

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION

Chicago, Illinois, December 29, 1964

Over 50 members attended the meeting and heard representatives make their reports.

First, the following resolution on race-color designation submitted by the Social Statistics Section was presented.

"Race-Color" classifications are important in the statistical classification of the population and of events, such as births and deaths, that affect the composition of the population. They are essential in the development of statistical information as a basis for public health and social programs, for scientific research, and for public policy determination and administration.

We agree completely with the purpose of protecting individuals from invidious labels in documents used for personal identification and public record, and emphasize that this objective can be met without the impairment of the use of information, such as "race" or "color," for statistical purposes.

Without in any way approving of social distinctions based on race or accepting any particular notion or definition of "race," we must, as social scientists, take cognizance of the fact that groups are set apart in this way and that they have differing economic, social, and demographic conditions of great significance for them and for their future development. Without basic information concerning these groups, social scientists are gravely handicapped in gaining an understanding of the changing group structure of our society and responsible leaders are left to base intergroup policy on rumor and ignorance rather than knowledge.

We, therefore, join with other social science and statistical groups in urging that "race" and "color" data continue to be included in vital statistics, census and other public records which are used to provide data for statistical and scientific purposes. It is not the controversial or noncontroversial character of a social phenomenon, nor its approval or disapproval, but rather its social importance that determines the necessity of obtaining information about it.

Second, Edwin Goldfield reported that the distribution and sale of the Proceedings of the Social Statistics Section have approached the break even point.

Third, Eli Marks presented for approval,

amendments to the charter of this Section to read as follows:

AMENDMENTS

Under "Organization" - Revise third paragraph to read:

The officers of the Section shall consist of a Chairman, Chairman-Elect, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The term of office for the Chairman and Chairman-Elect shall be for one year, and for Vice-Chairman and Secretary two years, and for all officers until newly elected officers have been qualified. No member shall be eligible for re-election to the same office for more than two consecutive years, except that this provision does not apply to the position of Secretary. Election shall be by majority vote of members of the Section by mail ballot, subject to approval of procedures by the Board of Directors and Council of the Association. The management of the affairs of the Section between annual meetings shall be entrusted to a Section Committee composed of the officers, the Section's representatives on the Board of Directors and Council of the Association, the Program Chairman and the Editor of the Proceedings of the Social Statistics Section.

Between elections, the Chairman shall designate persons to fill any vacancies in the officers or the Section representatives on the Council and the Board of Directors of the Association, and shall designate alternates to serve as Section representatives to the Board of Directors and Council in the absence of the regularly elected representatives. The Section, or the Section Committee, may establish such subcommittees as they wish to carry out the functions of the Section.

Amendments

This Charter may be amended by the Section with the approval of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Sagi, Secretary
Social Statistics Section
American Statistical Association

1964 Officers of the Social Statistics Section

Chairman:	Leslie Kish
Chairman-Elect:	Eli S. Marks
Vice-Chairmen:	Daniel O. Price (1963-64) Jacob J. Feldman (1964-65)
Secretary:	Philip C. Sagi (1964-65)
Proceedings Editor:	Edwin D. Goldfield