British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre Newsletter no.4

A newsletter for British Columbian researchers using, or interested in using, Statistics Canada microdata. The BCIRDC is a consortium between Simon Fraser University, The University of British Columbia, The University of Victoria, and Statistics Canada.

Contents:
1) Official opening of the British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre
2) Census data available for supporting research with longitudinal survey data
3) New from Statistics Canada
4) Survey information available on our website
5) Help shape the RDC Program
6) Health Analysis and Measurement Group Newsletter
7) What is the BCIRDC?
8) Further information

1) Official Opening of the British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre

The Office of the Vice-President, Research, and the Faculty of Arts of UBC are pleased to host the official opening of the British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre on Thursday, December 13th. The opening ceremony will take place at 11:00 am at the BCIRDC. Afterwards, a light lunch will be hosted at 11:30 am.

Opening Ceremony
When: Thursday, December 13th at 11:00 am
Where: BCIRDC in the Walter Koerner Library, room 202, UBC 1958 Main Mall

Light Lunch
When: 11:30 am
Where: BC Gas Library Conference Room, Walter Koerner Library, 7th floor, UBC

If you would like to attend the official opening and have not yet confirmed your attendance, please contact Sheril Gelmon at 604-822-0233 or sgelmon@exchange.ubc.ca

2) Census aggregate data available for supporting research on longitudinal surveys

Aggregate Census data for geographic areas such as enumeration areas and census tracts are available to support research. This aggregate data is especially useful for researchers wishing to include neighbourhood characteristics into their analysis of longitudinal survey data. A wide range of variables is available at smaller geographic levels. This data can be accessed through the Data Liberation Initiative for researchers using cross-sectional public-use files or through the Research Data Centre for researchers with approved access to longitudinal microdata.

For further information please contact your local DLI librarian or the BCIRDC at bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca or 604-822-0263.
3) New from Statistics Canada

Measuring student’s skills and knowledge: the performance of Canada’s youth in reading, mathematics and science: Two major publications from the Programme for International Student Assessment that assess the achievement of 15 year-olds in Canada and 31 other countries are now available. For more information please visit: http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011204/d011204a.htm.

Low-income cut-offs and measures: low-income cut-offs (LICOs) for 2000 and low-income measures (LIMs) for 1999, before and after tax, are now available. For further information, please visit http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011123/d011123g.htm.

NLSCY study on school performance of children from immigrant families: A new study using the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth found that children of immigrant parents start school with less-developed reading, writing and mathematics skills than do their classmates with Canadian-born parents. But they overcome this disadvantage before the end of elementary school. For further information, please visit http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011114/d011114a.htm.

1999 family and individual income data released: Income data for 1999 from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics was released as part of a report on incomes of families and individuals over the 1990’s. For further information, please visit: http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011106/d011106b.htm.

Self-Sufficiency Project: Preliminary 1998 data from the third follow-up survey of welfare applicants in British Columbia are now available. For further information, please visit: http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011105/d011105b.htm.

Job vacancies: A new report based on the Workplace and Employee Survey provides information on job vacancies in Canada. For further information, please visit: http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011101/d011101b.htm.

4) Survey information available on our website

The BCIRDC website at http://data.library.ubc.ca/rdc/ provides information and links to Statistics Canada for documentation on the:

- Canadian Community Health Survey
- National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth
- National Population Health Survey
- Longitudinal Survey on Immigrants in Canada
- Survey on Labour and Income Dynamics
- Workplace and Employee Survey
- Youth in Transition Survey
- General information on Statistics Canada surveys
5) Help shape the RDC Program

Statistics Canada is inviting researchers to join us for a day at the annual meetings of the Research Data Centres Program. We are looking for researchers with experience using our microdata to participate in discussions with survey managers to help resolve problems and identify new products and services that would further facilitate research in the RDCs. For further information please contact Lee Grenon at the BCIRDC at: bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca or at: 604-822-0263.

6) Health Analysis and Measurement Group Newsletter

The Health Analysis and Measurement Group of Statistics Canada has begun publishing an electronic newsletter three times a year. *Au courant* (which means well-informed) will present short articles featuring new approaches to health analysis in Canada. The first issue (October 2001) features a short article on income and mortality. For more information on the newsletter *Au courant*, please contact Kathleen White, Editor, at kathleen.white@statcan.ca or at 613-951-1195.

7) What is the BCIRDC?

The British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre is a consortium of Simon Fraser University, The University of British Columbia, The University of Victoria, and Statistics Canada. The centre provides access to Statistics Canada’s confidential microdata for selected surveys. This service is particularly important for conducting longitudinal research and studies on specialized populations that cannot be performed with the public-use cross sectional microdata files.

Access to the RDC is provided to researchers with a project approved through a Social Sciences and Humanities-Statistics Canada application process. For more information on the BCIRDC and how to apply for access, please visit our website at: http://data.library.ubc.ca/rdc/.

8) For further information

For further information on the BCIRDC or on any other item in this newsletter, please contact Lee Grenon at:

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