

RADICAL STATISTICS

no. 25

October
1982

All the
usual: Race, nuclear disarmament,
health, education

PLUS! the **MERGER**

starring the IOS and the RSS

Demography ~~WERE~~ Unemployment



courtesy of SFP

The Radical Statistics Newsletter is available by subscription. Current rates are £3 per year for individuals and £5 for institutions and £1.50 for the unwaged. The Newsletter is available from the Radical Statistics Group c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1. Issues are produced three times a year, in February, May and October.

Radical Statistics 25 was edited by Ludi Simpson.

The next Newsletter (No 26) will be edited by Roy Carr-Hill. All contributions should be sent to him at Institute of Medical Sociology, Westburn Rd, Aberdeen AB9 2ZE, Tel 0224 46088 (home), 0224 681818x2428 (work). Copy date January 15th 1983.

Guidelines for Editors and Contributors

The Radical Statistics Newsletter is normally produced three times a year: February, May, October.

- Editors - normally send the typed newsletter to John Bibby (Faculty of Mathematics, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA) one month before they want the newsletter to reach readers.
- at the same time should notify the Pentagon (RSG, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG) so that they can update the mailing list with John Bibby.
 - will be provided with A3 sheets (for typing articles to be reduced) from John Bibby on request. (Note that these sheets require a wide typewriter, eg IBM)

Contributors should send typed contributions, single-spaced on A4 paper (or on A3 as above), where possible.

WARNING By H.M. Government BRITAIN TODAY CAN DAMAGE YOUR SANITY
--

CONTENTS:

Maybe an editorial:	
Unemployment statistics and unemployment	2
Steering Committee meeting on 13th November	5
Health group report... and project on health statistics of the third world	6
Labour movement epidemiology	7
Race group report	10
Race and crime statistics: Book review	11
South Africa	12
Guide to Occupational Cohort Studies	13
Nuclear disarmament group report	14
Melting down the pupils (reproduced from Science for People - thanks)	15
Strategy and tactics of the Nuclear Disarmament subgroup	17
MERGER I	20
MERGER II	21
MERGER III	23
Reading between the numbers - Education subgroup	26
Demography, migration, and jobs	29
Science on our side	31
WERG	32
Flexible rostering - the human cost	34
If you appreciated this newsletter...	36
To all standing order payers	36

Japanese Radstats

News - Demystifying Social Statistics is being translated into Japanese - well, about 70% of it. This should be the beginning of more contacts between Radical Statisticians in Britain and Japan.

Local Radio Workshop

Anybody with experience in audience research - particularly as used by IBA - in fact anybody who would like to challenge IBA local radio audience research statistics for local radio - Please contact Local Radio Workshop , (Tom, Gloria or Suzanne), 12, Praed Mews, London W2 Tel 01-402 7651. Usual hours 11am-7pm.

Radical Statistics

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Radical Statistics Steering Committee comprises the Troika, coordinators of the sub-groups, and any other member who is interested (see RSN 24 p10) . A meeting of the committee is scheduled for sat 13th Nov at 2.00 to 5.00 pm in London. If anyone is interested in attending, could they check details of time and place with me on 01 636 8636 x265 (wk) or 01 701 0442 (hm). The object of the meeting, in addition to resolving any routine administrative matters requiring discussion, is to review whether RS is functioning as it ought, and in particular to attempt to identify areas requiring a RS input in which we are not at present active. A provisional agenda, incorporating those issues raised with me so far as matters for discussion, is given below.

Provisional agenda.

Routine business: 1. AGM: Time, place, topics, speakers, agenda etc.

2. Finance: General

Financing publications. Is a new scheme required?

Possibility of getting money from grants.

3. Newsletter: New production arrangements for when JB unavail.

4. Subgroups: (If discussion required) Education, health, nuclear, race, anti social trends (there have been several anxious queries as to whether the last is still going).

4. RSS-IOS merger: Is any action required?

Rewiew of RS
activity:

5. Possible new areas of activity: Ideas so far: Women and statistics, unemployment, economic statistics (eg EEC).

Ben Armstrong

— South Africa —

As the political situation in South Africa becomes more explosive so the South African authorities have begun to step up their propaganda messages to the West. For instance, recently the British press was used to put forward the 'reasons' why we should support the South African regime:

- the importance of South Africa as a supplier of raw materials
- the position of South Africa controlling key world trade routes
- the impact on Western economies and employment of instability in the Republic

Equally these are 'reasons' for allowing the status quo in South Africa to continue, and for opposing more stringent sanctions.

Even a superficial study of these points shows how misleading they are, but the fact is that they are widely believed to be valid, and are used by groups from a surprising variety of political views as arguments against taking further actions against the South African regime. In practice many of the arguments can effectively be reversed and what is needed is the statistical evidence to back this up.

Are there any people who, like me, would wish to carry out a study of the South African issue, and to construct a statistical base from which the arguments of the South African government can be publicly challenged? If so, please phone Jim Bryant (0742-20911 ext. 391), or write to him at Sheffield City Polytechnic. (Dept. of Maths/Stats/O.R.)

TWO STATISTICAL METHODS FOR ASSESSING HEALTH HAZARDS AT WORK: A GUIDE TO
OCCUPATIONAL COHORT STUDIES

Radical Statistics Health Group

Reports of and suspicions about health risks associated with working in particular industries or with particular materials are now frequently seen and heard about by workers and members of health and safety committees at work. Many different methods of studying apparent health hazards exist; one method quite often used is the occupational cohort study, in which the number of cases of illness or death in a group (or cohort) of workers thought to be exposed to the health risk is compared with the number of cases in another unexposed group.

This pamphlet describes a simplified version of such a study. It has two objectives; first to explain the main features and limitations of such studies and so help in the interpretation of reports of such studies carried out by epidemiologists (scientists who study the patterns of disease in human populations), and second to provide a guide for a group of workers who wish to carry out such a study to investigate a potential health risk in their own work place.

Details:

Radical Statistics Health Group, 'Two statistical methods for assessing health hazards at work: a guide to occupational cohort studies.'
30 pages (A5 Pamphlet). ISBN 0 906081 05X. Published by Radical Statistics, July 1982

Price: 60p + 25p post and packing.

ORDER FORM

To: Radical Statistics Health Group, c/o BSSRS, 9 Poland Street,
London W1V 3DG.

Please send me copies of 'Two statistical methods for assessing health hazards at work'

Name: Address:

I enclose a cheque/PO
for £ being

..... copies at 60p = £.....

+ postage and packing at 25p = £.....

Please make cheques/PO payable to Radical Statistics Health Group

'Science on our side.'

The authors of a pamphlet of this name requested that rad stats consider 'sponsoring' it (see RSN 24). After circulating bits of the penultimate draft of the pamphlet to interested rad stats members, I received conflicting comments on whether we should sponsor it. Broadly people opposed doing so (5 against 2 for), either because they disagreed strongly with the message or the way it was put across, or because they thought that this kind of 'sponsorship' meant little or nothing. There was little enthusiasm for a meeting, so the matter was left to go by default.

My own feelings - despite being among those opposed to sponsoring the pamphlet, was that the exercise of commenting on a draft and considering sponsoring played a useful role in cross fertilising ideas in the radical science movement.

The pamphlet is due to come out shortly as a BSSRS-GASTS publication.

Ben Armstrong

IMPORTANT

SCIENCE for PEOPLE

Magazine of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science

9 Poland Street - London W1V 3DG - 01-437 2728

PLEASE ENSURE WIDE
CIRCULATION. POSSIBLE
TO INCLUDE IN RADSTATS

BULLETIN? PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF THE COMPIER OF THE
BULLETIN.

Dear LUDI,

For some time now it has been apparent that SFP is in a very poor financial position. In the past BSSRS has always met the deficit but now the amount involved is increasing as the costs of production rise. We believe that it is possible for the magazine to be self supporting if the sales can be increased. For ~~example~~ if every member of BSSRS and its affiliated groups either introduced one subscriber or sold two or three copies of each issue this would solve most of the problem.

We feel that the magazine has improved recently and is now attractive to would be purchasers; as to its content, -both subject matter and politics-, well we invite articles and letters from readers. SFP can be an important way for groups to make themselves known to a large number of sympathetic people and is always willing to review and ~~a~~advertise pamphlets and meetings of the working groups.

IN SUMMARY

Encourage members to sell SFP, to friends, at meetings and conferences.

Write to SFP....articles, book reviews, letters, con-science.

Inform SFP of forthcoming events, publications, campaigns.

Meet SFP, send a representative to our (usually) weekly meeting.

Don't allow SFP to simply fade out of existence, act now to ensure it's future.

SFP appears 3-4 times yearly.
A subscription costs £4, from 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG (5 issues).
Good bookshops and newsagents will stock it: it is distributed by Publications Distribution Co. op.

If you appreciated this
newsletter,

HELP!

Production and Distribution of Newsletter

still

We are looking for a person or persons willing to take on the job of duplicating and distributing the Newsletter as John Bibby, responsible for this at present, wishes to resign at the end of the year. John looks after the computerised mailing list, and reproduces and distributes the Newsletter. It would be possible to split the job into two parts in future -

- 1) Printing of Newsletter
- 2) Maintenance of computerised mailing list

If you are interested in either of these jobs, and have access to the necessary equipment, please contact us.

To members paying by Standing Order

If you pay your subscription by standing order and have not yet updated your order to take account of the new subscription rates, please could you do so. The subscription rate is now £3 a year for individuals and £5 for libraries and institutions. Please can you complete the form below and return it to 9, Poland Street, W1.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To Bank Limited (your own Bank)

Address

.....

Please pay: Co-operative Bank,
110 Leam Street,
London E.1

Sorting Code Number 080308

For the credit of Radical Statistics Group

Account Number 30182473

the sum of (Amount in figures)

.....

..... (Amount in words)

commencing (Date)

Annually until further notice, and debit my/our account accordingly.

This instruction cancels any previous order in favour of the beneficiary.

Account to be debited (Name [s])

..... (Number)

Signature(s) Date

.....