

IV. CONTINUOUS WAGE AND BENEFIT
HISTORY SYSTEM

Continuous Wage and Benefit History (CWBH) System Status

Currently all 14 pilot States participating in the CWBH project are submitting data to the national office. The CWBH Policy Committee consisting of representatives from ICESA, SESA's and the U.S. Department of Labor, recommended, with OMB concurrence, the expansion of CWBH to achieve national representation. The first part of this expansion is likely to consist of three large States -- California, Texas and Michigan. Discussions are taking place between the Department of Labor and these States about their possible entry into CWBH. The new States will begin preparations during Fiscal Year 1982 and will submit data in late Fiscal Year 1982 or Fiscal Year 1983. Plans are now being reviewed by the Department of Labor for funding the remaining States needed for expansion in Fiscal Year 1983.

The CWBH project is currently focusing on data accuracy and usage. The States will implement a new questionnaire recommended by the Policy Committee after reviewing the findings of the questionnaire validation study completed by Mathematica Policy Research (MPR) under contract to the Department of Labor. The project has assembled a quality control staff which will work closely with the States to assist them in data accuracy. This staff is also responsible for providing information and assistance to users concerning access, use, analysis and understanding of the CWBH data base.

The CWBH Policy Committee is developing a comprehensive set of performance criteria which the 14 original States will strive to meet during Fiscal 1982 and 1983. These criteria will greatly aid in the generation of highly accurate as well as timely data by the States for national and State users.

CWBH Conference

A conference on the CWBH data bank system was held June 16-18, 1981, in Washington, D.C. Representatives of the participating States attended along with national office staff and others. A concurrent meeting of the CWBH Policy Committee was also held.

Discussions centered around the forthcoming system and questionnaire changes scheduled for implementation on January 1, 1982. Data quality control measures were stressed to all participants, with sources of assistance offered. In addition, various researchers from the States and the national office presented research papers which had utilized CWBH data in one form or another.

The CWBH Policy Committee also focused its attention on data quality. In addition, specific performance criteria were adopted to be effective January 1, 1982, which provide goals and objectives for CWBH States to meet. These criteria are designed in order to ensure that the CWBH data base is a high-quality system.

The next CWBH conference is tentatively scheduled for March 1982 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tools for Population Estimation from CWBH Extract Data

Tom Nagy of the Genasys CWBH staff is developing procedures to facilitate population estimation from CWBH extract data. His method will enable researchers to make fast, easy estimates of a population total and population mean, together with the 95 percent confidence intervals. The method is intended for use with additive variables (such as weekly benefit) with no missing data. Categorical data (such as race and sex) cannot be estimated with this procedure.

The method involves copying and editing a file which is based on a SAS routine developed by Robert St. Louis of the Arizona Department of Economic Security and Richard Burdick of Arizona State University and simplified by Tom Nagy. The user chooses variables and time periods of interest. Observed state sampling rates are provided.

In addition to the numerical results, a brief narrative form may be obtained for reporting the estimations. The narrative is also produced by copying and editing a file.

The procedures, under development using the Optimum Systems Incorporated (OSI) computer system, will be accessible via Boeing Computer Services after testing is completed.

Detailed information on these tools may be obtained from:

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State Information for CWBH Users

Sherryl Edge of the Genasys CWBH staff is designing an on-line data set, "CWBH ALERT," to aid CWBH data users. For each State, the data set will supply information on UI State law highlights, CWBH project characteristics, and CWBH data quality. The data files used are the new version of the extracts (X23NI) and Record Type I data, when available. The following types of information will be included:

UI Law Highlights

- Method of Obtaining Wages
- Qualifying Requirement
- Base Period Definition
- Potential Duration
- Minimum and Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount
- Disqualification Provisions

CWBH Characteristics

- Sampling Fraction
- Method of Questionnaire Collection
- Data Collection of Questionnaire Began
- Estimated Questionnaire Response
- Coding of Disqualification Data

CWBH Data Quality

- Sample Size
 - Quarterly and annual percentage of sample size received and indicators of bias in missing sample
- Quality of Individual Data Elements by Data Category
 - INA rates, missing codes, coding problems, etc.

A data set on each State will be provided and will be updated as new data are received and processed. Another data set showing a matrix of data quality for all States will also be designed for comparison purposes. It is expected that the data sets will be available by September 1, 1981.

Questions and comments should be directed to:

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Following are copies of the two most recent issues of the publication, CWBH Interchange, which is produced cooperatively by the South Carolina and Washington State employment security agencies in order to promote communication among the pilot States.

