

REMIS (RACE, ETHNIC MINORITIES AND IMMIGRATION STATISTICS) GROUP

Since our last report, the REMIS group have been hard at work on the production of our first publication, 'Britain's Black Minorities'. We have been cooperating extensively with The Runnymede Trust, our joint aim being to update, improve and expand their existing booklet, 'Ethnic Minorities in Society'. In addition to their providing some of the material for 'Britain's Black Minorities', Runnymede are also organising the editing, graphics, printing and publishing. Despite all this help, we have found that there is quite a lot of work to do!

'Britain's Black Minorities' will include sections on the size and distribution of the ethnic minority populations, changes in these populations (including immigration, births and deaths), and on the position of black people in employment, education, housing, health and social services, and crime. Each section will include a presentation of the situation from available statistics, as well as a discussion of government responses to the situation. For example, the response to immigration is clearly immigration legislation; the response to the difficulties of black children in schools has been special language training.

The length and scope of the publication have grown considerably from the "pamphlet of about 30 pages" to something approaching a small book of about one hundred pages. Several drafts have already been written and commented on, the final draft being due for completion in early January 1979. Publication is scheduled for early Spring.

There will be a chance to find out more at one of the general RADSTATS meetings, probably in February. Other information about the group, meetings, etc. is available from:

Heather Booth,
31 Bedford Square,
London WC 1B.

Tel. Eves. & some days
01-262 3110

Dave Drew,
Maths. & Stats. Dept.,
Sheffield City Polytechnic,
Pond Street, S1 1WB.

Tel. (day) 0742-20911, Ext. 397

Health Group

Our general meeting on September 14 was successful as an open meeting in that it attracted quite a few people at the Society for Social Medicine Meeting who were either interested or curious about the group and its activities. It was not successful, as Dave Haran who did the work of organizing it had hoped, in getting together people in the North who are on the mailing list.

The next meeting will be in London on Monday March 5 at 7pm. It will be to discuss the still untitled draft of our 'next' (ie. current) project. We have moved on in a somewhat piecewise fashion from the structure outlined in the last newsletter. The data section grew more than was anticipated and the first two sections less so. Sheila Adam has nearly finished editing the draft and it will be available as a typescript about the end of January. At the meeting we will discuss whether it is nearly fit to be published as a pamphlet, and what amendments need to be made before doing so. If you want to come to the meeting, or send comments in your absence, contact Sheila Adam (3 Horwood Close, Headington, Oxford. Tel. 0865 65255) for a copy of the draft and details of where the meeting will be held.

In the last newsletter it was mentioned that we were duplicating a further 400 copies of 'RAWP deals'. These disappeared as quickly as the first 250 and members in Oxford are now doing a further 1000 on the understanding that no more will be done after these. The reason we did not have many copies printed initially was the feeling that RAWP was no longer an issue and people had lost interest in it. The response indicates rather that academics had finished playing with but that people working in the health service who have to deal with its consequences have not lost interest. The lesson to be learned is that however obscure and boring we may think our future works may turn out to be (of course we hope they wont), we should always have them photo-printed and never do less than 1000 copies.

We have been approached by an organization called the Local Radio Workshop. They are just starting to produce current affairs programmes from a political standpoint and try to get local commercial radio stations to broadcast them. They may not be successful in this, but they are planning to distribute them on cassettes to schools, community groups etc. At the time they were particularly interested in health topics and were contacting other left groups involved in health topics, but they would be interested to hear from other people with ideas for programmes. The health group in general hasn't yet come up with idea, but Iain Chalmers and I are exploring the idea of a programme on the political issues inherent in perinatal problems. If anyone else is interested please contact me for their address.

Alison Macfarlane
40 Warwick Road
St Albans
Herts.

January 15 1979