

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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This Week . . .

- Advisory Group Offers Strong Support of Sexual Behavior Survey *SB*
- NRC AIDS Report Discussed at Congressional Briefing *BD*
- IOM Releases Report on Childhood Mental Health Research *SB*
- Executive Director Announced for New COSSA Affiliate *BD*
- Census Bureau Seeks Papers for 1990 Research Conference *BD*
- Peace Institute Announces 1989-90 Fellows *BD*
- Bureau of Justice Statistics Issues Annual Report *HS*
- Sources of Research Support: Department of Health and Human Services *BD*
- Sources of Research Support: Department of Health and Human Services *BD*

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ADVISORY GROUP OFFERS STRONG SUPPORT OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR SURVEY

At its June 5-6 meeting, the National Advisory Child Health and Human Development Council unanimously endorsed the pilot phase of the National Survey of Health and Sexual Behavior. The Council serves as the advisory body to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health.

The continuing controversy surrounding the survey spurred this unusual review (see Update, March 3, 1989, and April 14, 1989). Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan agreed to "conduct a thorough review and revision" of the survey instrument at the request of Richard Darman, director of the Office of Management and Budget. Sullivan asked James Mason, assistant secretary for health, to coordinate this effort. Mason, in turn, requested that NICHD have the survey reviewed by a group of advisors that included representation from outside the research community. NICHD selected its Advisory Council to do the job.

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The Consortium represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community.

The Council reviewed the planning process through which the survey was developed, the proposed procedures for the pilot study, and each question. After a comprehensive discussion during an open session of the meeting, the group was unequivocal in its support for the survey, stressing its "urgency and absolute necessity."<<

NRC AIDS REPORT DISCUSSED AT CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

The National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences held a briefing June 2 on Capitol Hill to discuss its report, AIDS: Sexual Behavior and Intravenous Drug Abuse. Released earlier this year, the report ties AIDS research to social and behavioral science in general, and offers a wide range of recommendations to improve the federal response to the epidemic (see Update, February 17, 1989). COSSA echoed several of the report's recommendations when it presented testimony in support of AIDS research before a House appropriations subcommittee last month (see Update, May 12, 1989).

The report was compiled by NRC's Committee on AIDS Research and the Behavioral, Social, and Statistical Sciences. Stanford University's Lincoln Moses, who chaired the Committee, and NRC's Charles Turner, who served as study director, joined three other Committee members in summarizing the report's findings and recommendations and fielding questions at the June 2 briefing. The other Committee members present were: Marshall Becker of the University of Michigan's School of Public Health; Don Des Jarlais of Rockefeller University and the New York State Division of Substance Abuse Services; and Jane Menken of the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Sociology. The event attracted several dozen people, most of them congressional staffers.

While modifying "high-risk" sexual and drug-use behaviors is the key to stemming the spread of AIDS, one briefing participant asked how to "modify" the behaviors of lawmakers who have ignored the recommendations of such high-ranking groups as the Presidential Commission on the HIV Epidemic. It is hoped that events like this briefing hold part of the answer.<<

IOM RELEASES REPORT ON CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has released a new report outlining initiatives to be undertaken primarily by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to advance research related to childhood mental health. The report, Research on Children and Adolescents with Mental, Behavioral, and Developmental Disorders, highlights recent scientific advances and outlines resources necessary to take advantage of these opportunities.

NIMH Director Lewis Judd was a prime mover in getting this study initiated and going forward at an unusually rapid pace. IOM was poised to take on the effort in July, 1988, when it

received a request from Judd; it's Board on Mental Health and Behavioral Medicine had conducted a related review in 1985.

As requested by Judd, IOM appointed a committee, chaired by James Leckman of Yale University, to examine a broad range of issues related to research on diagnosable mental illness in children: state-of-the-art knowledge; opportunities from advances in related fields; research priorities; "unique challenges" to investigators in this field; and personnel and resource needs. Much of this examination was specific to NIMH and its role as the lead "mobilizer" of research in this area.

The report was introduced with great fanfare at a June 6 dinner at the National Academy of Sciences, with several members of Congress and some key congressional staff in attendance. At the dinner, Leckman and IOM President Samuel Thier stressed that the resources now available are not commensurate with the widespread nature of the problem of diagnosable mental disorders, which afflict at least 12% -- or some 7.5 million -- children under the age of 18.

The report makes three broad recommendations for implementing a national plan, with emphasis on "capacity building" in each case:

- NIMH should provide increased support at all stages of training to address a significant shortage of scientists. The Committee believes "the single most pressing need is for NIMH to support well-trained, highly motivated scientists during the first decade of their research careers." Both stipend increases and an increased number of slots are required.
- The NIMH budget for childhood disorders should be doubled in the first year of implementation. The report suggests that individual project grants be expanded, but also puts significant emphasis on program project grants and centers. For the behavioral and social sciences, the Committee recommends a budget increase from the current \$10 million to \$17 million in the first year and to \$27 million in the fifth year. The proposed rate of growth is comparable to some other areas specified in the report, but is significantly lower than that recommended for the neurosciences.
- The Committee calls for the establishment of an Institute-wide consortium to coordinate and implement related activities both within NIMH and throughout other areas of the government.

Judd sees the IOM report as the first step toward getting an NIMH initiative on childhood mental disorders underway. The National Advisory Mental Health Council, the advisory body to

NIMH, already plans to use the report as a "core document" from which NIMH will develop a comprehensive research plan.

Only a limited number of copies of the report are available; interested parties should contact IOM's Division of Mental Health and Behavioral Medicine, 202/334-2328.<<

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED FOR NEW COSSA AFFILIATE

COSSA Board Member Alan Kraut will soon be leaving his post as the American Psychological Association's executive director for science. On August 7, he will begin serving as executive director of the American Psychological Society, which recently signed on as COSSA's newest Affiliate. The Society's decision to join the Consortium brings COSSA's list of Affiliates to 32.<<

CENSUS BUREAU SEEKS PAPERS FOR 1990 RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The U.S. Census Bureau is seeking papers on a wide range of topics for its 1990 Annual Research Conference, to be held next March in the Washington, DC, area. Contributed papers, most of which will receive formal discussion at the conference, may address methodology, empirical studies, or relevant issues.

Topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- response and non-response to business surveys and censuses;
- design and use of business registers;
- economic measurement methods and issues: housing affordability, household income, service industries, investments and planned expenditures, and capital;
- international income comparisons;
- disclosure avoidance;
- statistical methodologies for censuses and surveys;
- data collection technologies;
- behavioral research on the census undercount;
- evaluation of the 1990 U.S. Census;
- collection of sensitive behavioral data;
- geographic and cartographic data bases; and
- modeling of geographic data.

Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated. To have a paper considered for presentation, send a 500-word abstract by August 14, 1989, to David Findley, Conference Chair, Statistical Research Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

To obtain registration information or to be included on the mailing list for the event, contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Conference Coordinator, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.<<

PEACE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES 1989-90 FELLOWS

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has announced the appointment of 11 fellows in its Jennings Randolph Program for International Peace for 1989-90. Chosen through an international competition, most of the fellows will work at the Institute (in Washington, DC) on a variety of projects focusing on international peace and conflict resolution.

As defined by USIP President Samuel Lewis, the Institute's fellowship program is intended to provide recipients "a year or so away from other work to help them turn their knowledge into practical tools for future peacemakers." The Institute also made 12 Peace Scholar awards in support of students preparing promising doctoral dissertations related to international peace. Fellowship and award recipients represent such fields as diplomacy, law, political science, sociology, and history.<<

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has recently issued its annual report for FY 1988, which includes what BJS Acting Director Joseph Bessette terms "the latest statistical information on a variety of criminal justice topics."

In the report, the Bureau notes that it has developed more than two dozen major collection series and, in FY 1988, published 42 reports, data releases, and user guides. Among its 1988 publications is the second edition of the Report to the Nation on Crime and Justice, which provides data on crime and its characteristics, drug use and its relation to criminal activity, the cost of crime, the public response to crime, adjudication and sentencing, and prison populations.

The Bureau notes that in 1988 it also began processing and analyzing national-level police management and administrative data, and developing comparative international statistics on crime and justice. In cooperation with the American Statistical Association, BJS continued training of researchers in the uses of the National Crime Survey data. BJS also noted that it publishes a pamphlet on "How to Gain Access to BJS Data," and also supports state statistical programs designed to enhance state criminal justice data collections. The annual report and pamphlet are available from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20531.<<

* * * * NOTE TO READERS * * * *

The next issue of Update will be published
on Friday, June 30.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

National Institute of Mental Health

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has announced the availability of cooperative agreements to plan and conduct methodological research designed to lead to a second-phase, multi-site epidemiological and services research study of mental disorders in American children and adolescents, ages 9 to 17. The purpose of this first phase of the project is to complete development, field testing, and validation of assessment instruments and survey procedures which may be used in the full-scale survey.

The cooperative agreement mechanism is being used to support this program because it offers the opportunity for collaborative activity among the grantees and NIMH. While NIMH is not specifying or mandating the use of particular assessment instruments in this research program, NIMH staff will have substantial programmatic involvement beyond the levels regularly required for traditional program management of grants.

Application Procedure: For more information, including a copy of the Request for Applications, refer to the contact listed below.

Restrictions on Awards: Eligibility for funding under this program is limited to applications from domestic institutions (including universities, colleges, hospitals, units of state or local government, and authorized units of the federal government).

Budget: It is anticipated that up to six cooperative agreements will be funded for up to three years, at a total funding level of \$3 million in FY 1989; funding in future years is dependent upon annual appropriations.

Deadline: July 12, 1989.

Contact: Karen Bourdon
Epidemiology and Psychopathology
Research Branch
Division of Clinical Research
NIMH, Room 10C-05
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
301/443-3774 <<

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect**

The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) of the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families has announced the availability of funds for research on the causes, prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. NCCAN, which falls within the Office of Human Development Services, also seeks demonstration or service projects to prevent, identify, and treat such abuse and neglect.

NCCAN has listed the following research priority areas: family functioning of neglectful families; community-based prevention of child maltreatment; prosecution of child maltreatment cases; judicial review with regard to abused and neglected children; impact of treatment approaches for intrafamilial child sexual abuse; status of measurement development in the study of child abuse and neglect; field-initiated research for child abuse and neglect; and support of a consortium for longitudinal studies of child maltreatment.

Applicants are encouraged to respond directly to the concerns of a specific priority area, rather than stating intentions in broad, general concepts. While there is a 25% non-federal share matching requirement for demonstration and service programs, there is no such requirement for research grants.

Application Procedure: Application procedures and other information (including demonstration and service program priority areas) may be obtained from the contact listed below.

Budget: Approximately \$5.5 million is available for grants in FY 1989. To the extent that selected proposals exceed the amount available for funding in FY 1989, some proposals may be deferred for funding until the following fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds.

Funding Mechanism: The planned size and duration of individual grants and projects vary from one priority area to the next, though most research priority areas allocate up to \$150,000 per year in federal funds for up to three years.

Deadline: July 21, 1989.

Contact: Barbara Bates
National Center on Child
Abuse and Neglect
P.O. Box 1182
Washington, DC 20013
202/245-0813 <<

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The Institute of Management Sciences

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