

THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM— RECOGNIZING ITS CONTRIBUTIONS; MOVING IT FORWARD

**Joint Symposium of the Committee on National Statistics and the
American Academy of Political and Social Science**

Co-sponsored by:

**American Association of Public Opinion Research, American Statistical Association,
Association of Population Centers, Association of Public Data Users,
Consortium of Social Science Associations,
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics,
Population Association of America, SAGE Publications**

**The National Academies
NAS Building – Auditorium and Great Hall – 2100 C St NW
Washington, DC**

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009

“If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it.”
--Abraham Lincoln

As the new administration takes office, it is critically important that attention is paid to the Federal Statistical System and its role as a vital part of the nation’s decision making and scientific infrastructure. This conference will focus on how dependent governing is on the products of the Federal Statistical System, from the apportionment/redistricting process to health care and immigration reform and economic regulation. It will also address visions for the future to keep the Federal Statistical System—a key national treasure—best positioned to serve the policy making, planning, and research needs of the 21st century.

AGENDA

8:00am ***Registration—C Street Lobby***

8:30 **Welcome—Auditorium [*continental breakfast will be available*]**
William Eddy, *Chair, Committee on National Statistics, The National Academies, and
John C. Warner Professor of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University*
Heidi Hartmann, *Chair, Board of the American Academy of Political and Social
Science, and President, Institute for Women’s Policy Research*

8:45 **Session I – The Nation’s Statistical System: Why It Matters**
Moderator: Kenneth Prewitt, *Carnegie Professor of Public Affairs and Vice President
for Global Centers, Columbia University*
Speaker: Peter Orszag, *Director, U.S. Office of Management and Budget*

9:15

Session II – What is the Federal Statistical System?

Moderator: Katherine Wallman, *Chief Statistician, U.S. Office of Management and Budget*

1. William Eddy, *Chair, Committee on National Statistics, The National Academies, and John C. Warner Professor of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University*
[Building blocks: statistical agencies, OMB, federal-state statistical cooperatives, surveys, administrative records]
2. Margo Anderson, *Professor of History and Urban Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee* [Cornerstone: Decennial Census]
3. Dale Jorgenson, *Samuel W. Morris University Professor, Harvard University*
[Cornerstone: National Income and Product Accounts]

10:30

Coffee Break—Great Hall

10:45

Session III – Knowledge Gained from Federal Statistics

Moderator: Thomas Feucht, *National Science and Technology Committee on Sciences Subcommittee on Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, and Executive Senior Science Advisor, National Institute of Justice*

Speakers:

1. Katharine Abraham, *Professor, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland* [Labor markets and the economy]
2. Robin O'Malley, *Director for Program Development, The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment* [Environment]
3. Stephanie Coontz, *Professor of History and Family Studies, The Evergreen State College, Olympia WA* [Family]
4. Samuel Preston, *Frederick J. Warren Professor of Demography, University of Pennsylvania* [Health]
5. Douglas Massey, *Henry G. Bryant Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University* [Immigration]

12:15pm

Lunch—to continue discussions among participants of the contributions of and needed improvements to the federal statistical system—Great Hall

1:15

Session IV – Perspectives from Business and Government

Moderator: Christopher Hoenig, *Chief Executive Officer, State of the USA, Inc.*

Speakers:

1. Maurine Haver, *Chair, National Association for Business Economics Statistics Committee, and President, Haver Analytics, Inc.* [Business uses]
2. Paul Overberg, *Database Editor, USA Today* [Media uses]
3. Michael O'Grady, *Senior Fellow, National Opinion Research Center, and former Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* [Federal executive uses]
4. Nancy Kingsbury, *Managing Director, Applied Research and Methods, U.S. Government Accountability Office* [Congressional uses]
5. Joseph Salvo, *Director, Population Division, New York City Department of*

City Planning [State and local government uses]

2:45 ***Coffee Break—Great Hall***

3:00 **Session V – The Statistical System’s Future: Needs, Challenges, and Opportunities**

Moderator: Sally Morton, *President, American Statistical Association*, and
Vice President of Statistics and Epidemiology, RTI International

Speakers:

1. Janet Norwood, *former Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics*
[protecting and enhancing the statistical system]
2. Hermann Habermann, *former U.S. Chief Statistician, Director, UN Statistical Division*, and *Deputy Director, U.S. Census Bureau*
[innovation in the statistical system]

4:00 **Session VI – The Sciences’ Stake in the Statistical System**

Moderator: Kenneth Prewitt, *Columbia University*

Ralph Cicerone, *President, National Academy of Sciences*

Charles Vest, *President, National Academy of Engineering*

Harvey Fineberg, *President, Institute of Medicine*

4:20 **Session VII – Parting Thoughts on the Key Role of Federal Statistics**

Moderator: Kenneth Prewitt, *Columbia University*

Speaker: John Holdren, *Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy*

4:45 ***Reception—Great Hall***

NOTE: The American Academy of Political and Social Science will prepare a special volume of its *Annals*, edited by Kenneth Prewitt and based on papers prepared by presenters at the symposium.