This is the third newsletter from the British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre (BCIRDC).

This newsletter will be of interest to faculty and graduate students interested in accessing Statistics Canada household data, and especially the new longitudinal surveys.

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Research underway at the Research Data Centre

Several research teams have begun work at the British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre. These teams are using data from the National Longitudinal Survey on Children and Youth and the National Population Health Survey. Research projects using other data sets will be starting soon at the BCIRDC.

Orientation sessions for researchers preparing to use the centre are underway, and inquiries from researchers interested in finding out more about the centre are always welcome. To contact the BCIRDC please call 604-822-0263 or send an email to bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca. Further information is also available at our website: http://data.library.ubc.ca/rdc/.

Second Interuniversity Research Data Seminar is on the Canadian Community Health Survey on Wednesday, November 14th

If you are interested in studying health and health care issues, you will want to attend the second Interuniversity Research Data Seminar. Lorna Bailie from Statistics Canada’s Health Statistics Division will be here to discuss the new Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). The CCHS is the new annual survey on the health of Canadians. The first release of data is scheduled for next spring. The presentation will give an overview of this rich source of information on health and health care based on a very large sample of 120,000 respondents that facilitates analysis of special populations and health regions.
The presentation will cover what information is collected by the CCHS, the research that will be possible using CCHS, and how to access this rich data source starting next spring.

**Interuniversity Research Data Seminar on the Canadian Community Health Survey**

**When:** Wednesday, November 14th from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
**Where:** Walter Koerner Library, room 216, University of British Columbia  

If you plan to attend this seminar, please contact Lee Grenon at bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca or 604-822-0263.

For further information please contact the BCIRDC. Stay tuned for future IRD Seminars. Suggestions for seminars are always welcome. We are looking for researchers using Statistics Canada data or techniques for analyzing complex survey data to be presenters with the IRD Seminar series. Presenting at an IRD seminar is a great way to network and problem solve with other researchers using Statistics Canada data from a wide range of disciplines.

The Interuniversity Research Data Seminar series is sponsored by the BCIRDC and the UBC Data Services.

**Would you like to have a presentation on the BCIRDC?**

We are looking for other venues to introduce researchers to the British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre. To schedule a presentation on the RDC at your department or as part of a seminar series, please contact Lee Grenon at 604-822-0263 or by email at bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca.

**Official opening of the BCIRDC and national launch of the RDC program**

The official opening for the BC Interuniversity Research Data Centre will be on Thursday, December 13th. At 11:00am there will be an official opening ceremony followed by a reception. Further details will be available soon.

The national launch of the Research Data Centres program is scheduled for the end of November in Montreal. Further information will be available soon.

**New from Statistics Canada**

The article *After the layoff* reports that three-quarters of those who were laid off from a full-time job from 1993 to 1997 found work within a year. However, almost one-half took a pay cut and, for some, the success was short lived. For more information visit: [http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011025/d011025a.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011025/d011025a.htm).

The report *The effects of interprovincial mobility on individuals’ earnings* found that people who move from one province to another stand a good chance of earning more
money, depending on their age and where they move from. For more information visit: http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011025/d011025f.htm.

New data from the 2000 Household Internet Use Survey show that Canadians more than doubled their purchases of goods and services on-line from home in 2000. For more information visit: http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011023/d011023b.htm.

The Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics public-use cross-sectional microdata files for 1996 and 1997 are now available. For more information visit: http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011012/d011012e.htm.

Data from the principal’s questionnaire of the third cycle of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, conducted in 1999, are now available. For more information on this data visit: http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/011002/d011002d.htm. To find out how to access this data, please contact your university Data Liberation Initiative contact person. At UBC the to visit is: http://data.library.ubc.ca/datalib/survey/statscan/slid/index.html.

Invitation for researchers to participate in the development of the RDC program

Statistics Canada wants your comments and advice on the Research Data Centres Program. We are looking for researchers who would be willing to participate at the annual meeting of the RDC Program. You are invited to meet with survey managers from Statistics Canada to discuss how to improve the Research Data Centres program. How can we improve our documentation, files, services and related products to better meet your research needs?

Statistics Canada will provide travel and accommodation for interested researchers to participate in a day of round table discussions in Ottawa on Tuesday, January 22, 2002 as part of the annual meeting of the RDC Program. Your input is important for the further development of the RDC Program. For further information please contact Lee Grenon at the BCIRDC: telephone 604-822-0263 or email bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca.

New Academic Director for the BCIRDC

Dr. Nicole Fortin of the UBC Department of Economics is the new Academic Director of the BCIRDC. Dr. Fortin has extensive experience in working with Statistics Canada data and has been actively involved with the steering committee for the centre. The hard work and commitment from Dr. Craig Riddell, the former Academic Director, who lead the establishment of the centre is appreciated greatly by the researchers now using the centre.

The network of RDCs is growing!

The Toronto Region—Statistics Canada Research Data Centre at the University of Toronto and the Southwestern Ontario Research Data Centre at the University of Waterloo will
soon be opening their doors to researchers. Research Data Centres are also planned to
open at Dalhousie University and the University of New Brunswick.

The first RDC to open at McMaster University is approaching its first anniversary! Over
the past year RDCs have also opened at the University of Alberta, the University of
Calgary and the University of Montreal. For links to the RDC websites, please visit:
http://data.library.ubc.ca/rdc/.

What is a Research Data Centre?

For several years, researchers have had access to Statistics Canada’s public use microdata
files (PUMF) through the Data Liberation Initiative at each participating university. The
PUMFs are cross sectional data sets that have been modified by suppressing and
combining more sensitive information to maintain the confidentiality of all respondents.
Since, the new longitudinal survey data of Statistics Canada are not available through
public use files, the RDCs have been established to ensure that the research potential of
these new data sets are realized. The new longitudinal surveys are a rich source of
information for analyzing many different issues such as those related to children, youth,
the economy, health and health care. For example, the new data could be used for
examining why families move into or out of low-income living situations; significant
aspects of the home and school environment that contribute to child development; and the
impact that factors like stress and physical activity may have on health.

The university-based centres are secure physical locations at which quantitative social
science research is conducted. Each centre operates as an extension of Statistics Canada
offices. Data files used by researchers at the centre have been stripped of all identifying
information such as names, addresses and telephone numbers. Each centre is subject to
the same security provisions as all Statistics Canada offices. Researchers conduct their
work under the terms of the Statistics Act. This means that researchers access the data
within the centre, that computers containing data are not linked to external networks, that
each researcher takes an oath to protect the confidentiality of respondents, and that an
empirical report will be produced for Statistics Canada at the completion of the project.

How to apply for access to the BCIRDC

Researchers interested in using the British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data
Centre or any of the other Research Data Centres should visit the SSHRC web site at:
http://www.sshrc.ca/rdc/english/overview.html. The application includes a research
project proposal that is peer reviewed on the basis of academic merit and need for
access to the confidential microdata. Researchers who propose a project that can be
accomplished using a public use microdata file will be asked to contact the Data
Liberation Initiative staff at their university. Since the application process can take up to
eight weeks, researchers should submit their applications well before planning to begin
accessing the centre.
What happens after approval is given for access to the RDC?

SSHRC will notify each researcher when the application for access has been approved. The RDC staff person will provide an orientation session to familiarize the researcher with the facility and the requirements for doing research at the RDC.

Researchers will have access to the RDC during normal business hours. For the duration of the approved project, each researcher is a ‘deemed employee’ of Statistics Canada, and takes an Oath of Office under the Statistics Act.

At the completion of the project, the researcher is required to produce a report of the empirical findings for Statistics Canada. This report may be included in a Statistics Canada research paper series. The researcher retains full right to publish their findings in any journal or other publication.

For further information

For information on the British Columbia Interuniversity Research Data Centre please visit our website at http://data.library.ubc.ca/rdc/
or contact Lee Grenon at:
Telephone: (604) 822-0263
Email: bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca

For information on how to apply for access to the BCIRDC and additional information on the Research Data Centres Program please visit the SSHRC website at: http://www.sshrc.ca/rdc/english/overview.html.

The SSHRC website for applying to access the BCIRDC or any other RDC is at: http://www.sshrc.ca/rdc/english/applicants.html.

For information on Statistics Canada surveys please visit: http://www.statcan.ca.

The BCIRDC steering committee can be contacted through:
Dr. Nicole Fortin, Committee Chair
UBC Department of Economics
Email: nifortin@interchange.ubc.ca

How to subscribe or unsubscribe
A monthly newsletter will be circulated to keep you up to date on developments at the BCIRDC. If you wish to be included on the distribution list please send an email message to: bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca and write SUBSCRIBE on the subject line. To remove your name from the newsletter list please reply to bcirdc@interchange.ubc.ca and write UNSUBSCRIBE on the subject line. Please forward this newsletter to faculty and graduates students who may be interested in learning more about the BCIRDC.
Please send us your comments and suggestions
Your comments and suggestions for improving the BCIRDC are welcomed. Please contact Lee Grenon or Craig Riddell to let us know what you think.

Suggestions and comments on the BCIRDC newsletter are also welcome. Please contact the office at 604-822-0263 with your suggestions and comments.