CURRENT RESEARCH

Further information on the studies described in this section should be obtained from the organizations conducting the studies at the addresses given at the beginning of each organization’s listing. Neither Survey Research nor the Survey Research Laboratory can provide this information. Study summaries are accepted by Survey Research with the understanding that additional information can be released to others.

CALIFORNIA

Survey Research Center (SRC)
University of California at Berkeley
2538 Channing Way, #5100, Berkeley, CA 94720-5100
510-642-6578; fax: 510-643-8292; info@src.berkeley.edu; http://srcweb.berkeley.edu/

Pacific Coast Water Study. For the fourth year in a row, SRC staff conducted a public health study designed to investigate possible health risks encountered by swimmers at beaches in southern California. Subjects were recruited in person from recreational swimming areas and were interviewed about their swimming habits. Telephone interviews were conducted two weeks after recruitment and inquired about incidents of gastrointestinal and respiratory illness as well as eye, ear, and skin infections. Approximately 6,000 subjects were recruited on the beaches, and follow-up interviews were conducted with those subjects. Principal Investigator: Jack Colford (Univ. of California, Berkeley), Project Director: Susan Burns, Contact Person: Robert Lee.

ILLINOIS

National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
University of Chicago
1155 East 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637
773-256-6000; fax: 773-753-7886 norcinfo@norcmail.uchicago.edu; www.norc.uchicago.edu

Survey of Consumer Finances. Beginning this summer, NORC is undertaking a re-interview of the respondents to the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF). The SCF is normally a triennial survey, sponsored by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, and it is the only fully representative source of information on the broad financial circumstances of U.S. households. The survey is a vital tool in assessing the health of America’s economy. The re-interview is a special addition to the SCF series that will be particularly useful in assessing the effects of recent economic events on households by providing current data that can be compared to data collected for the same households just before the downturn. NORC also will conduct a new SCF in 2010. Project Director: Cathy Haggerty.

Nicotine Dependence in Early Adulthood. NORC is continuing its long-running investigation of youth smoking initiation and progression to nicotine

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dependence. This is the sixth wave of a longitudinal study of youth and their parents. In addition to illuminating the natural history of smoking and nicotine dependence among adolescents, the study investigates risk and protective factors that explain why some youth become dependent on nicotine and others do not. The project is supported by two grants to Columbia—one from the American Legacy Foundation and the other from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Principal Investigator: Denise Kandel (Columbia Univ.), Project Director: David Herda.

Assessing the Chicago School Readiness Program (CSRP). The CSRP tests the impact of comprehensive teacher training and mental health consultation services on Head Start classroom processes, on young children’s self-regulation, and on the children’s later academic achievement. The current wave of the study, titled Testing CSRP’s Impact on Low-Income Children’s Outcomes in the Third Grade, will require mail and in-person data collection from both the parents and teachers. The study is funded by the Spencer Foundation. Principal Investigator: C. Cybele Raver (New York Univ.), Project Director: Michael Reynolds.

Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS). NORC will conduct the 2009 RECS on behalf of the Energy Information Administration. The RECS, which utilizes a combination of in-person interviews, measurement, and the gathering of administrative data, is the only comprehensive source of national-level data on energy-related information for U.S. households. NORC has conducted the RECS since 2005. Project Director: Krishna Winfrey.

Survey Research Laboratory
University of Illinois at Chicago
412 S. Peoria St., 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607-7069
312-996-5300; fax: 312-996-3358; 505 E. Green St., Suite 3, Champaign, IL 61820-5723
217-333-4273; fax: 217-244-4408
info@srl.uic.edu; www.srl.uic.edu

Breast Cancer Care in Chicago (BCCC): Patient Follow-ups. Beginning in February 2008, respondents to the BCCC study (described in Vol. 38, No. 2, 2007) were sent follow-up mailings: some received a short questionnaire asking about their current health and quality of life, some received a request to provide consent to view their mammogram files, and some received both. Both English- and Spanish-speaking respondents were contacted, and of the 587 women who received mailings, 262 responded. Principal Investigator: Garth Rauscher (School of Public Health, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), Project Coordinator: Jennifer Parsons.

Neighborhood Disparity Survey. This pilot project was conducted to assist the Delaware Cancer Consortium in meeting its goal of increasing the amount of health-related data available for Hispanic and other minorities via face-to-face data collection in three census tracts in Wilmington. SRL assisted with sample design and weighting. Principal Investigator: Susan Myers (Health Equity Association, LLC), Project Coordinator: Linda Owens.

Evaluation of Emissions Benefits. For this intercept survey of people who use alternative means of transportation, SRL visited two bicycle paths and two pedestrian paths to ask respondents about their frequency of use of the paths. During June 2009, 298 respondents completed the paper-and-pencil instrument. Principal Investigator: Vonu Thakuriah (Urban Transportation Center, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), Project Coordinator: Kara Pennoyer.

HIV Prevention among Tajik Workers in Moscow. For this survey of male migrant workers in Moscow, SRL reviewed the questionnaire and assisted in the cross-cultural adaptation of the questionnaire, in the development of the sample design, and in developing the pilot study. The client began face-to-face data collection in June 2009 and expects to complete approximately 400 interviews. SRL then will assist in analyzing the results. Principal Investigator: Stevan Weine (Dept. of Psychiatry, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), Project Coordinator: Linda Owens.

Food and Fitness 2008-09. For this study on school polices and practices related to addressing childhood obesity, SRL is surveying schools by mail and conducting follow-up reminder calls with nonrespondents. Data collection began in February 2009, and by the end of June, SRL had received 905 completed questionnaires. Principal Investigator: Frank Chaloupka (Institute for Health Research and Policy, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), Project Coordinator: Jennifer Parsons.

Univ. of Illinois (UIC) Graduate Student Survey. Conducted during April and May 2009, this Web survey garnered responses from almost 2,500 UIC graduate students. The study’s purpose was to measure quality of life issues for this population. Project Coordinator: Jennifer Parsons.

Urban University Survey. The questionnaire for this study, which was sent to all 39 member schools of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities in June 2009, addresses the extent of the schools’ engagement with and partnerships with cities and issues related to technology transfer, research, and innovation. SRL assisted in the design and formatting of the survey instrument, is entering completed questionnaires, and will construct a final data set. Principal Investigator: David Perry (Great Cities
Institute, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), Project Coordinator: Jennifer Parsons.

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Senior Rider Survey. For this survey of Chicago-area senior citizens who have registered for the RTA’s Seniors Ride Free program, SRL assisted in the design and formatting of the paper-and-pencil questionnaire and entered the 1,500 completes. Principal Investigator: Joseph DiJohn (Urban Transportation Center, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), Project Coordinator: Geoffrey Parker.

MICHIGAN

Survey Research Center (SRC)
Institute for Social Research
University of Michigan
P.O. Box 1248, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248
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bpennell@isr.umich.edu; www.isr.umich.edu

Moving To Opportunity (MTO). MTO, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and multiple government agencies and private foundations, is the 10-year final evaluation of a program designed to assess the impact of neighborhood location on the well-being of a low-income population. A total of 4,600 families receiving HUD assistance enrolled in MTO and were randomly assigned to receive (1) a rent voucher and assistance moving to a low poverty area, (2) a regular rent voucher with no restrictions, or (3) no additional assistance. SRC is recontacting MTO families 10–12 years after random assignment to evaluate the impact that moving to low-poverty neighborhoods has on physical and mental health, educational attainment and achievement, occupation and income, risky behavior and victimization, and social relationships. Principal Investigator: Lawrence Katz (Harvard Univ.), Survey Director: Nancy Gebler.

Displaced New Orleans Residents Survey. This NICHD-funded project is designed to study the levels, sources, and patterns of nonresponse and the displacement and return or resettlement of pre-Katrina residents in New Orleans. SRC will attempt to locate and interview members of 1,250 randomly selected housing units. Eligible respondents are those who lived at the selected address in August 2005 just before Hurricane Katrina struck. Local interviewers have been recruited to conduct housing unit observations and do on-the-ground tracking and interviewing. Data collection began in June and is expected to extend through March 2010. Principal Investigator: N. Sastry (RAND Corporation and UM-Institute for Social Research), Survey Director: Kirsten Alcser, Survey Manager: Esther Ullman.

Galveston Area Recovery Study (GBRS). GBRS is the first project funded by NIMH as part of the National Center for Disaster Mental Health Research. SRC is one member of a team led by Dartmouth Medical School that includes the U-M’s School of Public Health, Yale Univ., and the Medical Univ. of South Carolina. GBRS was launched two months after Hurricane Ike and studies the mental health impact of a disaster. Sample was address-based, eligibility was determined by permanent residence at the time of the hurricane, and the sample required a high amount of respondent location due to the level of displacement. 660 respondents were interviewed 2–4 months after the named disaster (60 minutes, primarily conducted by telephone), with a 30-minute follow-up interview 2 months after the first and another approximately one year after the first. Respondents are asked to provide a saliva sample to measure hormones and genetic links. Selected respondents also are invited to participate in two interventions: a Web-based educational intervention and an in-person counseling intervention. Co-principal Investigators: Sandro Galea (U-M School of Public Health) and Fran Norris (Dartmouth Medical School), Survey Manager: Sara Freeland.

NEVADA

Cannon Center for Survey Research
University of Nevada Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 455008, Las Vegas, NV 89154-5008
702-895-0486; fax: 702-895-4195
pam.gallion@unlv.edu; http://surveys.unlv.edu

City of Las Vegas Community Survey. The purpose of this study is to assess Las Vegas residents’ knowledge of, attitudes toward, and perceptions of city government and its services. The study will identify the perspective of individuals who are unemployed or underemployed and its expectations of the City of Las Vegas. The survey will be conducted among 1,068 residents via telephone with an RDD sample, including a cell phone frame. Director: Pam Gallion, Project Coordinator: Taylor Moseley.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Area Social Survey (LVMASS). The goal of LVMAMISS is to better understand urban sustainability in southern Nevada. LVMAMISS is the first survey to collect baseline data on sustainability attitudes, knowledge, and aspirations of Las Vegas neighborhoods and residents. LVMAMISS will use neighborhood-level sampling to capture spatial and demographic variation in resident attitudes toward urban sustainability in Las Vegas. Principal Investigator: Robert Futrell, Director: Pam Gallion, Project Coordinator: Taylor Moseley.
NEW YORK

Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research
Department of Political Science
Stony Brook University
Social and Behavioral Sciences Building, 7th Floor, Stony Brook, NY 11794-4392
631-632-1498; fax: 631-632-1538
Survey_Research@sunysb.edu; www.sunysb.edu/surveys

Educational Inequality on Long Island. The Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research conducted the Rauch Foundation’s Long Island Index 2009 survey in fall 2008. RDD telephone interviews were conducted with 813 Long Island residents, with an additional RDD oversample of 202 Black and 200 Latino residents. The survey closely examined public awareness and support for solutions to educational inequities in Long Island public schools. Principal Investigator: Leonie Huddy.

Long Island Omnibus Poll Spring 2009. In spring 2009, CSR conducted The Long Island Poll, its twice-yearly omnibus telephone survey of Long Island opinion. RDD surveys were completed with 810 Long Island residents. This poll included topics such as the current economic climate’s impact on public behavior. Principal Investigator: Leonie Huddy.

NORTH CAROLINA

Social and Statistical Sciences
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tig@rti.org; www.rti.org

Health IT Program Management, Guidance, Assessment and Planning for the AHRQ National Resource Center for Health IT. The purpose of this large IDIQ contract is to provide strategic planning and management to support AHRQ’s Health IT portfolio of research as well as technical assistance and consultative support to its grantees to help providers and organizations improve patient safety and quality of care in their communities by using Health IT. RTI Project Director: Linda Dimitropoulos.

2009 Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Data Collection Program. O*NET is a comprehensive system for collecting, organizing, describing, and disseminating information on occupational requirements and worker attributes. The O*NET database is the most comprehensive source of occupational and skill information in the U.S. and replaces the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. RTI provides sampling, data collection, data processing, and data analysis services under contract to the National Center for O*NET Development. RTI Project Director: Mike Weeks.

Cognitive Testing of the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Test Items. The U.S. Census Bureau contracted with RTI International to evaluate newly added and experimental versions of questions across eight topical areas of the ACS. The results of the cognitive interviews will be used to inform decisions about the content of a production version of the ACS to be field tested in the fall of 2010. Approximately 220 cognitive interviews were completed in Spanish and English. RTI Project Director: Marjorie Hinsdale-Shouse.

PENNSYLVANIA

Institute for Survey Research (ISR)
Temple University
1601 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19122
215-204-8355, fax: 215-204-3797
lenio@temss2.isr.temple.edu; www.temple.edu/isr

Drinking Patterns and Ethnicity: Impact on Mortality. This study is using secondary analysis of existing data to enhance understanding of drinking patterns and the epidemiology of alcohol-related problems—here, mortality. The objectives will be met by aims addressing risk and protective factors in the U.S. population and in White, Black, and Hispanic subpopulations of both genders (helping elucidate disparities in alcohol-related mortality), impact of drinking history on mortality, and methodological issues in pattern measurement and analysis, including propensity score strategies. This study uses two waves of the National Alcohol Survey (NAS) with unusually thorough measurement of drinking pattern, lifetime heavy drinking, and alcohol-related problems. It extends from 11 to 21 years the National Death Index (NDI) follow-up of the 1984 NAS (n = 5,221, response rate of 74%) adding a new 11- or 12-year follow-up of the 1995 NAS (n = 4,950, response rate = 79%). Both surveys (ages 18 and older) were conducted face-to-face by ISR, used probability sampling with large Black and Hispanic oversamples, and assessed many relevant identical items and scales. Drinking pattern measures include 12-month quantity/frequency of beer, wine, liquor, and overall drinking; most drinks/day; former drinking and largest quantity; ever 5+ weekly; age of onset, etc. Smoking, drug use, depression/demoralization, and many other risk factors are assessed. The common design permits pooling NASs, more than tripling the number of expected deaths to over 1,800 compared to the earlier R01’s 532...
deaths, yielding considerably greater power than heretofore for testing hypotheses about all-cause ischemic heart disease (IHD) and cancer mortality, with exploratory analyses on injury and liver cirrhosis mortality. Results will inform public health strategies and alcohol policy development and will help disentangle pattern effects on mortality. Principal Investigator: Thomas Greenfield (Public Health Institute).

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Literature Review and Evaluability Project. This project provides literature review, data analysis, and training services related to policy issues identified by PCCD and program evaluation services related to the performance and outcomes of PCCD programs. Recently completed work includes an evaluability assessment of the Pennsylvania Weed and Seed Program and related training on the use of standards of scientific evidence in program development, selection, and evaluation, and research methods for conducting community assessments. Principal Investigator: Heather Hammer (ISR), Co-investigator: Marsha Zibalese-Crawford (School of Social Administration/Geography and Urban Studies, Temple Univ.).

TEXAS

Center for Community Research and Development
Baylor University
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254-710-3811; fax: 254-710-3809
larry_lyon@baylor.edu; www.baylor.edu/ccrd

Heart of Texas Council of Governments Poll 2009. Over 1,000 CATI interviews were conducted for Heart of Texas Council of Governments asking a variety of transportation-related questions of Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, and Limestone County residents.

Title IX Survey. A Web-based survey of over 500 undergraduates measured and reported the estimated levels of athletic experience, ability, and inclination among Baylor students. The results were submitted to demonstrate compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

WYOMING

Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center
University of Wyoming
Dept. 3925, 1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, WY 82071
307-766-2189; fax: 307-766-2759
wysac@uwyo.edu; www.uwyo.edu/wysac/

National Park Service Comprehensive Survey of the American Public. WYSAC conducted over 4,100 telephone interviews with households from all 50 states (about 12% of which were from a cell phone sample). Data collection ran from March 2008 through February 2009. The research team currently is analyzing the data and writing a comprehensive report as well as a set of thematic reports. Principal Investigators: Patricia Taylor, Burke Grandjean, and Bistra Anatchkova.

Wyoming Healthcare Workforce Project. Nine distinct questionnaires were used to survey all healthcare facilities and providers licensed to practice in Wyoming. The mixed-mode (Web and mail) data collection period was from October 2008 to June 2009. Sponsored by the Wyoming Healthcare Commission, the project is intended to inform a “gaps” analysis of healthcare in Wyoming. Principal Investigators: Michael Dorssom, Christian Beshkov, and Bistra Anatchkova.

Wyoming Women’s Issues Survey. In May 2009, WYSAC conducted the second statewide Women’s Issues Survey in Wyoming. The first such survey, conducted in 2004, used a statewide RDD sample of landline telephones. This year’s survey added a cell phone sample. Over 800 interviews were completed, 10% of which were with women from cell-only households. Sponsored by the Wyoming Business Council, the project aims to identify changes over time. Principal Investigators: Bistra Anatchkova and Brian Harnisch.

CANADA

Institute for Social Research (ISR)
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Primary Care Access Survey. This ongoing province-wide study measures the public’s access to physicians by interviewing a random selection of Ontarians on their experiences seeking primary health care. Throughout 2009, the Institute will complete approximately 2,100 CATI interviews across Ontario in each quarter. Respondents are asked about their reasons for wanting to
contact a physician or a physician’s office, any barriers or wait times they experienced, and their overall levels of satisfaction in accessing care. The information gathered will be used to develop programs to improve the public’s access to physicians across the province. Funding is being provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. *Principal Investigator:* Sten Ardal (Information Management Consultant with the Ministry), *ISR Study Director:* David Northrup.

**A Survey of Ontario Residents Tested for H1N1 Influenza.** The Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) commissioned the Institute to conduct a study among Ontario residents who were tested for H1N1 influenza (sometimes called “swine flu”) last winter and spring. The study is designed to help the agency plan for the upcoming flu season. ISR will conduct CATI interviews with approximately 750 Ontarians who might have tested either negative and positive for H1N1. They will be asked about their health and health-related behaviors, their interaction with others, and any treatment they might have received. ISR prepared this study in rapid response to the agency’s request for timely information on this important health issue. Funding is being provided by the Government of Ontario. *Principal Investigator:* Laura Rosella (OAHPP), *ISR Study Director:* David Northrup.

**Wait Times for Primary Care Survey.** In 2008, fewer than 40% of Ontarians were able to get an appointment to see their family doctor within two days of being sick. Improving access to care could increase public confidence in the health care system, save dollars by preventing worsening health outcomes and emergency department visits, and improve overall patient health more quickly. This pilot study, conducted on behalf of the Ontario Health Quality Council (OHQC), invites family physicians to take part in an ongoing survey to monitor the time it takes for patients to get an appointment with their family doctors. The Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario College of Family Physicians have endorsed this study. During the summer of 2009, ISR is contacting approximately 600 Ontario family doctors to ask for their participation in this survey. *ISR Study Director:* Liza Mercier.

**Red Deer, Alberta.** The PRL was contracted in 2008 by the Alberta Centre for Child, Family, and Community Research to conduct a pilot project in Fort McMurray, Alberta, of two focus groups: preconception women of childbearing age and local health and social services’ providers. The purpose of this part of the study was to determine the level of community awareness of FASD, investigate effective messaging to support FASD-at-risk women, identify community and service provider needs to assist women at risk of having FASD-affected children and work towards developing a community-based strategy to meet these needs. The second phase of this project will be carried out in September-October 2009. The purpose of this phase is to determine what role pharmacists can play in the prevention of FASD in their communities. All pharmacists (n = ~120) in Fort McMurray and Red Deer will be sent a short, self-administered mail questionnaire. *Research Consultant:* Andrea Werner-Leonard, *Research Coordinator:* Tracy Kennedy.

**2009 Alberta Survey.** The telephone survey of 1,211 Albertans is the 20th annual survey administered by the PRL on behalf of academic researchers, government departments and agencies, and other organizations. The topics of the 2009 Alberta Survey were population health, financial literacy, awareness of Ministry of Alberta Seniors and Community Supports, health ethics and disabilities, neighborhood disorder and social control, children in the labor force, and impaired driving. Data collection was conducted from April 29, 2009, to June 18, 2009. Data sets, questionnaire-codebooks, and methodology reports will be archived at the Univ. of Alberta’s Data Library for academic and community use after February 28, 2010. *Research Coordinator:* Erin Stepney.

**A Longitudinal Examination of the Relationship between the Built Environment, Physical Activity, and Social Factors within Edmonton.** This survey was a six-year follow-up with the 2,493 participants of the 2002 Population Health Survey in the Capital Health Region who consented to participate in future studies. Participants were asked questions on physical activity, smoking and lifestyle. The follow-up survey was a collaboration of the Alberta Health Services – Edmonton Area with Dr. Tanya Berry, Principal Investigator and Assistant Professor, of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta. The PRL successfully contacted 822 respondents to complete the follow-up survey. The information gathered will be used to plan, design, and evaluate health promotion and prevention initiatives to improve health. *Research Coordinator:* Rosanna Shih.

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**Population Research Laboratory (PRL)**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**University of Alberta**  
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**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness and Prevention Campaign: Fort McMurray and Red Deer, Alberta.**
**PULSE OF NEW YORK STATE OMNIBUS POLL**

In fall 2009, the Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research is starting a twice-yearly omnibus telephone survey of New York State opinion. An RDD sample of 800 New York residents will be obtained each poll.

**PERSONNEL NOTES**

Survey Research reports on the new appointments and promotions of professional staff at academic and not-for-profit survey research organizations, as well as those of the for-profit organizations that are patrons of the newsletter.

RTI’s Survey Research Division has been joined by Survey Methodologist David Roe, Health Policy Analyst Sarah Johnson, and Survey Specialist Brian Head. The Education Studies Division welcomes Education Analyst Jennifer Mitchell and Senior Research Education Analyst Lawrence Bernstein.

The Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is pleased to welcome Gillian A. Stevens, Executive Director and Professor.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

The Survey Research Center (SRC) at the Univ. of Michigan is seeking candidates for survey specialist positions. Staff members serving in these positions are primarily responsible for management of data collection projects, which includes working with research investigators and other clients to define project and sample design, coordinating all aspects of preproduction and production within Survey Research Operations, providing regular progress and cost reports, and documenting all procedures. You can watch for postings at the Univ. of Michigan jobs Web site—www.umjobs.org/. To find postings specific to SRC, click on key word search and type in “Survey Research Center”. The Univ. of Michigan is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

RTI’s Survey Research Division is seeking a Senior Health IT Survey Researcher to act as Project Director to a larger team of interdisciplinary staff for health care policy surveys, lead the development of business opportunities involving RTI’s health care information systems, design and evaluate projects related to health IT (EHR, CDS, e-prescribing, etc), and design and evaluate projects related to electronic health information exchange. Qualifications include master’s degree and 8 years of related experience or a Ph.D. and 5 years of related experience, a proven track record of winning proposals, a strong record of publications, and experience with the following: overseeing health policy data collection projects, managing projects and personnel in the relevant areas, Health IT and HIE-related work, project management and budgeting, and working in a contract-research environment. To apply, visit www.rti.org.

**PUBLICATIONS**

The following is a list of publications related to survey research. They are not available from Survey Research nor the Survey Research Laboratory.


Berry, S. H. (2009, March). How to estimate questionnaire administration time before pretest-


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Odierna, D. H., & Schmidt, L. A. (2009). The effects of failing to include hard-to-reach respondents in longi-


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