

SURVEY RESEARCH

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

International Field Directors and Technologies Conference Leading the Way of Survey Research

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The International Field Directors and Technologies Conference (IFD&TC) is held annually for personnel from academic, government agencies, and nonprofit research centers to share practical information on survey data collection (field operations, training, and interviewing techniques) and data dissemination, as well as the technologies that run behind the scenes. The sessions cover research in progress or recently completed. The overall tone of the conference is one of intimacy, family-like, where people with similar interests obtain information on survey research, network, and share experiences and ideas. Some of the most outstanding characteristics of the conference are the emphases on openness and candor and on making sure each participant is welcomed and their questions are answered/addressed. These aspects have made IFD&TC a successful venue for veterans of survey research and first timers as well. It is a great environment for sharing thoughts and to exchange ideas with colleagues in the business. The makeup of attendees regularly reflects the welcoming environment and open sharing. The conference typically draws around 40% first-time attendees and about 70 organizations, and it traditionally follows the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) annual conference, which allows those who attend both conferences to get more for their time and travel expenses and facilitates the availability of experts in the field for IFD&TC keynote speakers, panelists, presenters, and session trainers.

History of IFDTC

In 1968, John Scott of the University of Michigan authored, "A Suggestion for a Conference on Field Problems in Survey Research." The result was a meeting named "Field Directors" that was held a year later at the University of Michigan. This started an annual tradition of survey research personnel discussing and sharing ideas on survey data collection. Attendance ranged from 25 to 100 in the first 20 years. The conference spanned one and a half days, and attendance was capped at two from each organization. As the conference continued to grow to over 100 organizations in attendance, organizations were allowed to send four employees.

From its inception to the mid-1980s, most of the conference's discussions focused on interviewer and field administration concerns. As computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) began to take increasing time in the conference program, it was met with resistance from those preferring traditional topics. When the planners of the 1988 conference ruled that CATI would not be allowed as a conference topic, those members focused on computer-related issues, led by Bill Nicholls of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, formed an additional conference called "Field Technologies"

to address the technical side of data collection, such as computer hardware, software, security, and communications.

The first meeting of Field Technologies was in St. Petersburg in 1989. From 1989 through 1992, Field Directors and Field Technologies had separate programs, organizers, and registration. Field Technologies followed Field Directors, with one overlap day on which joint sessions were held. The Field Technologies program allowed eight persons from each organization (at least half had to be participating on the conference program).

After a couple of years, virtually the same people were attending both conferences. In 1993, the two conferences merged to become the “International Field Directors and Technologies Conference.” A new charter was formed, allowing for 16 attendees per organization. The conference continued to grow, peaking at 255 in 1999. Conference organizers have since limited attendance to around 250, in part to retain the intimacy of the conference.

The International Field Directors and Technologies Conference, although small in comparison to other conferences, continues to draw the top people in the survey industry, and the guest speakers have been leaders in survey research and technology. So if you are looking to expand and share your knowledge of survey research, check out IFD&TC at www.ifdetc.org/

REFERENCES

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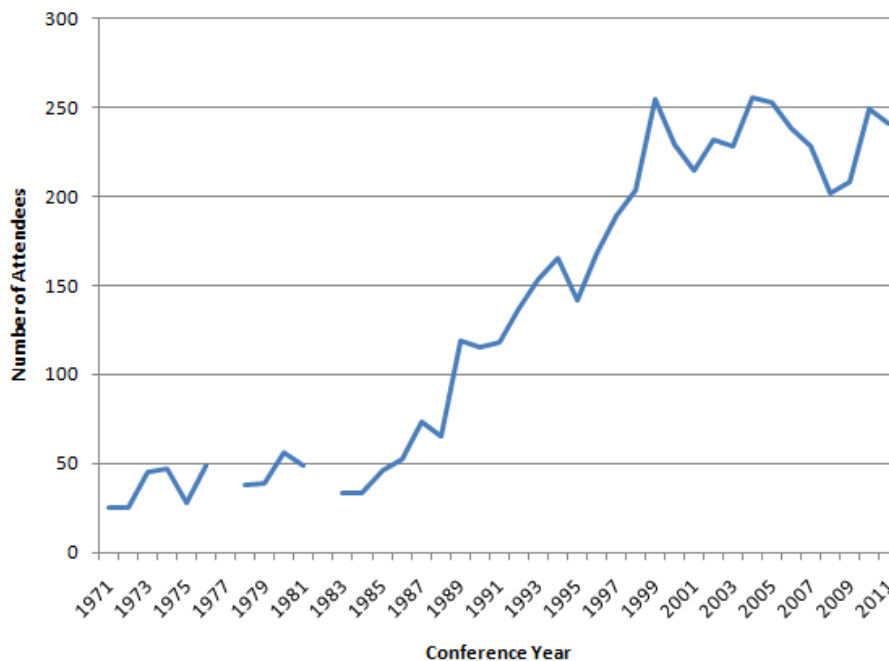
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40 Years of IFD&TC

The chart below shows annual conference attendance for 40 years. In 2005, the conference members voted to cap the conference at 250.



Wolf, S., & Nicholls, W. (2008). *International Field Directors and Technologies Conference (IFD&TC)*. In P. Lavrakas (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of survey research methods*. Sage.



Groves Addresses AASRO Luncheon in Phoenix

Tom Guterbock, Center for Survey Research, University of Virginia

It was a packed house at the AAPOR conference in Phoenix last May 14, when the managers of academic survey research organizations gathered for the open AASRO meeting. The 50 places we had reserved for luncheon were filled, and, regrettably, some of our members had to be turned away. The attraction that filled the seats was surely our featured speaker, the Director of the U.S. Census and former head of the Survey Research Center at Michigan Robert M. Groves.

Bob addressed the group with the penetrating succinctness, humor, and candor we all have come to admire in him. His remarks centered on five principal points:

- The federal statistical system, of which Census is a key component, is critically short of people who have the skills needed to design, gather, and analyze large-scale data sets to aid in major policy decisions.
- Members of the academic sector of the survey industry (that is, AASRO member organizations and others like them) have a critical role to play as the major training ground for these professionals. That training can be through certificate and degree programs in survey research methods or through the more traditional routes of disciplinary study and survey apprenticeship. We all need to focus on ways to increase the level, quality, and volume of such training.
- We should not necessarily think of the work we do just as “survey research” but must think more broadly about the issues in analyzing real-world data sets about human behavior. We should be working to meld administrative data sets with survey data to gain new insights based on broadly based evidence. We also should be exploring the many possibilities for research based on social networking technologies such as Facebook and Twitter. It’s not just about data collection: sampling, modeling, imputation, measurement, and validation are all part of what we need to be doing, innovating, and leading in.
- With the downturn in the economy and recent retrenchment in academe, there is increasing pressure on academic survey centers; some are thriving, but a few recently have closed their doors. Bob’s advice: be sure the activities of your survey center are closely linked to the research and educational missions of your university. If you are seen as “merely” a service organization, then you become extremely vulnerable any time your organization runs in the red.
- If your institution does not currently have a Census Bureau Research Data Center (RDC), consider applying to get one established. If you do have an RDC on or near campus, please do all you can to partner with them.

Bob closed his remarks by asking “How can we at Census and in the federal government be of help to you?” The group mentioned internships as one

avenue of assistance, and AASRO members are invited to share any other ideas they have along these lines with AASRO president Yasamin Miller (yd17@cornell.edu), who will communicate our “wish list” to Bob.

At the conclusion of his talk, Yasamin presented Bob with his very own AASRO lapel pin. His reaction: “Make a lot more of these and hand them out to everyone.”



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.

ALABAMA

Institute for Communication & Information Research (ICIR) College of Communication University of Alabama

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The Effects of Media on Childhood Obesity. The ICIR currently is working on research into the effects of media (such as social networking sites, television, print ads, and new programming, as well as other forms of traditional and “new” media) on childhood obesity and the lifestyle decisions that contribute to a child’s likelihood to become obese. The ICIR also is beginning research on the portrayal of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorder in the media and the effects of these portrayals on caretakers, healthcare providers, and the general public’s perceptions of these disorders.

ILLINOIS

Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) University of Illinois at Chicago

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Food Safety Knowledge among Restaurant Food Handlers. This PAPI study involved face-to-face interviews with English- and Spanish-speaking food handlers at restaurants in northern Illinois (suburban Cook, Kane, and Lake counties) regarding their knowledge of food safety. SRL conducted 729 pre-intervention interviews from 211 cooperating restaurants between June 24, 2009, and February 18, 2010. The client team then distributed intervention materials (brochures or comic books) to intervention restaurants (there also was a control restaurant group that did not receive the intervention). We now are conducting the follow-up wave and have completed 340 post-intervention interviews with food handlers (from an expected total number of 350–360). *Principal Investigator:* Mark Dworkin (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), *Project Coordinator:* Isabel Farrar.

Alleviating Emotional Impacts of Survey Research. At this study's first telephone interview, respondents discussed an emotional event of their choosing and answered questions on their stress level and well-being before and after the discussion. At the follow-up interview one to three days after Interview 1, respondents were randomly assigned to one of three "mood manipulations" and were asked to discuss either the distressing event again, a neutral event (smoking bans), or a happy event of their choosing. Again, scales were administered before and after the discussion to measure their well-being. SRL conducted a pretest in November 2010, and the main study took place between February 14, 2011, and May 21, 2011. SRL completed 395 baseline and 316 follow-up interviews, for an 80% response rate at follow-up. *Principal Investigator:* Sue Labott (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), *Project Coordinator:* Isabel Farrar.

Impact of the Plan for Transformation on Crime Patterns in Chicago. This project involved the conduct of five focus groups in March 2010 with residents of five Chicago neighborhoods (West Ridge, West Garfield Park, West Englewood, South Shore, Chatham), all of which have a high concentration of residents who previously lived in Chicago Housing Au-

thority housing and now are voucher holders. Participants were recruited via craigslist.com and flyers, and 84% of those recruited participated. *Principal Investigator:* Susan Popkin (The Urban Institute), *Project Coordinator:* Isabel Farrar.

Survey on "Green" Building Practices. This Web-based survey will help us understand practices and attitudes with respect to the design and construction of environmentally friendly buildings. Funded by NSF, the study invited architects and engineers associated with municipalities that already have implemented a "green" buildings policy to share their experiences, and during the summer 2010 data collection period, 77 did so. *Principal Investigator:* Julie Cidell (Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

Hines VA Pilot. SRL assisted the Hines VA Hospital with a case study pilot examining what makes health information technology implementation successful. SRL helped design the pilot study, analyzed data collected during the pilot, made recommendations for revisions to the main study protocol, and participated in a data collection training seminar. *Principal Investigator:* Denise Hynes (Hines VA Hospital), *Project Coordinator:* Linda Owens.

Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) Data Entry. For a survey of university presidents being conducted by CUMU, SRL assisted in the revision of a previously used PAPI questionnaire, entered the data from the 40 completed questionnaires, and provided the client with a final data set. *Principal Investigator:* David Perry (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), *Project Coordinator:* Jennifer Parsons.

INDIANA

Center for Survey Research (CSR) Indiana University

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Faculty Vitality Survey. This is a multi-institutional research study coordinated by the IU School of Medicine's Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Development. The study's purpose is to assess faculty perceptions of the academic environment in which they work. CSR programmed the Web instrument and is administering the sample database and e-mail contact messages. Faculty at schools of medi-

cine and related fields (e.g., dentistry, nursing) at nine institutions are being invited to participate. The study launched on May 3, 2011, and is currently in the field. To date, 1,509 completed questionnaires have been recorded. This phase of the study is funded in part by the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education. *Principal Investigator:* Megan Palmer (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis), *CSR Project Manager:* Dominic Powell.

Tampa Bay Water Management Survey. Funded by NSF, this was a Web survey of participants of at least one of a number of water management policymaking forums in the Tampa Bay region. The purpose was to understand and improve the coordination of water policy decisions by uncovering which forums are most important in addressing critical regional water policy issues and how well they respond to the needs of stakeholders. The PI used various resources to compile a list of possible stakeholders, including academics; local, county, and state government officials; nonprofit organizations; and the interested public. The list included names and e-mail addresses for 966 individuals. Survey participants were asked to suggest others with an interest in Tampa Bay water management issues. As a result of this snowball process, we received 71 new contacts, bringing the total sample to 1,037. The survey was fielded between November 2010 and February 2011; a total of 259 people participated. A similar survey began in March 2011 for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta area of California and is ongoing. *Principal Investigator:* John Scholz (Florida State University), *Co-investigators:* Mark Lubell (Univ. of California-Davis) and Ramiro Berardo (Univ. of Arizona), *CSR Project Manager:* Heather Terhune Marti.

MICHIGAN

Survey Research Center (SRC) Institute for Social Research University of Michigan

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Detroit Area Study on Social Relations. The purpose of this study funded by the Fetzer Foundation was to examine the experience of forgiveness, both being forgiven and forgiving others, as it relates to social relations and health among three racial groups. Work in this area indicates that social relationships provide an important resource for people during times of stress and are extremely important for health and

well-being. SRC was responsible for data collection on this project. The goal was to conduct telephone interviews with 100 respondents in each of three distinct ethnic groups (Middle Eastern Americans, African Americans, and non-Middle Eastern Whites) who reside in the tri-county Detroit (Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties). *Principal Investigators:* Toni Antonucci and Kristine Arjouch, *Survey Director:* ZoAnne Blackburn.

Michigan Recession and Recovery Study Wave 2. SRC partnered with Sheldon Danziger and UM Poverty Center staff to complete Wave 2 panel interviews with the goal of interviewing 824 respondents from Wave 1, obtaining a 90% response rate. These are 60–70 minute in-person interviews with households in southeast Michigan (with an oversample of low-income families). For the first time, child supplement leave-behind questionnaires are included for eligible households to complete and mail to SRC on up to three household members (the primary caregiver and up to two children). The purpose of the study is to explore who is most negatively affected by the economic crisis and who benefits most from the economic stimulus package. Multiple funding sources include the MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the U.S. DHHS. *Principal Investigators:* Sheldon Danziger, Sarah Burgard, and Kristin Seefeldt; *Senior Project Manager:* Esther Ullman.

The Saudi National Mental Health Survey (SNMHS). SRC is collaborating with several governmental organizations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Harvard Medical School to design and implement the first national survey on mental health in KSA. The SNMHS is one of the most recent surveys joining the World Mental Health Consortium. The survey aims to estimate the prevalence of mental health disorders and their risk factors, burden, and treatment patterns among Saudi citizens age 15–65. A stratified area probability sample of households will be selected and provided by the Saudi Ministry of Economy and Planning based on the 2010 census. One female and one male will be randomly selected from each household, oversampling members with mental or physical disability. Interviews will be gender matched and conducted using CAPI mode with two separate A-CASI administrations for relatively sensitive topics. *Survey Director:* Zeina Mneimneh.

MINNESOTA

Wilder Research Center

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

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Supportive Housing Outcomes. Wilder Research is partnering with supportive housing providers, funders, planners, and advocates to conduct a statewide study of the outcomes of such programs for formerly homeless people. This longitudinal study includes four waves of data collection with a very mobile population of respondents. In the summer/fall of 2010, baseline phone interviews were completed with 549 residents in 48 different transitional and permanent supportive housing programs across Minnesota. In the winter/spring of 2011, we surveyed 431 of the same respondents using a more in-depth follow-up questionnaire. A third wave will take place in the summer/fall of 2011, and a final wave will take place in winter/spring 2012. Program managers will be surveyed at that time to gather detailed descriptions of program rules and service models, and we will link data on individual study participants from Minnesota's Homeless Management Information System, state administrative data, and survey data to better understand how client characteristics and the services they receive are related to their outcomes. The study will fill several needs: to provide a comprehensive picture of the overall state of supportive housing in Minnesota, to improve our understanding of how differences in program types are related to differences in client needs, and to document clients' outcomes and how those are related to service configurations. This study is funded by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation, The Bigelow Foundation, and the Minneapolis Foundation. Wilder Research also is completing a separate but closely related study, funded by the MacArthur Foundation, to examine the return on investment of supportive housing, using the same data sources described above.

NORTH CAROLINA

Social & Statistical Sciences

RTI International

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Aligning Forces for Quality. Round 2 Consumer Survey is a key initiative by the RWJ Foundation to lift

the quality of health care in targeted communities, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and provide models of national reform. In the second round of the study, conducted by RTI for the Center for Health Care and Policy Research at Penn State, over 10,000 participants will be interviewed. RTI will conduct a pre-post comparison of the effectiveness of the initiative with respondents who completed a baseline survey three years ago and a new cross-sectional RDD study of adults. *RTI Project Director:* David Roe.

TEXAS

Center for Community Research & Development (CCRD)

Baylor University

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Freshman Retention Survey. To help improve the retention of Baylor freshman, CCRD doctoral students conducted a telephone survey of freshman students who began at Baylor in the fall of 2009 and left voluntarily prior to their sophomore year. A total of 159 respondents, including former students or their parents, were asked questions pertaining to reasons for leaving Baylor and what Baylor could have done better or differently.

WASHINGTON

Social & Economic Sciences Research Center

Washington State University

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sesrc@wsu.edu; http://survey.sesrc.wsu.edu/

Survey of Community Emergency Preparedness. The School of Public Health at the Univ. of Washington sponsored a study to evaluate the most effective means for health departments to deliver timely, credible messages to different types of healthcare providers about health events. A telephone survey of 530 healthcare providers in King County, Washington, was conducted in six waves throughout a 15-month period (November 2009–February 2011). The average response rate across waves was 83%. *Principal Investigator:* John Tarnai, *Study Director:* Yi-Jen Wang.

Women's Breast Health Services. In spring 2011, an RDD survey of females age 40–75 in six north-eastern Washington counties was conducted to learn

more about women's experiences with breast health services and possible barriers to accessing those services. This study was done on behalf of the Providence Regional Cancer Center in Spokane. Overall, 733 women completed an interview, resulting in a response rate of 24%. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Rose Krebill-Prather.

Human Service Nonprofits in the New Orleans Area. In spring 2011, human service nonprofit agencies in the New Orleans area were contacted for a mail/Internet/telephone survey for the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at The Urban Institute. The purpose of the survey was to obtain information on the roles that nonprofits play in the region's recovery post-Katrina, including demand for services, funding, and capacity. A 62% response rate was obtained with 242 completes. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

2011 ACSI Survey. From August 2010 through April 2011, the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board sponsored two monthly telephone surveys, one with a sample of Workforce training participants to assess satisfaction with Workforce training and the other with a sample of employers to assess satisfaction with Workforce services. Results will be aggregated and compared at state, regional, and national levels. Response rates ranged from 36% to 73%. *Principal Investigator:* John Tarnai, *Study Director:* Arina Gertseva.

WYOMING

Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC)

University of Wyoming

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Wyoming Worksite Wellness Survey, 2011. WYSAC is in the final stages of this survey, which is being conducted for the Chronic Disease Section (CDS) of the Wyoming Dept. of Health's Preventive Health and Safety Division. WYSAC conducted the first such project in 2006, the purpose of which was to provide a summary of worksite wellness best practices for Wyoming businesses. We now are working with a questionnaire modified to include additional areas of interest but overall very similar to the instrument used in 2006, allowing for analysis and reporting on change over time. The mode of data collection is PAPI mail; the survey instrument is formatted into a scannable

form. In our current data collection design, we have incorporated the fax as one of the steps in the sequence of soliciting participation. A response rate of over 43% has been achieved so far. *Principal Investigators:* Michael Dorssom and Bistra Anatchkova.

Wyoming Driving Behaviors Survey, 2011. In summer 2010, WYSAC conducted a statewide telephone survey on the driving behaviors of Wyoming residents. Using an independent sample, in June–July 2011, a follow-up survey was conducted. In both cases, the landline sample was supplemented with a cell phone subsample. The data collected is to inform the Wyoming Dept. of Transportation on the effectiveness of their efforts to influence compliance with the law with regard to driving behaviors and thus promote safety. *Principal Investigators:* Bistra Anatchkova and Brian Harnisch.

Medicaid Recipients Tobacco Use Surveys. The Montana Dept. of Health and Human Services enlisted WYSAC to conduct pre- (December 2010) and post-campaign (July 2011) surveys of Medicaid recipients in Montana regarding their tobacco use. The purpose of the surveys is to assess the effectiveness of an anti-tobacco use media campaign customized toward Medicaid recipients. For both surveys, a random sample of Montana Medicaid recipients was drawn. A pre-survey notification letter was sent to all, informing them of the upcoming phone survey and explaining the purpose and importance of the survey. *Principal Investigators:* Brian Harnisch and Bistra Anatchkova.

CANADA

Institute for Social Research (ISR) York University

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Canadian Internet Project (CIP). This is the third phase of a large study on Canadians' Internet habits. The project measures trends in Canadians' use of the Internet, traditional media, and emerging technologies and their attitudes toward media and online activities. The CIP forms part of the World Internet Project (WIP) involving almost 40 countries undertaking similar research. These projects examine the social, political, and economic impact of the Internet and other new technologies. Over the summer and fall of 2011, ISR will conduct 1,700 RDD interviews across the country with adults and youth. Funding is being provided by the Canadian Media Research Consortium and other

partners. *Principal Investigator*: Charles Zamaria (Ryerson University), *Co-investigator*: Fred Fletcher (York University), *ISR Study Director*: David Northrup.

Canadian Election Study (CES). Between March 26 and May 1, 2011, 4,200 telephone interviews were conducted during the recent Canadian federal election campaign. For the CES, a rolling cross-sectional sample is used whereby 120 interviews were conducted every day of the campaign, in both official languages, with randomly selected Canadian citizens of voting age. The study included a panel component in which interviews were conducted with respondents to earlier Canadian Election Studies. The research team was interested in learning how Canadians feel about the major issues in the campaign and why they elect the people and parties they do. The second phase of the project was a post-election telephone survey in which respondents from the campaign period survey were re-interviewed to evaluate attitudinal changes that may have occurred over the course of the campaign. There is also an online survey component as well as a mailback survey. *Principal Investigators*: Patrick Fournier (Université de Montréal), Stuart Soroka and Dietlind Stolle (McGill University), and Fred Cutler (Univ. of British Columbia); *ISR Study Director*: David Northrup.

Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS). A biennial study of student awareness and use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs was initiated in 1977 by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). ISR has conducted this survey for CAMH since 1981 and in 2011, conducted its 16th wave of the study. The survey, which now includes measures of student mental and physical well-being, was administered in classrooms across Ontario to approximately 9,000 students in grades 7–12 between November 2010 and June 2011. This comprehensive strategy facilitates comparisons between Canadian and American studies and provides information on the critical age patterns associated with smoking, drinking, drug use, and physical and mental well-being. *CAMH Principal Investigator*: Robert Mann, *CAMH Research Analyst*: Angela Boak, *ISR Study Director*: John Pollard.

Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) Study. The major goal of this study is to gather timely data for planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating public health programs and services in selected public health departments across Ontario. Modeled after a study first conducted by the CDC, the RRFSS gathers trend data that is used to monitor key public health issues, such as asthma rates, smok-

ing, drinking and driving, sun safety, women's health issues, bicycle helmet use, water testing for private wells, rates of rabies vaccinations, and so on. Newly emerging issues, such as the prevalence of bed bugs in the home, emergency and disaster preparedness, climate change, air quality, and road safety, also are explored in the RRFSS. Throughout 2011, the Institute will conduct 8,000 CATI RDD interviews three times a year with residents in the regions served by each participating public health department. Funding is being provided by the participating departments. *ISR Study Director*: Renée Elsbett Koeppen (Univ. of Toronto), *Study Director*: John Pollard.



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Institute for Communication and Information Research at the Univ. of Alabama is looking for participants for ongoing childhood obesity and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) research. Currently, the ICIR is holding a nutrition and fitness “camp” designed to collect data on the precursors of childhood obesity. Further data collection will continue in fall 2011. Some data can be collected remotely via online survey. Those interested in participation or partnership should contact Dr. M. K. Alsip at icir@ua.edu.



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.

Former Director **William Evans** has stepped down and **Kim Bissell** has been promoted as Director for the Institute for Communication and Information Sciences and Associate Dean of Research at the Univ. of Alabama. Also, **M. K. Alsip** has been hired as Assistant Research Scientist at the Institute beginning July 11, 2011.

RTI International's Survey Research Division welcomes Survey Specialists **Joseph Churpek**, **Brian Horne**, **Alison Kowalski**, **Amy Ryder-Burge**, and **Ryan Weber**; Senior Multimedia Design Specialist **John Holloway**; and Senior Research Survey Scien-

tist **Sean O'Brien**. The Research Computing Division has been joined by Research Programmers/Analysts **Randy Eckhoff** and **William Lee**, while the Education Studies Division welcomes Associate Project Management Specialists **Alicia Kelley** and **Dionne McLean**, Research Education Analyst **Russ Lightfoot**, Programmer/Analyst **Taylor Richards**, and Education Analyst **Ashley Wilson**.

The Survey Research Center at the Univ. of Michigan is pleased to welcome a number of individuals into new positions in Survey Research Operations (SRO). These include Survey Specialists in the production management team: **Dante Vasquez**, **Peggy Lavanger**, **James Koopman**, and **Tedi Engler**. **Dan Zahs** joined SRO's Stats and Methods Group as a Senior Research Area Specialist. In addition, several Survey Specialists received promotions: **Jennifer Arrieta** (to Survey Specialist Senior), **Donnalee Grey-Farquharson** (to Survey Specialist Intermediate), and **Ryan Yoder** (to Survey Specialist Intermediate). **Kirsten Alcser** is now directing SRO's Project Design and Management Group.

The Survey Research Laboratory at the Univ. of Illinois and *Survey Research* newsletter welcomes **Linda McCall**, who replaces the now-retired **Nancy Lockmiller** as the Urbana-Champaign office's secretary and the newsletter's production assistant.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

This section contains listings of employment opportunities in survey research organizations. Listings can be sent to the editors at the address in the newsletter or e-mailed to survey@srl.uic.edu. Survey Research does not charge a fee for these postings.

The Program for Research in Survey Methodology (PRISM) at RTI has opening for a **Senior Researcher** for Records Linkage Research and Application to initiate a program of research in the area of administrative records. The candidate will be responsible for growing research that focuses on methods for combining data from administrative records, external data sources, and surveys while protecting the confidentiality of the data sources; the use of both hardware and software technology to allow for greater use of administrative records to improve the quality, timeliness, and cost efficiency of survey data; and the ethical considerations and the necessary consent procedures required for studies

seeking to link a respondent's survey data with data from administrative records or other external sources. Qualifications include a Ph.D. in survey methodology or other related field, experience working with the federal government contracting, and a proven track record of research through professional presentations, workshops, and peer-reviewed publications.

The Survey Research Center (SRC) at the Univ. of Michigan will seek 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 (SRO), 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". If you have specific questions about opportunities at SRC, please contact Nancy Bylica at nbylica@isr.umich.edu. The Univ. of Michigan is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

PUBLICATIONS

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

- Akashi-Ronquest, N., Carrillo, P., Dembling, B., & Stern, S. (2011). Measuring the biases in self-reported disability status: Evidence from aggregate data. *Applied Economics Letters*, 18, 1053–1060.
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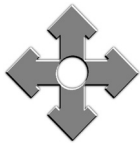
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