

SURVEY RESEARCH

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

AAPOR Launches the Transparency Initiative

Timothy P. Johnson

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The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) formally launched its Transparency Initiative (TI) in October 2014. The TI is designed to promote transparency in the disclosure of research methods when reporting survey research findings, contributing to an “open science” of survey research. It does so by assisting survey organizations in developing simple and efficient means for routinely disclosing the methods associated with publicly released studies. The TI benefits not only participating organizations but also the profession and the public. Participating organizations benefit by receiving formal, public recognition of their voluntary commitment to abide by the disclosure standards of AAPOR’s Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. The profession also benefits by elevating the transparency, and hence the integrity, of our work. The public benefits by having greater access to detailed information with which to evaluate the quality of survey data being reported.

In support of the Transparency Initiative, the editors of AAPOR’s three journals—*Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, and *Survey Practice*—announced earlier this year that they now require the reporting of all Transparency Initiative disclosure elements as part of each manuscript submitted for peer review.

Joining the TI is a relatively easy process that can be begun by visiting AAPOR’s Web site (www.aapor.org).

aapor.org) and selecting the Transparency Initiative from the site’s main menu. That will take you to the TI’s main page, from which you can register your organization and begin the application process.

Organizations that join the TI through September 2015 will be designated as Charter Members and will not be required to pay an initial application fee. Those who submit applications by the end of December 2014 additionally will be included in a multimedia educational outreach effort designed to promote and inform the public and the profession about the importance and benefits of the Transparency Initiative.

For more details about the Transparency Initiative, its history—which dates back to Peter Miller’s 2010 AAPOR presidential address, educational and other supporting materials, visit AAPOR’s Web site.

SAVE THE DATE: AASRO Annual Meeting

Marc Weiner

Bloustein Center for Survey Research,
Rutgers University

The Association of Academic Survey Research Organization’s will hold its Annual Meeting Thursday, March 5th—Saturday, March 7th, 2015, at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. So far, about 45 individuals from 39 of our 68 member organizations have indicated they will “definitely” attend; another 26 are “likely” attendees. And we expect that number to increase as folks work out their spring semester schedules.

We're hopeful you can join us. We have many excellent programs under development, including sessions on working with GIS in survey research, on the differences and similarities between public and political academic polling, on "communicating what we do," (i.e., educating others on the mechanisms and dynamics of working with an academic survey research organization), and on working with IT systems and software for Web and computer-assisted project management, including time/cost tracking and rapid-response budget estimation, best packages, best practices, and best cost/fee arrangements.

The Bloustein School is on the university's flagship campus in New Brunswick, which is a member of the Big Ten Conference. The city is a county seat with a lot of energetic entertainment options for the off-hours. It's just a five-minute walk from a direct train line to Newark Liberty International Airport and convenient to the Philadelphia International Airport and the Trenton-Mercer County Airport. Also, the Bloustein Center will celebrate its 10th Anniversary on Thursday, March 5th prior to the opening of our conference, and we'll have a participatory program followed by a wine-and-nibbly-things reception.



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.

ARKANSAS

Survey Research Center (SRC) Institute of Government

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Arkansas Dept. of Health County-Level BRFSS Studies. A total of 5,600 Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance Study interviews conducted in sev-

en Arkansas counties as part of the Arkansas Hometown Health Initiative study. *Principal Investigator:* Cindy Bennett.

Arkansas Dept. of Health Early Infant Hearing Detection Study. This study of two target populations (parents of newborn infants and hearing health care workers) is intended to identify needed service-system improvements, existing information gaps, and educational needs of the Arkansas Infant Hearing Program. *Principal Investigator:* Cindy Bennett.

ILLINOIS

NORC at the University of Chicago

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General Social Survey (GSS). The 2014 GSS data collection concluded in October, exceeding its goal for completed cases. Since 1972, the GSS has monitored societal change and studied the growing complexity of American society, explaining trends and constants in attitudes, behaviors, and attributes; examining the structure and functioning of society in general as well as the role played by relevant subgroups; and comparing the U.S. to other societies in order to place American society in context. GSS questions include such items as national spending priorities, marijuana use, crime and punishment, race relations, quality of life, and confidence in institutions. Other researchers are invited to participate in the GSS. The 2014 GSS has modules on quality of working life, shared capitalism, wealth, work and family balance, social identity, social isolation, and civic participation. *Principal Investigator:* Tom Smith, *Project Director:* Lauren Doerr.

Cohort Differences in Social Life and Health: Refreshing the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSLHAP) Sample. Since 2005, NORC has conducted the NSLHAP, a longitudinal study of older adults designed to examine the mechanisms by which social factors—such as intimate relationships and social networks—affect and are affected by health. The two initial waves of data collection included interview data and biomeasures, as will the third wave slated for 2015–16. Earlier this fall, NORC received a grant from the National Institute on Aging to add a new cohort of 2,500 individuals

age 50–67 to the NSHAP sample, at the same time as Wave 3, to capture the unique and epidemiologically intriguing “Baby Boom” generation. *Principal Investigator:* Linda Waite (Univ. of Chicago), *Project Director:* Katie O’Doherty.

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY).

This is NORC’s most prominent longitudinal data collection effort. Conducted annually through 2011, now a biennial fielding, the survey successfully concluded its 16th wave of data collection earlier this year. With a history of increasing its response rates in many of the recent rounds, 81% or more of living respondents still regularly participate. The 16th round included an early Web collection experiment asking about 1,500 of sample members to complete a brief survey via the Internet. Analysis has begun using the College Transcript data collected by NORC for the NLSY97 respondents in 2010–13. The 26th round of data collection is just underway, with the prior round still holding at an 80% weighted response rate among living respondents. Effective communication with respondents and field staff remains key to the success and efficiency of the project. Issuing new laptops and smartphones to the interviewers has facilitated more immediate communication in locating, contacting, setting/confirming appointments, and interviewing respondents. The use of text, e-mail, and outreach through social media has added to the traditional calling and visiting, helping reduce lost or unproductive time for interviewers and assisting in controlling costs. The NLS remains one of the most used longitudinal data sets with more than 6,000 publications, journal articles, dissertations, etc. in the NLS bibliography (www.bls.gov/nls/nlsbib.htm). Data for that experiment will be available in 2015 for analysis and review through the NLS Web site (www.bls.gov/nls/). *Project Manager:* Kymn Kochanek.

Survey Research Laboratory (SRL)

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Univ. of Illinois Brand Study. The purpose of this study was to survey Chicagoland residents, Chicagoland parents of current Illinois students, and alumni of the university regarding their perceptions

of the Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and to better understand charitable contributions to the university. Parents and alumni were sent e-mail invitations to complete a questionnaire online, and Chicagoland residents were sent a letter by mail inviting them to go online to complete the questionnaire. Parents and alumni also received e-mail reminders if they had not completed the survey at that point, and residents received a postcard reminder. Data collection took place between July and September 2014, and completed questionnaires were received from 4,413 parents, 1,597 alumni, and 102 Chicagoland residents. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

Campus Informational Technologies and Educational Services (CITES). SRL conducted this use and experiences survey for CITES, which is a unit of the Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that provides campus-level IT services such as e-mail, calendaring, and WiFi, among others. The survey was conducted among faculty, staff, and students on campus, and data were collected online between November and December 2014. The questionnaire was completed by 616 faculty and staff and 325 students. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

Evaluation of Public Health Law (PHL) Initiative.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation PHI initiative is a five-year effort to build the field of public health law practice and research mainly through two national programs (The Public Health Law Network and Public Health Law Research). SRL’s role in its evaluation is cleaning and analyzing the data from a survey of state and territorial health officials. *Principal Investigator:* Marjorie Gutman (Gutman Research Associates), *Project Coordinator:* Linda Owens.

INDIANA

Center for Survey Research (CSR)

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Experiences at Work Study. This panel study is aimed at understanding attitudes and behaviors of employees and their supervisors when faced with challenges at work. Panel recruitment has just started and is being done from a national RDD/

cell phone sample; study participants, both primary employees and their supervisors, will be surveyed three times over the course of approximately one year, with primary employees also completing five reflective exercises at intervals throughout. *Principal Investigator:* Todd Maurer (Georgia State University), *Project Team:* Lilian Yahng and Heather Terhune Marti.

Faculty Survey of Student Engagement for Graduate Student Instructors (FSSE-G). FSSE-G was designed to complement the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE), which is administered to faculty. The graduate student version focuses on how often graduate student instructors use effective teaching strategies, how much graduate student instructors encourage undergraduates to collaborate, the nature and frequency of graduate-undergraduate student interactions, the importance graduate student instructors place on professional development, and how graduate student instructors organize their time, both in and out of the classroom. FSSE-G is a Web-based survey and is administered nationally to graduate students who teach undergraduate students at baccalaureate degree-granting colleges and universities in the U.S. *Principal Investigator:* Tom Nelson Laird, *Project Director:* Alycia Cameron.

Great Lakes Water Management Survey. CSR administered this NSF-funded project interested in understanding stakeholders' views about the effectiveness of water management policies to the Great Lakes region. The survey previously was developed for and administered to the Tampa Bay and California Delta areas. Approximately 200 stakeholders across the area were invited by e-mail to participate in a survey, which averages 20 minutes in length. This study included a snowball sample—survey participants were asked to volunteer names and contact information for up to five others who also are involved in water management in the region. Data collection ended October 2014. *Principal Investigator:* Ramiro Berardo (Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), *Project Director:* Alycia Cameron.

IOWA

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Public Perceptions of Water Quality in Iowa.

Funded by Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, this project is designed to provide in-depth exploration of various dimensions of water quality issues as they are understood by the public. It will provide baseline measures to be used in future surveys to assess the impact of planned public campaigns to improve environmental literacy and reduce environmental practices that negatively impact water quality. Using mixed methods, qualitative focus groups will be conducted as the first phase of the project followed by a statewide telephone survey in the second phase. *Principal Investigator:* Mary Losch.

Iowa Social Studies Curriculum Assessment.

Funded by the Iowa Dept. of Education, the study is fashioned after other assessments of educational curricula and associated needs and will include online surveys of teacher knowledge of the social studies curriculum, instructional practice information, and content knowledge about social studies instruction. Special attention will be focused on assessment of any differential practice and needs between K-5 and 6-12 levels of instruction. *Principal Investigator:* Mary Losch.

KENTUCKY

Survey Research Center

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Life Stresses, Family and Partner Support, and Cancer Care for Women. This survey of 3,000 North Carolina female cancer survivors assesses the level of support from intimate partners and the effect of other life stresses on recovery. *Principal Investigator:* Ann Coker, *Project Director:* Ron Langley.

St. Louis Area Sexual Health Education Survey.

This is a survey of parents of children in public

schools regarding the appropriate age at which specific sexual health education topics should be taught. *Principal Investigator:* Rick Zimmerman, *Project Director:* Ron Langley.

Grocery Shoppers' Opinions about Locally Grown/Manufactured Products. This dual-frame telephone survey of 800 Kentucky adult grocery shoppers assessed their opinions about the quality, cost, and preference for Kentucky grown and manufactured food products. Respondents also were queried about their awareness of several brands (Kentucky Proud, Appalachia Proud, Homegrown By Heroes) promoted by the Kentucky Dept. of Agriculture. *Principal Investigator and Project Director:* Ron Langley.

MARYLAND

Westat

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National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). National estimates of seat belt and child safety seat use by passenger vehicle occupants; drivers' use of handheld electronic devices, and motorcyclists' use of helmets, are generated from an annual survey conducted by Westat on behalf of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. NOPUS collects observational data at over 2,000 randomly selected roadside locations across the continental U.S. in about eight days. Westat has conducted NOPUS since 1999 and redesigned the survey in 2006 and again this year. Tablets are used to record restraint use and occupant demographic information, as well as road type, urbanicity, weather characteristics, and traffic speed. Data are transmitted nightly and checked for completeness within 24 hours of collection. The use of tablets also allows Westat to provide turn-by-turn directions to each selected site and to track the location of data collectors as a measure of quality assurance. NOPUS became the model for the Seat Belt Use by Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers survey, also conducted periodically by Westat on behalf of the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration. *Project Director:* Adele Polson, *Project Manager:* Emily Burkhardt.

Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study. Westat and several subcontractors (including Roswell Park Cancer Institute) are conducting this prospective longitudinal cohort study for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), in partnership with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)/Center of Tobacco Products (CTP). The PATH Study is following an estimated 46,000 U.S. household residents age 12 and older who may or may not use tobacco. The study collects CAPI interviews from adults and youth, as well as biospecimens from consenting adults. Designed to examine patterns in tobacco product use and associated health conditions over time, the PATH Study will help to enhance the evidence base that informs FDA's regulatory decisions in achieving the goals of the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Hyland, *Project Director:* David Maklan.

National Study on Health and Safety (NSHS). The focus of this research project, funded by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, is to develop, implement, and test two survey methods collecting data on rape and sexual assault. The project is evaluating the estimates of rape and sexual assault collected from ACASI interviewing and an RDD telephone survey using volunteer, service provider, and address-based samples. To develop the survey, the project conducted two rounds of cognitive interviews and a small feasibility test. The main survey is being conducted between October 2014 and March 2015 with about 14,000 women at 5 sites. The results will be used to develop methods to collect data on rape and sexual assault on the National Crime Victimization Survey. *Principal Investigator:* David Cantor, *Project Directors:* John Hartge and Darby Steiger.

Research on Mobile Devices for Surveys. This project is being conducted under a grant from NSF to examine mobile devices—both smartphones and tablet computers—as vehicles for survey data collection. We expect mobile devices to be widely used for survey data collection within the next few years, displacing laptops in many face-to-face surveys. In addition, a growing percentage of Web surveys are likely to be completed by respondents on their smartphones or tablets. The use of these devices raises three issues that we examine in a set of experiments embedded in a face-to-face survey. First, the input methods permitted by these devices (such

as touchscreen interfaces) are relatively unfamiliar to many users; this may create response problems. Second, the screens on tablets and smartphones are considerably smaller than those of laptop or desktop computers. The final issue is the perceived privacy of data collected on these devices and respondent willingness to reveal sensitive information about themselves on a tablet computer or a smartphone. Experiments that examine these issues will be embedded in a survey that goes into the field in January 2015. *Principal Investigator:* Roger Tourangeau, *Project Directors:* Douglas Williams and Tamara Bruce.

MICHIGAN

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Social Relations Study Wave 3 (SRW3) Social Relations, Aging and Health: Competing Theories and Emerging Complexities. This panel study investigates whether any particular patterns of social relations or feelings about people who are close and important to individuals are related to health and well-being. Questions cover social relations with family and friends, stress and daily hassles, life satisfaction, and overall well-being. Respondents were first interviewed in 1992 face-to-face in the Detroit tri-county area. Interviews for the 1992 study were conducted with a cross-section sample of 1,498 adults and 205 children age 8–12. In 2005, decentralized phone (and some FTF) interviews were conducted with all surviving respondents. Also in 2005, additional funding allowed for supplemental interviews of respondent-identified core network members. For Wave 3 in 2014, we will conduct centralized phone interviews with surviving panel respondents from the original 1992 sample. In addition, each panel respondent will generate up to three “Core Network” members who also will complete baseline interviews. All respondents who complete baseline interviews then will be invited to complete 12 monthly Web surveys. *Principal Investigator:* Toni Antonucci, *Survey Manager:* Esther Ullman.

Adolescent Health Risk Behavior (AHRB) Study. The primary aim of this study is to understand the behavioral, cognitive, and neural bases of risk taking among adolescents through integrated analyses of age differences, developmental trajectories, and individual differences in psychosocial, neurocognitive, and neural imaging assessments. The study will involve data collection with roughly 1,000 10th-graders and 1,000 12th-graders in approximately 8 high schools in two counties in southern Michigan. During the baseline data collection between January and May 2015, the students will take part in two 55-minute proctored group interview sessions in their high school. The interview will consist of a number of standardized self-report behavioral scales and a battery of neurocognitive tests. Follow-up Web surveys will be administered to all respondents in years 2, 3, and 4 of the project. A small number of respondents (150–160) will be subselected to participate in functional magnetic resonance (fMRI) and electroencephalographic (EEG) imaging at U-M facilities in Ann Arbor. *Principal Investigator:* Daniel Keating, *Survey Director:* Meredith House.

Sustainability Cultural Indicators Program (SCIP). SCIP is a collaborative effort between the Univ. of Michigan’s (U-M) Graham Sustainability Institute and the ISR with support from the Office of the Provost. SCIP is a multiyear study designed to track sustainability culture and to inform educational programs and operations on the U-M’s Ann Arbor campus. Sustainability culture is meant to reflect a set of attitudes, behaviors, levels of understanding and commitment, degrees of engagement, and dispositions among members of the campus community. It serves as a model demonstrating how behavioral research can be used to address critical environmental issues within universities generally as well as in other organizational settings. The surveys began in 2012 and are conducted each fall. The sample consists of a yearly independent cross-section of faculty, staff and students ($N = \sim 20,000$) and a rotating panel of currently enrolled undergraduate students ($N = \sim 2,800$). Participants are asked to complete a brief Web-based questionnaire. *Principal Investigators:* John Callewaert (Graham) and Robert Marans, *Survey Manager:* Andrew Hupp.

MISSISSIPPI

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Mississippi Health Insurance and Affordable Care Act Survey. Results from this dual-frame (land and cell) telephone-based survey will assess the attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, and behaviors of Mississippians regarding health insurance coverage options, health programs, and health services in order to provide policy- and decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders with objective data. The survey respondents will include a representative sample of 1,000 Mississippi residents age 19–64. The project is funded by the Center for Mississippi Health Policy.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Portland Press Herald 1. From June 12 through June 18, 2014, 625 randomly selected Maine adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone. The *Portland Press Herald* poll was conducted to determine voting behavior in the upcoming election for Governor, Senate, and Congress in Maine. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.9\%$. The poll included is a subsample of 527 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 4.3\%$). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

Granite State Poll 54. The Survey Center interviewed 669 randomly selected New Hampshire adults by landline and cell phone between June 19 and July 1, 2014. The Granite State Poll is a quarterly survey of New Hampshire public opinion. This study was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning the upcoming election in New Hampshire, public policy, and consumer confidence in the state. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.8\%$. Included is a subsample of 509 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 4.3\%$). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

WMUR-UNH Election Poll: August. To determine voting behavior for the New Hampshire governor, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate, the Survey Center interviewed 827 randomly selected New Hampshire adults by landline and cell phone between August 7 and August 17, 2014. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.4\%$. Included is a subsample of 609 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 4.0\%$). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

Portland Press Herald 2. Five hundred and ninety-two (592) randomly selected Maine adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone between September 18 and September 25, 2014. This *Portland Press Herald* poll was conducted to determine voting behavior in the November election for governor of Maine, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 4.0\%$. Included is a subsample of 490 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 4.4\%$). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

Granite State Poll 55. The Survey Center interviewed 681 randomly selected New Hampshire adults by landline and cell phone between September 29 and October 5, 2014. The Granite State Poll is a quarterly survey of public opinion in New Hampshire, and this iteration was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning the November election in New Hampshire, public policy, and consumer confidence in the state. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.8\%$. Included is a subsample of 532 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 4.2\%$). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

Portland Press Herald 3. From October 15–21, 2014, interviews were conducted with 734 randomly selected Maine adults by landline and cell phone to determine voting behavior in the November gubernatorial, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate elections in Maine. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.6\%$. Included is a subsample of 667 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 3.8\%$). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

WMUR-UNH Election Poll: October. To determine voting behavior in the November elections for governor of New Hampshire and seats in the U.S. House and Senate, the Survey Center interviewed 677 randomly selected New Hampshire adults by

landline and cell phone between October 22 and October 26, 2014. The survey's margin of sampling error is $\pm 3.8\%$. Included is a subsample of 555 likely general election voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 4.2\%$). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

NEW YORK

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The Making of New York City's Tech Economy.

The Wallenberg Foundation is funding a study to investigate the explosive growth of tech start-ups during a severe economic recession, when other regions in the country experienced sharp declines. This rapid growth of such start-ups in NYC cannot be explained by overall economic growth alone, especially given that the NYC financial industry was the epicenter of the most serious financial crisis since the Great Depression. A survey of CEOs and cofounders of tech start-up firms in lower Manhattan will be conducted to understand the individual role of entrepreneurs, both as actors of change and as economic agents receiving signals from their institutional environment. *Project Director:* Yasamin Miller.

The College-To-Work Transition. This is a multi-year study tracking the health, career development, and well-being of college seniors as they leave school and enter the world of work. The "College-to-Work (C2W)" study is important as it will help shape college- and employer-based programs aimed at better preparing graduating seniors for this transition. Eligible participants are recent graduates of Cornell University, Univ. of Florida, Univ. of Washington, and Univ. of Michigan and will be followed over the course of 5 years. *Project Director:* Yasamin Miller.

Center for Survey Research (CSR) Stony Brook University

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Stony Brook Graduate Survey. CSR interviewed over 1,100 Stony Brook University graduate and un-

dergraduate students who graduated in 2012–2013 on behalf of the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Similar surveys were conducted with graduates in 2007, 2009, and 2011 allowing for a comparison of the success of 2013 graduates with students in prior years. Questions centered on employment, military, and student status; how well their studies prepared them for their careers; whether they are working in their field of choice; salary level; and job search resources. *Principal Investigator:* Leonie Huddy, *Project Manager:* Soraya Zabihi.

NORTH CAROLINA

RTI International

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National Implementation of Home Health Care

CAHPS Survey. RTI is providing technical assistance, training, and oversight of multiple independent survey vendors who collect patient experience-of-care data on behalf of Medicare-certified home health agencies. RTI analyzes the submitted data and prepares measures for public reporting on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Home Health Compare Web site. *Project Director:* Anne Kenyon.

National Implementation of the Outpatient/Ambulatory Surgery Patient Experience of Care Survey (O/ASPECS). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is launching O/ASPECS to collect data that will be used by hospital outpatient surgery departments, ambulatory surgical centers, and other stakeholders to improve the quality of care provided to surgical patients. RTI will develop and implement survey administration procedures for a Mode Experiment in 2015 and National Implementation in 2016. Data from the national implementation will be used to produce statistically valid comparative results that will allow consumers to make more informed choices when selecting a facility for outpatient surgery. *Project Director:* Marjorie Hinsdale-Shouse.

World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry:

Wave 4 Adult Survey. RTI is conducting this study for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to continue to track the physical

and mental health effects among those most directly exposed to the environmental and psychological impacts of the WTC attacks on September 11, 2001. This fourth round of data collection will use Web and paper questionnaires to collect the information needed to expand the knowledge about the long-term health effects of the September 11th disaster. *Project Director:* Kathleen Considine.

An Extendable Infrastructure for Building Broad Community Support around Clinical Trials

Measures. The goal of this project, funded by the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, is to define a set of common standard measures and associated common data elements for use in clinical trials related to a specific therapeutic area. *Project Director/Co-investigators:* Carol Hamilton/Wayne Huggins and Diane Catellier.

Multilingual Research for 2020 Census

Questionnaires. RTI International is assisting the Census Bureau to pretest questionnaires and materials that may be used in the 2020 Census to ensure their cultural and linguistic appropriateness in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, and English. The results of this research will be used to inform Census Bureau decision makers about the content of messages explaining the questionnaire and its topics and recommend procedures for obtaining both interviewer- and self-administered data in non-English languages. *Project Director:* Mandy Sha.

2015 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS): Household and Rental Agent Surveys. Funded by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), this study is led out of EIA's Office of Energy Consumption and Efficiency Statistics and has produced key estimates for industry, government, and other data users since its inception in 1978. The RECS program is responsible for collecting and disseminating timely, detailed information about how energy is being used within the residential sector of the U.S. economy. The data are used for policy planning and forecasting energy consumption in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. *Project Director:* Brian Burke.

PENNSYLVANIA

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National Evaluation of Community-Based Violence Prevention Program. ISR conducted pre- and post-intervention CAPI interviews with over 1,200 residents in four selected treatment and control communities in Colorado and New York. ISR's data collection support is for a comprehensive outcomes evaluation project for Ceasefire, an evidence-based intervention of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

Bike Share System. Philadelphia, currently the last major city in the Northeast without a bike sharing system, will launch its own program starting in the spring of 2015. ISR is conducting focus groups with residents to determine how to make the new program accessible, useful, and interesting to low-income and minority residents. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Nina Hoe.

Tobacco Information Signs Street Intercept Surveys. This baseline survey was conducted in four Philadelphia neighborhoods selected by the Philadelphia Dept. of Public Health to represent areas with high smoking rates. ISR surveyed 400 residents on the street near entrances to stores that sell tobacco products. The survey confirms the findings of preliminary research indicating that knowledge is weak about smoking's effects on cancer in 10 different parts of the body but that knowledge about lung cancer is high. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Nina Hoe.

The Role of Automated SMS Text Messaging in Public Opinion Research. This project examines the response to a series of automated SMS text messages used as a "primary" mode of data collection. A sample of 1,000 mobile subscribers was contacted via a "cold text" asking them to participate in a five-question survey regarding their opinion on a local park; a raffle of 10 iPads was offered as incentives. Nonrespondents received follow-up phone calls to determine their reason(s) for not responding,

such as a nonworking number, inability to receive text messages, noninterest in text-message survey participation, or invasion of privacy. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Nina Hoe.

Evaluation of PACE Center for Girls. For this evaluation of this school-based, gender-responsive alternative to institutionalization or incarceration for girls with high-risk behaviors, ISR manages multi-mode Web, phone, and in-person data collection for 1,000 girls at 16 Florida sites. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

Survey of Teachers and Administrators. ISR collects data from three school districts across the country to evaluate the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation Initiative Innovative Professional Development. Teachers and principals from over 200 schools across the districts are being surveyed through Web-based and paper questionnaires over the course of three years with two data collections per year. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

Completion by Design. For this project, ISR collected data from community college faculty and staff to evaluate the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation Initiative Completion by Design. Web-based data were collected at five geographically diverse community colleges. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

Pediatric PROMIS: Advancing the Measurement and Conceptualization of Child Health. ISR collects data for The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PROMIS Norming initiative via programming and monitoring IVR system. Data collection consists of creating an IVR survey for 4,000 parent-child dyads for voice verification. Parent-child dyads (children age 8–17 and their parents) are asked to complete a short interactive voice recorded (IVR) survey (managed by ISR) upon completion of the primary online survey (managed by online panel survey company GfK). ISR's role is to attempt to validate the legitimacy of the panel dyads. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

A Pediatric Quality Measurement Center and Testing Laboratory. ISR collects data for CHOP's Clinical Validation of Pediatric Global Health Scale via telephone survey with a multimodal sequential recruit and survey at three points for 1,000 parent-child dyads. Data collection consists of a baseline

survey, 1-month follow-up, and 6–12 week follow-up with client-provided list sample. A countable dyad complete requires both parent and child to complete the interview at each wave. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) Institute for Public Service and Policy Research

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Work Support Strategies Study. As part of the evaluation of the Work Support Strategies Initiative in South Carolina, the Urban Institute contracted with SRL to facilitate the South Carolina Client Experience Survey, a telephone survey of new applicants for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SRL interviewed 400 randomly selected recent applicants for SNAP benefits in South Carolina and is continuing its partnership with the Urban Institute to assist in the evaluation of the Work Support Strategies Initiative in Colorado. In facilitating the Colorado Client Experience Survey, SRL will complete 1,200 interviews with recent applicants for SNAP benefits in Colorado.

South Carolina Adult Tobacco Survey. In partnership with the South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control, SRL is collecting data for the CDC's Adult Tobacco Survey. Over 7,000 adult residents will be interviewed by landline and cell phone to assess their tobacco usage, tobacco-related health risks, and attitudes about tobacco use and tobacco-related policies.

TEXAS

Center for Community Research & Development (CCRD) Baylor University

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Healthcare Preferences and Nonprofit Awareness Survey. In fall 2013, an eight-week long tele-

PATRONS

Mathematica Policy Research

**National Opinion Research
Center, University of Chicago**

RTI International

**Survey Research Laboratory,
University of Illinois at Chicago**

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phone survey was conducted addressing the health-care preferences and satisfaction of the community and awareness and perception of a nonprofit organization. A total of 1,484 respondents were surveyed. The results of this survey were aimed to help both of the organizations direct their marketing campaigns.

Sex Education Programs. In the spring of 2014, another eight-week long telephone survey was conducted regarding opinions of current and future sex education programs for the county area. This poll surveyed 1,340 adults in order to gather perspectives of parents and community members regarding the possibility of new public or private programs focused on addressing teen pregnancy.

Work Climate Focus Groups. On behalf of an educational institution, CCRD conducted focus groups regarding employee satisfaction and perceptions of work climate as a follow up to an internal survey.

VIRGINIA

Center for Survey Research (CSR) University of Virginia

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Dental Access Survey. In the summer of 2014, CSR conducted a telephone survey for the Virginia

Dept. of Health's Division of Policy and Evaluation, Policy and Assessment. This survey was designed to assess respondents' access to oral health care and to identify the barriers that may exist between respondents and necessary oral health care. The survey was conducted using a triple-frame sampling design stratified across five regional areas of the state. One of the observations in conducting the survey was that the cell phone sample performed significantly better than the RDD sample and nearly as well as the listed sample. Of the 2,492 cases in the study, nearly 90% have health insurance; two-thirds of those respondents have some type of insurance that covers dental health. However, the study does find that one-quarter of respondents put off dental treatment due to the cost they might have to pay out of pocket. Nearly 20% said they are in immediate need of dental treatment. The results of this study will be used by the Virginia Dept. of Health as they consider future policies related to access for those who do not have adequate access to dental health.

Health Information in Social Networks. Over the past several months, researchers Thomas Guterbock and Deborah Rexrode have collaborated with Rupa Valdez and a team of public health researchers to develop and assess the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of recruiting for research studies related to consumer health information by leveraging the social structures embedded in the social networking platform Facebook. The team developed a Facebook group known as the Diabetes Management Study Community and has recruited over 150 members who are willing to participate in the study, which consists of both qualitative and quantitative components. The results of the initial phases of the study demonstrate that leveraging the social structures of Facebook for health-related research was feasible for obtaining small samples appropriate for qualitative research but not for obtaining large samples needed for quantitative research. The content of interactions with members of the target population prompted ethical deliberations concerning suitable target communities and appropriate boundaries between researchers and participants. Widespread replication of this method would benefit from a broad discussion among researchers, social media users, social media companies, and experts in research ethics to address appropriate protocols for such interactions. These results will be published in the *Journal for Medical Internet Research*.

WASHINGTON

Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC)

Washington State University

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National Survey of Food Co-operatives. In winter 2014, SESRC conducted a survey of food co-operative managers nationwide for the WSU Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. The primary purpose was to learn the attitudes and opinions of food co-operative managers about bulk and packaged quinoa marketing and sales to customers. With 162 responses (79 PAPI completes, 75 Web completes, and 8 partial completes) from a sample of 336, the response rate was 50%. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Chris Paxson.

Living and Working in Northwest Arkansas. SESRC conducted a survey for the Northwest Arkansas Council about living and working in northwest Arkansas—what residents like about living in the area and what can be improved. A sample of residents in Benton, Carroll, Madison, and Washington counties were contacted and asked to complete either a phone or Web-based survey. A total of 908 questionnaires were completed or partially completed (690 phone completes, 109 partial phone completes, 104 Web completes, and 5 partial Web completes) resulting in a response rate of 24.0%. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

2014 International Collaborations Survey. In spring 2014, SESRC conducted a mixed-mode survey of Washington State University faculty to gain information on how WSU researchers engage in international collaborations and the impact of those collaborations on their scholarly work. Respondents were contacted initially by e-mail (up to three times), then nonrespondents received a paper questionnaires and finally a reminder telephone contact. Overall, 627 respondents completed the survey (563 by Web and 64 by mail) and 137 partially completed the survey. This return yields a response rate of 27.9%. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

2014 Taxpayer Satisfaction Survey. From May through July 2014, SESRC conducted a survey of businesses for the Washington State Dept. of Revenue (DOR). The purpose was to ask about the services provided by DOR and where improvements could be made. Businesses were contacted by e-mail or postal mail; respondents had the option of completing the survey online or by PAPI. Overall, 750 respondents completed the survey by Web, 22 partially completed the Web survey, and 373 returned the paper questionnaire, yielding a response rate of 28.5%. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Port of Olympia Fuel Dock Survey. SESRC implemented a postcard survey for the Port of Olympia in the summer of 2014, which was designed to gauge the demand of Olympia boat owners for a new fuel dock located at the Swantown Marina. Survey results were used to estimate the fuel needs of boat owners renting moorage slips at six marinas in the Olympia area and if those boat owners would actually purchase fuel at the proposed location. Of 1,448 boat owners renting moorage slips at the six Olympia area marinas as of June 2014, 647 completed the questionnaire, resulting in a 45% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Thom Allen.

Weekday Football Game Impact Survey. During spring semester 2014, SESRC conducted three surveys for the Washington State University Athletics Council to determine the impact of hosting a weekday football game on the WSU-Pullman campus and to provide recommendations for best practices on hosting such games. Three different surveys were conducted: the first with faculty, staff, and graduate assistants; the second with WSU students; and the third with alumni, football season ticket holders, and RV parking lot users. All were conducted by e-mail. Overall, 2,795 respondents completed the survey; 97 partially completed the survey, yielding an overall response rate of 49.6%. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Washington Resident Experiences and Opinions about Washington State Parks. In fall 2014, SESRC conducted a statewide telephone survey with Washington residents to learn about their experiences and opinions with Washington State parks. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will use the results to better understand why

people do or don't visit state parks, how satisfied they are with parks, and how to better meet their needs. Overall, 683 respondents completed the survey and another 48 partially completed the survey, which represents a 21% response rate. *Principal Investigator and Study Director:* Rose Krebill-Prather.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Visitor Satisfaction Survey. In order for the BLM to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and better meet the needs of the public, a visitor satisfaction survey was conducted at 22 BLM recreation sites in 12 states during fiscal year 2014 (FY14). 19 of the 22 sites successfully completed survey distribution and collection. The survey was developed to measure each site's performance related to BLM GPRA Goal 3.1 - Provide for a quality recreation experience, including access, and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources on DOI managed and partnered lands and waters; and Goal 3.2 - Provide for and receive fair value in recreation. The information collected during the survey will also help the BLM better serve the public. The survey collected visitor satisfaction data regarding visitor information (i.e., use of maps, signs, brochures), developed facilities, managing recreation use, resource management, BLM staff and customer service, and educational and interpretive materials. Overall, 2,899 surveys were completed at the 19 recreation sites to yield a response rate of 58%. *Principal Investigator:* Lena Le, *Study Director:* Matthew Strawn.

WISCONSIN

University of Wisconsin Survey Center (UWSC)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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The California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH). In 2015, UWSC will develop and field the second wave of CalYOUTH, a study that involves in-person interviews with a sample of over 800 17-year old foster youth across California. The first wave of CalYOUTH finished with a response rate of 95%. Our success with CalYOUTH and the Midwest Young Adult Study in previous years has lead to work with similar studies including a national in-person interview of adopted youth and

a mixed-mode Web and phone survey of 17-, 19- and 21-year old foster youth in Wisconsin. *Project Directors:* Karen Jaques and Kerrann DiLoreto.

The Mapping Survey Development Project.

UWSC continues to be on the cutting-edge of collaborative interviewing technologies by connecting field interviewer laptops with tablet devices operated by respondents. UWSC successfully piloted an in-person study (WiscMoms) that used tablet devices to display complex family structures to respondents during an interactive interview. Currently, UWSC is developing a two-way interaction between laptops (CAPI interview) and tablet devices (touchscreen maps) for in-person interviews about neighborhood knowledge, selection, and segregation. *Project Director:* Kerrann DiLoreto.

The Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) Study.

This study engages a large national sample in a panel study with a range of data collection activities including telephone and in-person interviews, self-administered questionnaires, and cognitive interviews. The UWSC has recruited over 3,200 MIDUS longitudinal sample members age 35–94 to participate in the third round of data collection. In addition, using a national multiframe sample design comprised of RDD, cell, age-targeted list, age-stratified RDD, and an African-American oversample, the UWSC is finishing up recruitment of over 4,000 new participants to replenish the MIDUS longitudinal sample. *Project Director:* Vicki Lein.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 International Total Survey Error Conference (TSE15)

Submission of abstracts for contributed papers for the TSE15 is now open. The conference will highlight use of the Total Survey Error framework to understand and address issues of data quality in official statistics and in survey, opinion, and market research. Visit the conference Web site (www.tse15.org/) for additional details about the conference and the procedures for submitting an abstract, including suggested topics and requirements for submission. Abstracts are due February 2, 2015.

HCCI Partners with NORC to Implement New Academic Research Partnership

The Health Care Cost Institute (HCCI), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with a public-interest mission recently awarded a contract to NORC to assist in implementing a new academic research partnership that will provide academic institutional access to HCCI's large private claims database to further health care research and better understand what drives health spending and use of services. Leading research, actuarial, and government organizations will have access to HCCI's detailed claims data from over 50 million privately insured Americans through the NORC Data Enclave® for faculty, association and government research studies and PhD dissertations. NORC Program Director Timothy Mulcahy will serve as Project Director.

Applied Social Research Laboratory Benefits Graduate Students at East Tennessee State University

The Applied Social Research Laboratory (ASRL) at East Tennessee State University is a relatively new academic survey research center in northeast Tennessee. The ASRL opened in 2012 and is a joint venture with the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology and the Center for Community and Applied Research. The lab, directed by Kelly Foster, serves as a training ground for students in the Master of Sociology's applied concentration. Students partner with community agencies, faculty researchers, and private clients to serve a variety of needs from grant writing to surveys to program evaluation. Two students from this program presented at the AAPOR annual conference in 2014 and were winners of the AAPOR student travel award. This survey research center fills a need for quality research support and applied training within the rural appalachian community that surrounds ETSU. For more information, visit www.etsu.edu/asrl or e-mail Foster at fosterkn@etsu.edu.

Winners of 13th Annual Robert Ferber/ Seymour Sudman Dissertation Awards Announced

The Survey Research Laboratory at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago would like to congratulate Ryan Summers, the 2014 recipient of the Robert Ferber Dissertation Award. Congratulations also are

extended to Deborah Linares, this year's winner of the Seymour Sudman Dissertation Award. Ryan's award-winning dissertation is titled *A Statewide Examination of Attitudes toward Science among Illinois Students in Grades 5–12*, while Emily's is *A Case for Mixed Item Response Theory: The Cancer Health Literacy Measure—Breast and Cervical Cancer*.

A ceremony honoring both recipients was held September 2, 2014, at SRL's Champaign-Urbana office. The Ferber award was presented by Seymour Sudman's wife Blanche, while the Sudman award was presented by Seymour's daughter Emily Hindin.

To view a list of all dissertation award winners, visit www.srl.uic.edu/ferbersudman/recipients.htm



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.

Mary Losch has been promoted to Director of the Center for Social and Behavioral Research at the Univ. of Northern Iowa following the retirement of Gene Lutz. Prior to becoming Director, Mary served as Assistant Director from 1998–2014.

Nina Hoe has joined the Institute for Survey Research at Temple University as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

The Survey Research Laboratory at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago is pleased to announce that in March 2014, **Jennifer Parsons** was appointed Research Operations Director.

Alan Karr joined RTI as DSDS's director of the Center of Excellence for Complex Data Analysis (CoDA Center). RTI's Survey Research Division welcomes **Ji Sun Lee** as Program Director, Homeland and National Security; **Julia Brinton, Megan Waggy, Brian Blackmon, and Patrick Olsen** as Survey Specialists; **Yuli Patrick Hsieh** as a Research Survey Methodologist in the Program for Digital Technology and Society; **Charlie Knott** as Senior Director, Research Services; and **Randy**

Spain as a Research Survey Scientist in the Program for Organizational Strategies for Security and Defense. RTI's Research Computing Division welcomes **Matt Finholt-Daniel** as a Mobile/Software Application Developer, **Stephen Loo** as a Database Application Developer, **Hung Mlo** as Programmers/Analysts, and **Lakshmi Peddada** as a Database Application Developer. RTI's Education and Workforce Development Division welcomes **Alexander Bentz**, **Curtis Johnson**, **Remmert Dekker**, **T. Austin Lacy**, **Katherine Leu**, **Timothy Morgan**, **Michael Nelson**, **Cristina Restad**, **Erin Velez**, **Shauna Yates**, and **Alan Doyle** as Education Analysts; **Ryan Durden** and **Ethan Ritchie** as Programmers/Analysts; **Britta Hansen** as a Senior Web Designer; **Lauren Koch** as an Education Services Communications Specialist; **Michael Willoughby** as a Senior Research Public Health Analyst; and **David Silver** as the Director for the Center for Evaluation and Equity Studies.



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 irmccall@uic.edu. Survey Research does not charge a fee for these postings.

RTI International's Education and Workforce Development unit has an immediate opening for a master's level **Education Survey Researcher** to work on a variety of education research projects. Qualifications include (but are not limited to) MA/MS in a social science field and minimum one year experience with telephone survey or Web-based data collection activities OR BA/BS in a social science field and five years experience with telephone survey or

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Web-based data collection activities, strong oral and written communication skills, and good attention to details and ability to manage competing tasks. For more information, visit www.rti.org/careers (job ID 15742).

The Education and Workforce Development unit at RTI also has an opening for the position of **Education Survey Specialist**. The person in this entry-level position supports the day-to-day activities of telephone, mail, Web, and field data collection studies. Qualifications include BA/BS in a social science field and one year experience with survey research, strong oral and written communication skills, and good attention to details and ability to manage competing tasks. For more information, visit www.rti.org/careers (job ID 15741).

RTI's Center for Research in Survey Methodology has an opening for a **Senior Research Survey Methodologist** to be based in either the Washington or Research Triangle Park office. Qualifications include a Ph.D. in survey methodology, minimum of 10 years of experience in survey statistics and data collection methods, a proven track record in survey methods as demonstrated by publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at professional conferences, and experience working in a contract research environment. For more information, visit www.rti.org/careers (job ID 15765).

RTI's Community Health Promotion Research Program has an immediate opening for a bachelor's level **Public Health Analyst** to provide basic research support to the center's midlevel and senior research staff. The candidate must have a BA/BS in public health, health services/sciences, communications, psychology, sociology, or equivalent; have experience with STATA (experience with SAS is a plus), attention to detail and ability to juggle multiple tasks simultaneously; outstanding organizational, verbal, and written skills; ability to work in both a self-directed and team environment; and experience with program evaluation or research activities. For more information, visit www.rti.org/careers (job ID 15751).

RTI is seeking a **Statistician/SAS Programmer** who will work in a variety of fields, including international health, governance, and education, as well as health services, economic and social development, education and training, and the environment. Qualifications include master's statistics or mathematics

with at least three years of nonacademic related experience, at least five years of experience with SAS and Excel, and excellent writing skills. Desired skills include SAS certification and experience in survey statistics or sampling design. For more information, visit www.rti.org/careers (job ID 15743).

NORC at the Univ. of Chicago seeks a highly motivated and effective **Survey Operations Analyst** to join its Telephone Surveys and Support Operations team in Chicago. Responsibilities include paradata extraction, analysis, and reporting; financial reporting; productivity analysis and reporting; process definition and documentation; and quality assurance and methodological improvement. Qualifications include BA/BS (evidence of academic strength and achievement in quantitative coursework is strongly preferred), superior analytical skills and a proven track record for identifying and solving problems, good communication skills, and demonstrated competence in at least two of the following programs: Excel, Access, and SAS (SPSS or STATA will be considered in place of SAS). For more information, visit <http://norccareers.silkroad.com/> (tracking code 2014572).

PUBLICATIONS

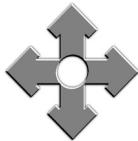
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