

Reports Act) which are used to plan or evaluate on-going Government programs. Not only is coordination important in these last two areas but we have little practical experience to guide us.

During the past ten years a whole new area of health statistics has been planned, tested and developed, including health interview surveys of the population, health examinations, and summaries of selective health records. These new statistical series, for which many concepts and methods had to be developed, have been placed in a new organizational unit, the National Center for Health Statistics in the Public Health Service, together with the responsibility for vital records and reports. Much of the contribution of this Office to this major development came in the form of review of specific proposals for data collection and tabulation, although at one time we convened a small group of experts to evaluate the scope and effectiveness of the new surveys.

The success of the NCHS has led to the planning of other statistical centers, notably the Center for Educational Statistics, which is working on improving and coordinating educational statistics with the guidance of an "educational model" to indicate gaps and inconsistencies. This work has not progressed far enough to make much impact visible to users of educational data, but I anticipate the results will become evident in the near future. We had urged the Office of Education to undertake such basic review and improvements during most of the early part of this decade, so that better information will be available for policy guidance.

Statistics on crime and delinquency remains a difficult area, in which I cannot report much progress at this date. We are working closely with the National Crime Commission, particularly its Task Force on Crime Assessment, on developing better statistics and establishing a national crime statistics center.

If you have been following the basic population statistics produced by the Bureau of the Census, you are already aware that this area of statistics has been strengthened. More current estimates are made, on more characteristics, for smaller areas, and the program of population projections has expanded. At the present time, we are encouraging the Census Bureau to establish a co-operative program of county population estimates with the various States. Census would provide technical guidance and research and publish the results so that comparable data would be widely available, but the States would produce the actual county estimates in between Census dates, in the light of local knowledge and conditions but consistent with National and State estimates by the Census Bureau. If this program succeeds, it will be a notable step forward in our policy of developing more Federal-State statistical relationships.

Of course, the kind and quality of population and housing statistics depend to a large degree on the scope and adequacy of the decennial censuses. In preparation for the 1960 Census, the OSS undertook the specific function of coordinating Federal agency needs for Census data. The questions to be asked, and the tabulations to be made, were considered by this group and a variety of useful recommendations made and adopted. We are undertaking the same function in connection with planning for the 1970 Census.

Population statistics, including the social and economic characteristics of the population, are important as a general-purpose statistical resource. They are also needed as indicators of problems, as measures of progress, for many of the new anti-poverty, manpower development and educational assistance action programs. To coordinate these interests and start the development of longitudinal studies for Government-wide use, the OSS developed a plan for a large-scale population survey in 1968, in cooperation most particularly with the Census Bureau and the OEO, but with the advice and assistance of all interested agencies, working through the Federal Council on the 1970 Censuses. A plan for a survey of about 2.6 million households has been developed and is now before the Congress for funding.

Our future work in the demographic and social statistics area may lay more emphasis on the development of standard classifications (on occupations, for example) and on an overall framework of "social indicators" against which statistical progress can be measured and weaknesses pointed out.

Standard Statistical Classifications and Other Standards

Standard statistical classifications are a necessary means for achieving a body of coordinated and integrated statistical data. Among the most important of the classifications developed and maintained under the auspices of the Bureau of the Budget are the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC); Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA); Standard Enterprise Classification; Commodity Classification for Transportation Statistics; and Statistical Classifications of