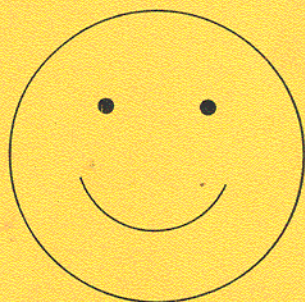


Radical Statistics 63



**Autumn &
Winter 96**

ISSN 0268 6376

The Radical Statistics Group is a group of individuals based on the distribution of this newsletter. The small amount of central administration work is done by a committee known as 'The Troika', and elected at the Annual General Meeting. The editorship of this newsletter rotates; the next editors will be Ludi Simpson and Danny Dorling who can be contacted via the addresses and telephone number given on the back cover. If other editors come forward at the AGM then papers will be passed to them. Apart from producing this newsletter, the work of the RSG is done by its sub-groups whose membership is open to all interested parties. Please consult the contact people below if you wish to get involved. Use the newsletter to advertise if you wish to start a new group

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Editorial

We (Ludi and Danny) have offered, partly in response to the last newsletter's call for an editorial team, to get together the three newsletters of 1997. In the past, it has been felt that one person doing more than one newsletter on the run was in danger of running away with the damn thing, or that gluttons for punishment do not make suitable editors. We are seeing our offer more positively, and would like to challenge any other editorial collective to propose itself for the three 1998 issues. And if our own offer for 1997 does not meet your approval, then write to the Troika before the AGM in February 1997, or better turn up in person and join the merry debate, and offer yourself(ves). We haven't got a manifesto but have talked about adding new and young writers to Radstats. Neither of us want to see it go on an academic-journal path, but we are open to the debate that is happening in the pages of Radstats about its nature.

The issues covered in radstats 63 range from electoral statistics, health, disability, poverty, sickness, unemployment, ethnicity and crime to the internet. Contact sites for the various contributors in this newsletter are given below or in the inside cover. Autumn and Winter 1996 begins with an invitation to join the debate over whether the General Household Survey should have a future, thanks to Angela Dale (Census Microdata Unit, Manchester University).

Next, Julian Wells continues the debate about the future of the newsletter and David Drew (Computing and Management, Sheffield Hallam University) provides a suggestion for 1998. With an election looming, Ron Johnston (Geography, Bristol University) and colleagues discuss electoral registration, followed by an invitation from Alison McFarlane and the Health Group to debate the priority groups proposed by the last Labour government.

Next, David Gordon and Pauline Heslop (SPS, Bristol University) provide evidence that disabled children in Britain tend to live in the very poorest households; Roy Davies (9 Teggan, Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan) considers the problems of widespread sickness and the underestimating of unemployment in the Welsh Valleys; while Joanna Southworth (Geography, Bristol University) continues the debate on racial statistics in the run up to the next census test. Christina Pantazis and David Gordon introduce new evidence that poverty raises people's fear of crime but not their chances of being victimised; Ray Thomas (Social Sciences, Open University) argues for a better way of counting unemployment and, the CCIS group describe the Internet services in Craigmillar, Edinburgh. Book reviews and graphics are supplied by Ludi Simpson and Susan Kerrison.

I am grateful to the authors for their patience with my queries and cajoling and to Hanne Page for help typesetting. This Newsletter only survives because people find the time or can be persuaded to send in material. The more that is sent in unsolicited, the easier it is to edit. So please, if you have something to say, contact us and send it in.

A second necessity for survival is readership, and the larger it is the easier it is to get writers. If you think one of the articles here would interest someone else - pass them a copy and suggest they subscribe!

Danny Dorling, December 1996

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Radical Statistics is usually produced three times per year.

All members of the Radical Statistics Group are invited to contribute to the newsletter. Articles may vary from brief notices to detailed articles. Letters and reviews are also welcome.

Articles should be sent to the next editor using the address below.

Data Protection Act

In accordance with the Data Protection Act, any member of the Radical Statistics Group is entitled to ask:

- a) For a printout of his/her personal details and name and address as kept on the Radical Statistics Group computer.
- b) That his/her personal details do not be so stored. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this right, please contact the Troika (address on inside front cover) with requests in triplicate.

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For those with access to computers the next editor will take contributions preferably on 3.5" dos discs, using Wordperfect, Microsoft Word, or ASCII text mentioning the hardware the discs were prepared on. Please also include a hard copy of the contribution. Ideally use 2 cm margins, Bookman (or alternative) 13 pt for text, 18 pt bold for subheadings, 18 pt italics for your name, and 24 pt bold for headings. If you haven't got access to a computer, paper is quite acceptable, but a lot of extra work for the editor.