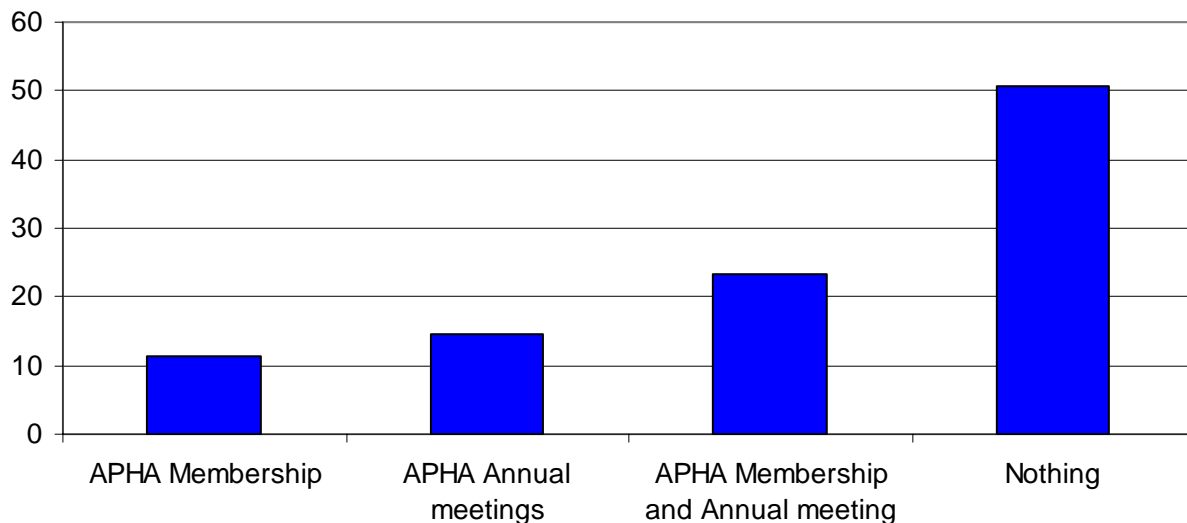


Highlights from the Statistics Section Survey by Brandy Sinco, Research Associate, University of Michigan

METHODS: An e-mail invitation to participate in the online survey was sent to all section members. Of approximately 450 members, 129 responded. The survey was written by Bill Pan. All comments about the survey should be addressed to Dr. Pan at wpan@jhsph.edu. The survey was administered in Survey Monkey. Afterwards, the data was downloaded into Excel and SAS for analysis. This report is divided into 4 sections: (1) Demographics, (2) Participation in APHA and Professional Statistics Activities, (3) Satisfaction With Statistics Section, (4) What People Want From the Statistics Section.

APHA Expenses Payed By Employer (Percent)



Approximately one half (50.8%) do not receive any financial assistance towards APHA membership from their employers; 23.4% have their membership and annual meeting attendance paid by their employers.

DEMOGRAPHICS. Survey responders had a wide age distribution: 8.6% under 30, 19.0% 30-39, 22.4% 40-49, 27.6% 50-59, and 22.4% 60 or beyond. The age distribution differed significantly by gender ($p < .01$, Pearson Chi-Square Test with categories: <40, 40-49, 50+). Among people under 50, the gender distribution is approximately even between women and men. Among those over 50, 61.4% are men and 32.6% are women.

On education, 75.86% hold a doctorate, 17.24% masters, and 6.90% bachelors; 63.0% have their highest degree in biostatistics or statistics; . Other degree areas include social sciences (35.4%), public health other than biostatistics (25.0%), mathematics (12.5%), medicine (10.4%). Our section also includes people with degrees in education, engineering, and law.

The majority work in education (61.4%) or in government (16.7%). Most have a regular membership (77.5%). Other responses included hospitals / health care (23.8%), non-profit organizations(23.8%), research/ think tanks (19.0%), self-employed(14.3%), students (9.5%), and retired (9.5%) The average years of membership is 12.4 (std dev = 13.3), median of 7, and skewed towards lower values. Years of members does not differ significantly by gender, based on the Wilcoxon 2 sample test.

PARTICIPATION IN APHA AND IN STATISTICS ACTIVITIES.

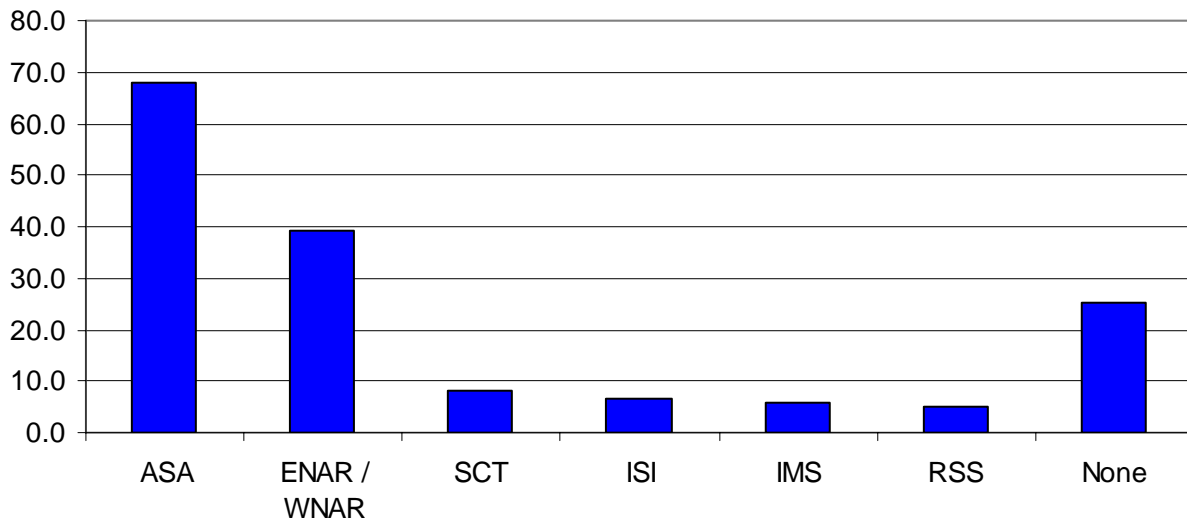
- 68% have attended statistics sessions at APHA.
- 48% have read our newsletter.
- 44% have presented a paper or poster.
- 38.4% attended section social events.
- 33.6% attended section business meeting.
- 23.2% served as elected officer.
- 19.2% have not participated in any activity.
- **The overwhelming majority (80.8%) have participated in at least one section activity.**

Most members have attended the APHA annual meeting at least once; 16.1% have never attended. Approximately half have attended the APHA annual meeting 1 – 6 times (52.4%). Two thirds attend 1 – 2 professional meetings per year. 21 percent (20.8) reported 3 – 4. less than 5% (4.8) reported more than 4, and 8.8% reported none.

The most common ways of people learning about the APHA Statistics Section were:

- School (26.8%)
- APHA Annual Meeting (23.6)
- Word of Mouth (21.3)
- APHA Journal (19.7)

Membership in Other Statistics Organizations



The most frequently reported professional statistical organization, other than APHA, to which our members belong is ASA (American Statistical Association), 68.0%. The next most commonly reported organizations are ENAR and WNAR – Eastern / Western North American Region of the International Biometric Society, 39.3%. Approximately eight percent (8.2) belong to the Society for Clinical Trials, 6.6% to International Statistics Institute, 5.7% to Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 4.9% to the Royal Statistical Society. 25.4% reported no other statistical organization.

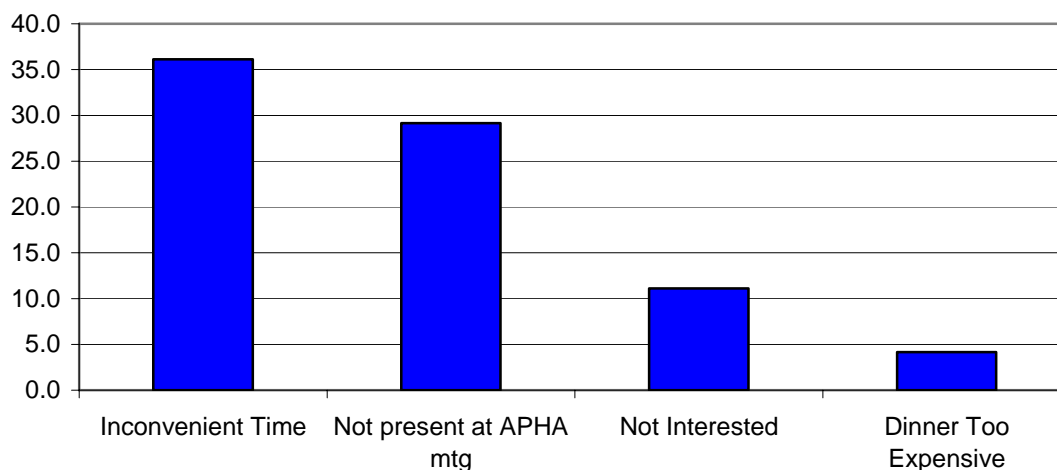
SATISFACTION WITH STATISTICS SECTION ACTIVITIES.

1 = Extremely Dissatisfied to 5 = Extremely Satisfied

Reason	Mean (s.e.)	Dissatisfied, %	Neutral, %	Satisfied, %
Statistics Section sessions at Annual meeting	3.7 (0.1)	3.8	30.8	65.4
Section Newsletter	3.6 (0.1)	4.0	36.6	59.4
Section Email notices	3.6 (0.1)	3.0	37.0	60.0
Social events at the annual meeting	3.5 (0.1)	3.2	53.2	43.6
Leadership, service opportunities	3.5 (0.1)	3.1	52.1	44.8
Award / Recognition Opportunities	3.5 (0.1)	3.1	51.0	45.9
Networking opportunities	3.5 (0.1)	3.0	44.6	52.5
Section website	3.3 (0.1)	5.2	57.3	37.5
Opportunity to contribute to Newsletter	3.3 (0.1)	4.2	64.2	31.6
Career and Employment assistance	3.2 (0.1)	5.1	65.7	29.3

- Most respondents were satisfied or neutral about all of the Statistics Section's products and services.
- The services with the highest percentages satisfied were the statistics sessions at the annual meeting, the newsletter, and e-mail notices.
- For all other items, the percent neutral was greater than or equal to the % satisfied.

Reason for Not Attending Social Events



- The most common reason for not attending the social events was that they were held at an inconvenient time, either too late at night or conflicted with other conference commitments.

Reason for Not Attending Statistics Sessions. Two primary reasons were given: (1) have never attended the annual meeting (59.4%) and (2) attend non-statistical talks (31.3%).

WHAT PEOPLE WANT FROM THE STATISTICS SECTION.

The responses to the question about which products services people wanted from the statistics section were:

- 54.1% statistics short courses at annual meeting.
- 33.9% breakfast or lunch at annual meeting
- 31.2% employment bulletin board in newsletter or on website
- 13.8% more frequent newsletter
- 12.8% more opportunities to participate in section governance
- 21.1% checked none

Regarding the website, 68.7% would like to see a listing of employment opportunities and 22.9% would like information about section leadership opportunities.

Reasons for Joining the Statistics Section.

Reason	Mean (s.e.)	Unimportant, %	Neutral, %	Important, %
Join Statisticians in promoting public health	4.1 (0.1)	2.6	9.4	88.0
Establish professional contacts	3.7 (0.1)	12.9	15.5	71.6
Personal leadership, professional development	3.6 (0.1)	14.7	18.1	67.2
Affiliate with a national organization	3.3 (0.1)	22.4	21.6	56.0
Attend Educational meetings & APHA annually	3.1 (0.1)	31.9	20.7	47.4
Influence government policies on public health	3.0 (0.1)	30.4	32.2	37.4
Qualify for continuing education credits	1.7 (0.1)	78.6	14.3	7.1

- Joining with other statistics professionals in public health rated important or extremely important by 88.0%; unimportant by < 3%.
- Qualifying for continuing education credits rated unimportant by 78.6%.
- All other options received average rating between 3 (neutral) and 4 (important).

A factor analysis with 3 factors accounted for 68% of the variance. The three factors were:

- Influence Public Health Officials (Join Statisticians in promoting public health, Establish professional contacts, Influence government policies on public health)
- Networking and Continuing Education (Establish professional contacts, Attend Educational meetings & APHA annually, Qualify for continuing education credits)
- Professional Development (Personal leadership, professional development, Affiliate with a national organization)

Respondents listed the following reasons for renewing their membership:

- 39.5% Networking opportunities
- 18.4% Low membership fee
- 7.9% Employment opportunities
- 5.3% Continuing education opportunities
- 28.9% Other

The theme of the “Other” comments was that membership promotes professional growth and responsibility, and helps one to stay informed about public health issues.