and well-being.

More than 40 years after the publication of Bernard’s volume, the symposium will take stock of couple relationships—including how they have changed since then. The sessions will also consider contemporary gender issues in these relationships, including their structure—married, cohabiting, heterosexual and same sex unions—and their dynamics, such as parenting roles and their implications for men’s and women’s health and well-being. Considered throughout the symposium will be the future of marriage, including whether and how social scientists can contribute to women’s and men’s ability to flourish in the context of what has been a fundamental social institution.

The Symposium is supported annually by a grant from the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, as well as departments and centers at Penn State. For more information and to register online, visit the symposium website ([www.pop.psu.edu/event/328/22nd-annual-symposium-family-issues](http://www.pop.psu.edu/event/328/22nd-annual-symposium-family-issues)).
2014 WORLD POPULATION DATA SHEET: ONLINE WITH NEW FEATURES
Taken from PRB release


The theme this year is “Progress and Challenges,” in which users can see examples of achievements over the last several decades: The proportion of people living in poverty has declined, infant mortality has dropped, and fewer mothers are dying in childbirth. But progress has been uneven.

This year’s data sheet has detailed information on 16 population, health, and environment indicators for more than 200 countries. Three of the indicators—infant mortality, total fertility rate, and life expectancy—include data from 1970 and 2013 to show change over the period. This year’s environment indicator, carbon emissions, shows data from 1990 and 2012.

PRB has produced several products that highlight the data and analysis:

- **Video Overview:** Narrated by Jeff Jordan, PRB’s president, this short video illustrates the Data Sheet’s main findings about world population, infant and maternal health, poverty, and the environment.

- **Digital Visualization:** This feature allows users to do the following:
  - See highlights of population trends for the world and the United States.
  - View population data for 2014 and 2050 for more than 200 countries.
  - Compare trend data on infant mortality, total fertility rate, and life expectancy.
  - View and share graphics on several key topics.
  - Use a “What-If” scenario for the United States to apply the effects of race/ethnicity and immigration to project trends in child obesity, child poverty, and college degrees.
Print-friendly Data Sheet: Users can download the Data Sheet as a PDF.

Interactive Graphics: Using Tableau software, users can view selected graphics from the Data Sheet.

Searchable Database: Users can search the data in PRB’s DataFinder database, create graphics, and download data into Excel.

Population Clock: This feature allows users to look at births, deaths, infant deaths, and natural increase by year, month, week, day, hour, minute, and second.

Interactive Map: In the coming weeks, PRB will launch an interactive map for viewing global, regional, and country data.

Lesson Plan for Teachers: PRB’s lesson plan has been updated to reflect data from this year’s Data Sheet. A series of short activities provide access to the wealth of data on the world, regions, and individual countries.

Tweet Chat: On August 20, Mark Mather, associate vice president of U.S. Programs at PRB, hosted a live “tweet chat” in which users tweeted their questions about U.S. demographic, social, and economic trends. On Twitter, use the hashtag #2014WPDS.

All these features are available at www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/2014/2014-world-population-data-sheet.aspx. PRB encourages data users to bookmark the URL, and to share the information with others. PRB plans to continue publishing new products on an ongoing basis.

CENSUS BUREAU RELEASES NEW PLANNING DATABASE

The U.S. Census Bureau has just released its 2014 Planning Database (PDB), a tool that assembles a range of housing, demographic, socioeconomic, and census operational data that can be used for survey and census planning. Data in the PDB are available for both census tracts and census block groups.

The PDB uses selected data from the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey (ACS). Besides the items from the census and ACS databases, operational variables include the 2010 Census Mail Return Rate for each tract and block group. The 2014 PDB, which contains data from the 2008-2012 ACS and the 2010 Census, also includes percentage calculations based on the PDB counts. (The latter feature was added to this year’s files.)

The 2014 PDB also provides a new Low Response Score (LRS) that is similar in purpose to the Hard-to-Count scores issued after past censuses. This score identifies block groups and tracts whose characteristics predict a low census mail return rate and are highly correlated (negatively) with census and survey participation. A discussion of the LRS methodology can be found in “The U.S. Census Bureau Mail Return Rate Challenge: Crowdsourcing to Develop a Hard-to-Count Score,” a 2014 research report by Chandra Erdman and Nancy Bates.

The database can be used in many ways, including the following:

- Identifying areas where special outreach and promotion efforts could be considered.
- Linking spatial map data files to create thematic maps.
- Generating reports, cross tabulations, and simple analyses.
- Planning recruitment activities by regional Census centers and local Census offices.

Data and documentation are available (at www.census.gov/research/data/planning_database) not only for the 2014 Planning Database, but also for earlier versions from 2012 and 2000. Interested users can also contact Census.PDB.questions@census.gov for more information.
FCSM STATISTICAL POLICY SEMINAR SET FOR DECEMBER
Taken from Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) release


The FCSM Statistical Policy Seminar is a biennial opportunity for federal statistical agencies, their collaborators, and their customers to discuss important statistical policy issues; policy and other trends that affect statistical agencies; and the leadership and operating policies that assure a highly performing statistical system. Participants will include federal statisticians, economists, demographers, health policy analysts, and agency program managers—as well as other professionals in the broader statistical community who share an interest in keeping current on issues related to federal data.

The seminar sessions include the following:

- Implementing Adaptive Designs in Federal Surveys: Lessons Learned (So Far)
- The Changing Role of Statistical Agencies in Serving Their Departments
- A New Era in Transparency and Reproducibility of Research
- Exploring New Frontiers in Statistical Uses of Administrative Data
- Understanding Respondent Burden
- “Virtual Data Access” for Statistical and Research Purposes
- Hard Choices: Techniques and Tradeoffs When Surveying Hard-to-Reach Populations
- Collection of Nationally Representative Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data: Policy Needs and Implementation Challenges
- Measuring and Communicating the Value of Federal Statistical Programs
- Expanding Leadership and Substantive Skills of Statistical Agency Personnel
- Improving Question Evaluation for Federal Surveys
- Engaging the Academic Community to Help Address Challenges in Federal Agencies

Registration costs are US$175 per person by September 30, and US$195 per person starting October 1. Participants can register at https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1593812. More information on FCSM and the conference is available at the FCSM website (http://fcsm.sites.usa.gov/).

Applied Demography – Call for Submissions

APPLIED DEMOGRAPHERS...
Do you have some earth-shattering research?
Have you got a groundbreaking publication that’s just been released?
Are you looking to hire a cracker-jack research assistant?

HOW ABOUT SHARING THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES?
Short articles, book reviews, blurbs of upcoming (or recently released) publications, job announcements…they’re all welcome. We also request contact information (in case we need to reach you to clarify something).

Please send all submissions to:
Kelvin Pollard, Editor, Applied Demography, Population Reference Bureau (PRB), 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20009-5728 (phone: 202-939-5424; fax: 202-328-3937; e-mail: kelvinp@prb.org)

Remember, Applied Demography is YOUR newsletter! Help make it great!
NEW BOOK ILLUSTRATES AMERICA’S DEMOGRAPHIC PICTURE
From University of California Press


This newly published work, the first in a new series Sociology in the 21st Century, describes the changing U.S. population and uses a demographic lens to examine some of the nation’s most pressing contemporary challenges—from poverty and economic inequality to racial tensions and health disparities. Author John Iceland covers various topics, including:

- America’s historical demographic growth
- The American family in today’s society
- Gender inequality
- Economic well-being
- Immigration and diversity
- Racial and ethnic inequality
- Internal migration and residential segregation
- Health and mortality

The discussion of these topics is informed by several sources, including an examination of household survey data, and by syntheses of existing published material, both quantitative and qualitative. Iceland discusses the current issues and controversies around these themes, highlighting their role in everyday debates taking place in Congress, the media, and in American living rooms. Each chapter includes historical background, as well as a discussion of how patterns and trends in the United States compare to those in peer countries.

John Iceland is head of the department of sociology and professor of sociology and demography at Penn State University. His research focuses on poverty, immigration, and racial and ethnic residential segregation issues. His latest books are Poverty in America: A Handbook, Third Edition and Where We Live Now: Immigration and Race in the United States, both from University of California Press.

EDITOR’S NOTE: A Portrait of America: The Demographic Perspective (ISBN: 9780520278196, US$32.95 / £22.95 paperback; US$75.00 / £52.00 hardcover; also in e-book version) is available from University of California Press. Copies may be ordered through the publisher’s website at www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520278196. For a limited time, a special 30 percent discount is available for PAA members by entering code 15W0347 at checkout. Qualified faculty members may request an examination copy; please visit the website (at the above URL) and go to the “FOR PROFESSORS” section in one of the right-hand boxes.

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For Details, Contact Shelley Lapkoff
Lapkoff@demographers.com
BOSTON BROWNSINGS: HIGHLIGHTS OF PAA 2014

WELCOME BACK TO THE “CRADLE OF LIBERTY”
Also known as “The Olde Towne,” “Beantown” (a moniker rarely used by native Bostonians), “America’s Walking City,” or one of several other nicknames. (Wikipedia lists 11 in all!)

THE EXHIBIT AREA
As always, the exhibit area buzzed with activity during the meetings.

The Population Reference Bureau display, with PRB staff members Ellen Carnevale and Kelvin Pollard (top two left photos), throughout the exhibit hall (top right photo), and during the poster sessions (bottom two photos).

AT THE PAA MIXER
Held the night before the formal PAA sessions, PAA’s Annual Mixer provides a time for getting together with old friends…and possibly meeting some new ones!

APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY RECEPTION
PAA’s Committee on Applied Demography held a reception on Thursday evening, May 1. As seems to be the case every year, participants had a very good time. The committee extends a hearty thank you to the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Population Reference Bureau for co-sponsoring the event.

CAD chair Jack Baker (University of New Mexico), Linda Jacobsen (Population Reference Bureau), and Bill O’Hare (O’Hare Data and Demographic Services, Inc.) welcome the attendees.

At the reception, attendees take the opportunity to network (while enjoying some tasty hors d’oeuvres)!
APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY BREAKFAST

On Friday morning, May 2, Nancy Potok, deputy director and chief operating officer at the Census Bureau, gave the keynote address. Dr. Potok discussed the most recent developments at the Bureau, such as preparation for the then-upcoming 2014 Census Field Test (conducted in parts of Maryland and Washington, D.C.), as well as budgetary and program goals for Fiscal Year 2015. She also discussed the Bureau’s strategy for modernizing the 2020 Decennial Census, including use of the Internet, greater utilization of administrative records, and the increased automation of operations.

BOSTON: BEYOND THE SESSIONS

Unlike a rain-soaked 2004 (when Boston last hosted PAA), the weather was very cooperative this time around. This allowed the opportunity to take advantage of Boston’s reputation as “America’s Walking City.”

Views from Boston Common, Also known as “the Common” (and sometimes mistakenly called “Boston Commons”—there’s no “s” at the end), its establishment dates to 1634, making it the oldest city park in the United States.

The McKim Building, the main structure of the Boston Public Library. The Boston library system has approximately 24 million holdings across all formats (print, A/V, etc.). Among U.S. libraries, only the Library of Congress has a larger collection.

Steps leading up to Beacon Hill, one of Boston’s most historic neighborhoods.

One year after the horror of the Boston Marathon bombings the spirit of a great American city remains unbroken (as the sign above and the T-shirt below indicate).

Adjacent to Boston Common, Boston Public Garden was established in 1837. Just as the former is the nation’s oldest city park, the latter was its first public botanical garden. At left (flanked by Boston’s financial district) is a statue of George Washington.

And with the State House in the background, Kelvin Pollard (Population Reference Bureau) takes a “selfie.” (Who says we demographers don’t follow current trends?)

THAT’S ALL, FOLKS!

Hope to see you in San Diego in 2015!

All photos courtesy of Kelvin Pollard, Population Reference Bureau.
EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Readers are encouraged to suggest topics and to respond to articles in *Applied Demography* with letters to the editor. Please address all correspondence to:

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*Applied Demography* is published by the Committee on Applied Demography.