

SURVEY RESEARCH

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

Bloustein School, Rutgers University Hosts 9th Annual AASRO Directors Meeting March 5–7, 2015: Reflections and Directions

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The spirit of “neither snow nor rain...nor gloom of night” set the tone for the opening reception and dinner of the 9th Annual AASRO Directors Meeting. Held at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, from Thursday, March 5th through Saturday, March 7th, and despite the weather, the annual meeting was by all accounts a success on a number of dimensions.

While the weather was not cooperative, it was not defeating. AASRO representatives showed their mettle; undeterred by the fact that snow fell on all 21 of New Jersey’s counties—nearly 7 inches at Newark airport by 8 PM that night—31 sturdy souls had shown up by the end of dinner that evening. By Friday morning at 9 AM, the annual meeting began in place and on time with 41 representatives of the 50 registered able to make it, and there was an esprit de corps (and some wild travel stories) that energized the group. Here’s the story of the conference, followed by some lessons learned, topped off by some comments directly from participants.

THURSDAY NIGHT

The Thursday night conference dinner was held in the dining room of the Rutgers University’s Inn and Conference Center, a comfortable setting with large picture windows lining both sides of the room. Although we only had about half of the registrants at that time, we moved forward as best as we could: Shirley Huck of Iowa State University awarded the 4th annual John M. Kennedy Achievement Award to Robert Oldendick, one of AASRO’s founding institutional representatives and Executive Director of the University of South Carolina’s Institute for Public Service and Policy Research. Bob, who founded the University of South Carolina’s Survey Research Laboratory in 1989 and has directed it for the past 25 years, gave a very warm and gracious acceptance speech.

In addition, Shirley announced that Nathan Palmer from Washington State University’s Social and Economic Sciences Research Center had won the 3rd annual John Tarnai Memorial Award. That award provides a scholarship in memory of former AASRO president John Tarnai by recognizing an outstanding but relatively new survey center employee with great promise for pursuing a long-term career in survey research. The scholarship helps to defray the cost of attending an annual meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research



**Survey Research
Laboratory**



or the International Field Directors and Technologies Conference.

Although we were unable to hold the traditional Thursday night organizational meeting for AASRO committee assignments, Jolene Smyth, outgoing Secretary/Membership Chair, read the Executive Committee election results, and a hearty toast was made to the incoming Executive Committee: Kurt Johnson, incoming President; Tim Johnson, incoming Vice-President/President-elect; Jolene Smyth, incoming Communications Coordinator; Bistra Anatchkova, who is continuing as Treasurer; Christy Storey, who is taking on the new position of Associate Treasurer/Treasurer-elect; Ashley Clark, incoming Secretary/Membership Coordinator; Patty Maher, incoming Program Chair; and Susan Willis, moving from President to Past President. And then a hearty toast was made to the outgoing Executive Council, followed by more hearty toasts because, well, we were all really enjoying each other's company on that cold and snowy night.

FRIDAY MORNING

The issues with the snow were pretty well resolved by midmorning, and Friday's full day of activities began right on time, with outgoing President Susan Willis calling the meeting to order. However, the Dean of the Bloustein School, who was scheduled to deliver a welcome, was snowbound in Hunterdon County, so Associate Dean of the Faculty Michael R. Greenberg filled in with an institutional welcome and opening remarks, which led right into his morning address on *Integrating Academic Survey Research Centers: Working with Host Institutions*. This talk helped to set the stage for an open discussion forum to explore "Identifying Your Center's Major Issue or Greatest Challenge." That forum identified a number of issues, discussed below, to which discussion returned later in the day and Saturday morning.

Following a short break, we returned to enjoy and learn from Scott Keeter's morning keynote talk: *As the (Survey) World Turns: Samples, Probability, and Non-, Data, Big and Small, and, All that....* Scott is Director of Survey Research for The Pew Research Center, and his talk was followed by a robust question-and-answer period.

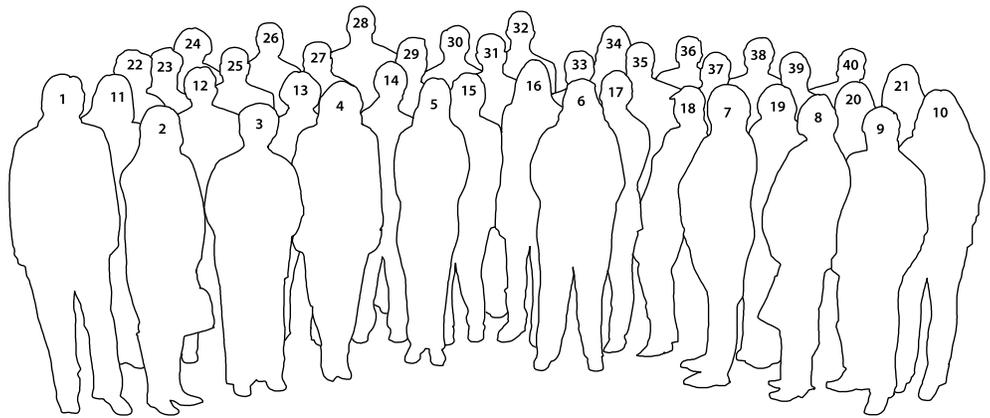
FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Friday afternoon saw three panel discussions. The first addressed *Opportunities and Challenges to Operating within a University Setting*, and Ashley Koning and Dave Redlawsk of the Eagleton Poll (also at Rutgers) presented on best practices for engaging students on a wide range of survey research and related activities. In addition, Ed Freeland of Princeton University presented on how to make faculty and university research staff better aware of what we can offer, in order to better integrate our centers with faculty who routinely collect data or otherwise could benefit from our services.

Our second panel discussion featured the Bloustein School's information technology group, Director of Information Technology Martin O'Reilly and Instructional Technology Specialist Tamara Swedberg. This presentation generated a wide-ranging discussion of database management from a security perspective, and it was evident that across AASRO, there is great variation in how well the member's host institution's IT group addresses a survey center's natural concern for top-flight IT services and data security support.

Our third panel presented examples by Orin Puniello (Bloustein Center) and Ian Markey (Eagleton Poll) on using graphical information systems (GIS) mapping to help build sample frames for elite or hard-to-find participants from online sources, as well as to enhance survey outcome reporting.

This last panel was followed by our invited afternoon talk *The Future is Here! Where Are We Now? and How Do We Get There? An Update of the 2006 AAPOR Presidential Address* by Cliff Zukin. Particularly fascinating from a “history of AASRO perspective” was a July 1981 *Newsletter and Fact Sheet* by the Network of State Polls that Cliff distributed; it reported that “Representatives of six state polls met at Eagleton/Rutgers in January of 1980 to discuss common interests....” As was Scott’s talk earlier in the day, this talk was followed by an engaged question-and-answer period.



(1) Lin Stork, (2) Amanda Richardson, (3) Bistra Anatchkova, (4) Mary Losch, (5) Stephanie Chardoul, (6) Jody Dougherty, (7) Debbie Borie-Holtz, (8) Molly Longstreth, (9) Dave Redlawsk, (10) Monique Lyle, (11) Jen Dykema, (12) Jolene Smyth, (13) Shirley Huck, (14) Patty Maher, (15) Mileah Kromer, (16) Cindy Bennet, (17) Stephen Bieber, (18) Yasamin Miller, (19) Deborah Rexrode, (20) Ashley Koning, (21) Christy Storey, (22) Lindsey Witt-Swanson, (23) Ashley Clark, (24) Nora Cate Schaeffer, (25) Rich Clark, (26) Tim Johnson, (27) Tim MacKinnon, (28) Andy Smith, (29) Kurt Johnson, (30) Brian Simmons, (31) Tom Guterbock, (32) Ed Freeland, (33) Orin Puniello, (34) Susan Willis, (35) Marc Weiner, (36) Bob Oldendick, (37) Tom Dohm, (38) Ron Langley, (39) Ian Markey, (40). John Edwards. Not in photo: Kelleigh Trepanier, Kevin Ulrich.

FRIDAY EVENING

As Tim MacKinnon famously put it, New Brunswick may be small city of about 55,000, but it fights outside of its weight class in terms of good food and drink. Meeting participants panned out to New Brunswick’s best and most fun restaurants, ranging from Brother Jimmy’s BBQ to the venerable Frog and Peach, which got rave reviews from that group (the name, by the way, comes from a comedy sketch by the duo of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore). Good reports of fine dining and drinking came from all around—in fact, rumor has it that it was “date night” at Steakhouse 85, and much wine—and maybe some whiskey—was shared, and much affinity was expressed! Most importantly, everyone made it back to his or her room safe and sound, and we reconvened the next day.

SATURDAY MORNING

Traditionally, Saturday morning is the business component of the annual meeting, and so, following the passing of the gavel from outgoing President Susan Willis to incoming President Kurt Johnson, incoming president, we heard updates from Tim Johnson, Director of the Survey Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago (last year’s meeting host and our incoming Vice-President/President-elect) on AAPOR’s Transparency Initiative and from Patty Maher (incoming Program Chair), Jody

Dougherty, and Stephanie Chardoul (University of Michigan) on AASRO’s General Interviewer Training Program (and they’re next year’s hosts). Following that, Ron Langley (University of Kentucky) and Mary Losch (University of Northern Iowa) made a concept presentation on Big Data, which opened a wide-ranging exploratory discussion on the notion of AASRO creating something akin to a Big Data consortium, which was favorably received in concept and intention to move forward. Members also voted to formally endorse AAPOR’s Transparency Initiative and to encourage all members to consider joining. Committee reports followed, and President Kurt Johnson closed the annual meeting at noon.

REFLECTIONS

Overall, it was an excellent annual meeting; much was shared, much was learned, network connections were made. Ideas were floated, some live on, and some were shot down. But the feedback I received personally, together with my personal experience and the comments from the post-meeting questionnaire, is that all-in-all, this was a valuable experience.

I’d rather we hadn’t had the snow, but the snow wasn’t everything. The meeting itself—as an ongoing year-to-year experience—benefits from critique and review. Indeed, it is not without criticism in the spirit of improvement and better serving our constituency. I have two easy ones, both already corrected for next year: First, I should have fought harder for

the “privilege” of using the credit card application. The other is a clear recognition that either there’s not enough time, there’s too much content we tried to cover, or both.

In that spirit, lessons can be learned with post-conference reflections categorized into two main categories: content and organization (as well as the interaction of the two). From the comments collected through the post-meeting evaluation questionnaire, in interaction with the on-the-fly changes brought about by the weather as well as some direct e-mails and in-the-hallway conversations, several participants suggested it might be time to revisit the timing of the conference, as well as the amount of content reasonably appropriate for the available time, a natural interactive inquiry.

Suggestions for next year illustrate a larger concern related to the size of our group and how our meeting is structured. As I was schooled, the annual meeting is small enough to fit around a U-shaped table, and that’s a desirable arrangement. However, it may be that as we expand an organization, not only may that not be possible—it was a stretch in the room we used at Bloustein, which is fire rated for 72 persons—to comfortably arrange a U shape for 41 persons, but perhaps other approaches are better suited, and it may be that those other approaches call for a reconfiguration of not only the table but of the Thursday night–Saturday afternoon framework as well. Growing pains.

Content

One participant suggested, “Although I appreciate the open sessions, I’m concerned that the size of the group might prohibit a wider range of input. Perhaps breaking into 2–3 smaller groups that report back to the larger group would solicit more responses across all organizations?” Another wrote, “While I understand and believe that we should emphasize our shared concerns as academic centers, we need to recognize the dissimilarities between large R1 institutions and small colleges. It might be worth time for breakout sessions based on these differences.” In line with that suggestion was a participant who preferred “More small group discussion for similar-sized organizations,” a position affirmed by the call for “...breakouts for public polling vs. large faculty grants, and small colleges vs. R1 institutions.”

Even a participant who indicated a preference for the open-discussion-forum approach suggested smaller breakouts: “I loved the idea of the open-discussion based on the challenges we addressed. I would have liked more time to meet in smaller groups on certain topics.” One succinct suggestion was, “Less unstructured ‘open discussion’,” with a companion concern for format: “The open discussion didn’t feel as useful as it could’ve been. Perhaps it would’ve benefitted from more structure.”

Finally, one participant stated the opposite perspective: “I will always advocate for more time for open discussion; perhaps more, shorter panels or breakout sessions with one director as discussion leader. Topics: incentives; staff retention; revenue streams; dealing with the administration; CATI systems; new technologies; pay scales; recruitment; resource sharing; etc.”

This feedback calls the question of how we structure the overall meeting to accommodate, well, either “more meeting” and/or a “more efficient meeting.”

Organization

To that, participants had some feedback ranging from expanding the front end: “Start earlier on Thursday,” to expanding the back end: “I think Saturday could be a little longer, although I believe it should remain a shortened day....Less speakers but more open-session time to discuss issues....”

One participant suggested shifting the days so the start is “on Wednesday and end on Friday at noon. I would like to have more time to discuss issues & challenges and brainstorm solutions,” while a very similar suggestion was to “Have it Thursday–Friday. Full day, both days to eliminate Saturday morning,” with an additional participant indicating that he/she “would lengthen the conference time to a full two days,” Yet another suggested, “Less panels; through Saturday afternoon might be helpful to allow more time.” One more indicated that the meeting “Seems to need another half day—yes, I would lengthen through Saturday afternoon. Add a bit more ‘meat’,” while, at the same time, another suggested turning “Saturday morning into more of an informal conversational breakfast at 9:30 or so.”

Directions

Out of the different discussions, five basic themes emerged as concerns for AASRO’s membership.

One of them, as discussed above, was in the organization of the expansion and/or reconfiguration of the annual meeting; this theme included the action item of allotting more time for open discussion, in general, but doing so in concert with allotting time for collaborative sessions among like-focused centers.

Other concerns and issues that, as discussions on their own, survive the annual meeting include concern for better integration with institutional IT providers and greater attention being paid—across the board—to data security. In addition, the Big Data consortium idea generated a continuing interest, as did the notion of networking center research activities, including such mutually beneficial activities as shared experimental designs or perhaps a clearing house for excess capacity whereby AASRO's smaller institutions can buy services—statistical, sampling, weighting—from the larger institutions, whose workload may ebb and flow with the business cycle.

One of the last and most engagingly discussed items was the use of social media, not so much as a data collection source but as a promotional and informational device by which to advance our centers' interests. We deemed this something akin to "Building Your Center's Twitter Presence," and asked—in the post-meeting questionnaire—for willing participants to express their experience of the meeting in 140 characters or less and if we could use their quotes in this article. To close, I turn to our participants' own voices, expressed in Twitter format:

#AASRO is invaluable for both professional development and charting the direction of my polling institute.

Rich Clark, Director of the Castleton Polling Institute, Castleton College, Vermont

The AASRO conference is the best way to connect with similar organizations to collectively problem-solve & share solutions w/AASRO orgs.

Amanda Richardson, Assistant Director, Bureau of Sociological Research, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Very productive and enjoyable 2015 AASRO Conference at Rutgers. Open discussions among member organizations were extremely valuable.

John Edwards, Director, Survey Research Laboratory, Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University

Zukin's talk was very important to me. It encouraged me to think more deeply about this issue; to open to more ideas.

Molly Longstreth, Survey Research Specialist, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, The University of Georgia

Great opportunity to share information, ideas, and challenges with colleagues—level of support & collegiality is wonderful (& rare).

Mary Losch, Director of Center for Social and Behavioral Research, University of Northern Iowa

AASRO '15 was the most valuable conference I've ever attended. I'm already using what I learned to improve my center.

Mileah Kromer, Director, Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center, Goucher College

Always great seeing old friends and making new ones.

Yasamin Miller, Director, Survey Research Institute, Cornell University

Good meeting; helpful to spend time with one another getting to know more about our common work challenges and opportunities.

Deborah Rexrode, Senior Project Coordinator and CATI Lab Supervisor, Center for Survey Research, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia

Good meeting despite difficult conditions.

Ron Langley, Director, Survey Research Center, University of Kentucky

So grateful to have such a talented group of #AASRO colleagues to learn from and share with. Looking forward to Michigan in 2016!

Kevin Ulrich, Director, The University of Chicago Survey Lab, Division of the Social Sciences, The University of Chicago



CURRENT RESEARCH

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

CALIFORNIA

Center for the Study of Los Angeles Loyola Marymount University

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2014 LA Votes for Governor: General Election Exit Poll. On November 4th, researchers at the Center for the Study of LA conducted an exit poll at 40 polling places throughout LA County. Twenty-five polling places were selected in the city, with an additional five polling places in three jurisdictions: 3rd LA County Supervisorial District, 26th CA Senatorial District, and 33rd U.S. Congressional District. A total of 1,467 voters were surveyed ($\pm 3\%$ margin of error). Questions were selected to study the relationships between voting, policy and policy initiative preferences; polling place qualities; racial and ethnic relations; community relations and services; civic participation; quality of life; and demographics. *Project Director:* Brianne Gilbert.

Forecast LA 2015: Public Outlook Survey. As part of its annual study to survey residents in LA, the Public Outlook Survey involves 20-minute telephone sessions with 2,400 adults living in LA County. Respondents were asked about quality-of-life concerns, personal economic well-being, home-ownership, overall life satisfaction, and various civic issues. Data were collected in January, and the full results were released at the annual economic and civic forecast on Loyola Marymount University's campus on April 7, 2015. *Project Director:* Brianne Gilbert.

GEORGIA

A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research Kennesaw University

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Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) Needs Assessment. To assess the demand for mass-transit services in north Fulton County, MARTA contracted with the Burruss Institute to conduct a telephone survey of residents of north Fulton County and an online survey of employees working within a one-mile radius of the Georgia 400 corridor. The surveys addressed current usage of MARTA, levels of support for an expansion of the system to the county line, and potential utilization of an expanded MARTA system. *Study Coordinator:* Terry Sloope.

Access and Fairness Survey. In the fall of 2014, the Institute conducted a visitor satisfaction survey in county and municipal courthouses across the state of Georgia. The survey was administered on behalf of the Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts. The Institute collected opinions from more than 3,800 courthouse visitors to determine if their needs were attended to in a timely and efficient manner, and, for those appearing before a judicial officer, whether their cases were handled fairly. *Study Coordinator:* Terry Sloope.

Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Experience of Care. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid sponsored a multistate pilot project to test a new survey instrument that evaluates the experiences of participants receiving home healthcare services. The Institute was contracted to implement the pilot project in Georgia. The project involved a mixed-mode methodology that included both CAPI and CATI interviews with care recipients across the state. *Study Coordinator:* Terry Sloope.

ILLINOIS

NORC at the University of Chicago

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Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks III (ACTION III). The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has selected NORC as an awardee for ACTION III IDIQ contract. This master order agreement focuses on AHRQ's key priorities: improving the quality of health care and care delivery, making health care safer, increasing accessibility, and improving health care affordability, efficiency and cost transparency. *Project Manager:* Prashila Dullabh.

Prices, Revenues, and Expenditures from Providers and Purchasers of Special Access. The FCC recently contracted with NORC to utilize the NORC Data Enclave[®] to collect confidential information on prices, revenues, and expenditures from providers and purchasers of special access and other services. The Commission will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of actual and potential competition for special access services and consider whether to provide relief from regulations in geographic areas where a robust and competitive special access market exists. *Project Director:* Tim Mulcahy.

Evaluation of the Talk.Read.Sing.Campaign. NORC will support Runyon, Saltzman, and Einhorn (RSE) in an evaluation of the Talk.Read.Sing. media campaign sponsored by California's early childhood initiative First Five. NORC's role is to conduct an online statewide survey of parents with children age 5 and under. The goal of the survey is to quantify exposure to the campaign and evaluate its effectiveness at encouraging parents to engage with their children at an early age. *Project Director:* Alyssa Ghirardelli.

Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF). The Federal Reserve Board has engaged NORC to conduct the 2016 SCF. This triennial dual-frame list and cross-sectional survey of 6,500 U.S. families gathers information on families' balance sheets, pensions, income, and demographic characteristics. Data from the SCF are widely used, from analysis at the Federal Reserve and other branches of government to scholarly work at major economic research centers. *Project Director:* Catherine Haggerty.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEP). For the CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, NORC is assessing PHEP practice-driven research needs. In January, NORC surveyed all health departments funded through the PHEP Cooperative Agreement and a sample of locals. The survey will identify PHEP topics that need research to validate, improve, and better inform programmatic and policy decisions and inform a research agenda for use by the practice community. *Project Director:* Michael Meit.

Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) University of Illinois at Chicago

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Chicago Health and Environment Exposure Recreation Study (CHEERS) Pool Study. For this part of the larger CHEERS study, the researchers were analyzing how much water people swallow during different water sports. SRL was responsible for programming a brief questionnaire, providing laptops to the CHEERS team, recruiting and scheduling participants, and preparing a data set. CHEERS respondents were asked if they were interested in participating in the pool study. Those expressing interest were screened and scheduled them for one of the activities/sessions at three Chicago pools.

Participants could bring friends and family members with them to participate; minors age 5+ could participate as long as they were with a parent. Activities included fishing, swimming, wading, canoeing, kayaking, immersion, and walking (no contact with water). Afterward, the participant provided a urine sample and received a \$50 incentive. Ultimately, 662 people participated. *Principal Investigator:* Sam Dorevitch (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), *Project Coordinator:* Isabel Farrar.

2014 Chicago Area Study Recruiting. In early 2014, SRL recruited, screened, and scheduled participants for and hosted three focus groups. Participants for two of the three were recruited from the general population while those for the third were individuals involved with advocacy issues. In March and April, SRL recruited additional participants—some for cognitive interviews and others for in-depth

interviews. *Principal Investigator:* Maria Krysan (Univ. of Illinois at Chicago), *Project Coordinator:* Jennifer Parsons.

Pedestrian Safety at Chicago Transis Authority (CTA) Railroad Crossings. The Illinois Dept. of Transportation provided the funding for this evaluation of active and passive warning signs at CTA rail crossings around Chicago. The research included designated walkways/bikeways such as city sidewalks, nondesignated walkways/bikeways such as roadway shoulders, and passenger/transit station crossings. The PAPI questionnaire, which addressed respondents' history of pathway-rail and highway-rail use, perceptions of active and passive warning devices, and impairment and other background characteristics, was administered face to face. Data were collected for this intercept survey from 211 users of 7 rail crossing sites during April and May 2014. *Principal Investigators:* Paul Metaxatos and P. S. Sriraj (Urban Transportation Center, UIC), *Project Coordinator:* Anne Diffenderffer.

Voice of the Officer Follow-up Survey. This MacArthur Foundation funded project was sponsored by the Center for Policing Equity at UCLA to conduct an independent and neutral assessment of some recent policies, initiatives, and training programs in the Chicago Police Department. Questionnaires were distributed to all 22 police districts, and SRL interviewers spoke at roll calls to introduce the study and invite officers to participate. Data collection was anonymous, and completed questionnaires mailed back to SRL. A total of 784 completed questionnaires were received. *Principal Investigators:* Phill Goff (UCLA) and Tom Tyler (Yale), *Project Coordinator:* Jennifer Parsons.

**Survey Research Office (SRO)
Center for State Policy & Leadership
University of Illinois Springfield**

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The 2014 Annual User Survey: Illinois Tobacco Quitline (ITQL). SRO conducts this project annually as part of the ITQL Evaluation. It is a multimode project (mail, Web, and phone) that included a random sample of 4,000 unique callers to ITQL in the first six months of 2014. The purpose of this assessment is to examine the services provided by the program from the perspective of Quitline callers.

SRO has been conducting the assessment of ITQL since 2010. *Principal Investigator:* Ashley Kirzinger, *Project Manager:* Matthew Case.

Illinois Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Assessment: Agencies Providing Residential and Nonresidential Services. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published its final rule relating to HCBS for Medicaid-funded long-term services and supports provided in residential and nonresidential home and community-based settings, which took effect on March 17, 2014. According to this rule, states are required to submit transition plans to CMS within one year of the effective date indicating how they intend to comply with the new requirements within a reasonable time period. In an effort to follow the CMS final rule guidance, the Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services, along with the Dept. of Human Services and the Dept. on Aging, developed several surveys (mail, Web, and phone) with assistance of SRO researchers in order to assess the State's current compliance with the new regulations specific to the residential and nonresidential settings requirements. These studies examine the policies, procedures, and activities of residential and nonresidential settings for HCBS waivers. *Principal Investigator:* Ashley Kirzinger, *Project Manager:* Tonda Reece.

Survey of Illinois Voters. The 2014 survey examined whether online methods can provide reliable election polling. Participants were solicited and compensated by Qualtrics. To participate, individuals had to live in Illinois and be registered to vote or report that they were planning to register prior to Election Day. Over 1,000 individuals (1,133) began the survey and reported that they currently lived in Illinois. Of those, 982 reported that they were registered to vote at their current address. Quotas were set by location (Cook County, Chicago suburbs, and downstate) and age (18–24, 25–44, 45–64, and 65+). These quotas produced 752 registered voters. Individuals were asked if they were certain to vote in the election, had a small chance they might not get to vote, or would probably not vote. Those who reported they were either certain to vote or small chance they might not get to vote were included in our likely voter sample, which also was weighted using gender, race, age, and region to better represent the Illinois voting population using CNN's 2010 exit polling data. The likely voter sample includes 723 individuals. Complete question wording and frequencies are available in the topline report available on

the SRO Web site. *Principal Investigator and Project Manager:* Ashley Kirzinger.

Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) Annual Motorist Opinion Survey. This mail survey is sent to a stratified sample of licensed drivers in every region of the state and has been conducted annually by SRO since 2000. It helps IDOT record and track performance and public satisfaction levels on a variety of transportation issues, including the quality of the Illinois transportation system, roadway maintenance and traffic flow, road repair and construction, traveler services, employee conduct, and other state service priorities on topical transportation issues. Participating motorists are asked a series of questions for each service area seeking ratings of IDOT services; approximately 1,000 respondents complete the questionnaire annually. *Principal Investigator:* Ashley Kirzinger, *Project Manager:* Jennifer Carter.

INDIANA

Center for Survey Research (CSR) Indiana University

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Indiana Youth Survey and Indiana College Substance Use Survey Participation Enhancement Studies. The Indiana Prevention Resource Center administers these two surveys annually and contracted with CSR for consultation on efforts to improve the institutional participation rate for the surveys. CSR performed literature reviews, conducted semistructured interviews with administrators of similar surveys, and designed and fielded nonresponse surveys for both. CSR then made recommendations for new approaches to improve recruitment and enhance school participation in these surveys and advised on sampling strategies and weighting of survey data for reporting purposes. *Principal Investigators:* Erin Ables, Ashley Clark, Mikyoung Jun, and Rosie King; *Project Directors:* Stacey Giroux and Heather Terhune Marti.

Campus Sexual Health and Behavior. The Center for Sexual Health Promotion (CSHP) in the School of Public Health is partnering with CSR to conduct a study of the sexual health and experiences of college students at Indiana University. A random sample of approximately 20,000 undergraduate and

graduate students are being asked to participate in this Web survey. The purpose of the study is to better understand students' sexual behaviors and feelings, including questions about condom use, birth control, as well as aspects of sexual pleasure and difficulty, sexual desire, and orgasm. The results will be used by researchers and educators to create better courses and educational opportunities on campus. A total of 420 gift cards ranging from \$20 to \$100 to Amazon and local restaurants will be offered as incentives for participation. The survey is in the field in spring 2015. *Principal Investigators:* Debby Herbenick and Brian Dodge (CSHP), *Project Director:* Alycia Cameron.

MARYLAND

Westat

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National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS). NIA funds NHATS as a cooperative agreement with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH). The study focuses on late-life disability trends and dynamics in the U.S. with a national sample of about 8,000 Medicare beneficiaries age 65+. Since May 2011, Westat has conducted annual CAPI interviews with questions about participant's self-reported disability, health conditions and treatment, social participation, economic well-being, quality of life, community, income and assets, and demographic information, as well as interviewer-administered physical and cognitive function assessments of study participants. Interviews also are conducted with facility staff if the participant resides in a nursing home or residential care facility and with a proxy for study participants who have died since the last interview. In Round 5, which begins in May 2015, the sample will be replenished to make up for sample losses due to death and nonresponse. In addition, Round 5 will include CATI interviews for the National Study of Caregiving (NSOC). Funded by ASPE, NSOC will include about 2,000 caregivers reported by participants during the NHATS interview; NSOC was previously conducted in 2011. To date, three rounds of NHATS data and one round of NSOC data are available for researchers. *Principal Investigators:* Judith Kasper (JHSPH) and Vicki Freedman (Univ. of Michigan), *Project Directors:* Laura Branden and Brad Edwards.

Cognitive Testing of the American Community Survey (ACS) 2016 Items. The ACS continuously collects demographic, economic, housing, and social data that are invaluable to federal, state and local governments, researchers, and businesses. Given the importance of the data and the need to ensure continuity with previous data collections, changes to the ACS are made only after rigorous testing. In preparation for the 2019 ACS, the Census Bureau asked Westat to conduct cognitive testing of new or revised ACS items that address 11 topics: cohabitation/domestic partnership, race and Hispanic origin, health insurance, telephone service, computer and Internet use, commuting mode, time of arrival at work, number of weeks worked, class of worker, industry and occupation, and retirement income. The work involved 420 cognitive interviews across three rounds and in 8 locations, including Puerto Rico. The cognitive testing is complex in that it involves two languages (English and Spanish), three modes (self-administered PAPI; interviewer-administered by phone; interviewer-administered in-person), and up to three versions of each item. Westat will make recommendations for revising the tested items to ensure that respondents to the 2019 ACS interpret those items as intended and can answer in a way that most accurately reflects their situation. *Project Director:* Martha Stapleton.

The 50 State Surveys Related to Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. Westat will transition a survey that previously was conducted using telephone and in-person interviewing to mail mode. The survey is sponsored by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The main data collection will occur at designated time points in 2016. The survey will use address-based sampling drawn from a sampling frame based on the USPS Computerized Delivery Sequence file, which offers nearly complete coverage of mailing addresses associated with every housing unit. The approach will be to first send short mail screening questionnaires to households to identify whether household members participate or are likely to participate in different types of wildlife-related activities. Thereafter, more detailed instruments specific to different activities will be sent at designated follow-up time points, which will include the same content as previous questionnaires that were conducted in other modes, and the questionnaires and related materials will be designed, evaluated, and pretested by experts at Westat to ensure that the proposed methodology is

designed to yield accurate and precise estimates. *Principal Investigator:* Jill Montaquila, *Project Director:* Sherm Edwards.

Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) Survey of Veteran Enrollees' Health and Use of Health Care. Since 1999, the annual survey has collected information related to the use of VA health services, including health status, types of health insurance, understanding of health care benefits, satisfaction with VA health care quality, perceptions of availability and accessibility of VA and non-VA health care, and planned future use of VA health care. Survey data are used to inform VA projections of enrollment, use, and cost; VA health care policy; and health care budgets. The sample will be selected from VA files of veterans who have 'enrolled' for health care services. Data collection will be conducted in a multimode (Web, mail, and telephone) survey planned for March–July 2015. A total of 42,000 completed interviews is required. The project includes several Westat-designed experiments that will vary the data collection protocol for the overall sample and for a subgroup of "hard-to-interview" sample members. The goals are to increase response rates and determine the best sequence of contacts to encourage sampled veterans to respond. Protocol variations include number, timing, and types of contacts, including postcards, first class letters, IVR, and paper questionnaires delivered by mail or FedEx. Results will be prepared into several reports: a general report for public dissemination, a methods report, and a report of findings from the methodological experiments, which also will be used to redesign the 2016 survey methodology. *Project Directors:* Shelley Perry and Ruth Thomson.

MICHIGAN

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

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Mathematics Teachers and Teaching Survey (MTTS). For the last 25 years, three major goals have animated the U.S. mathematics education community: the need for more knowledgeable teachers, more challenging curricula for students,

and more ambitious instruction in classrooms. The MTTTS study will collect a comprehensive and representative portrait of teacher and teaching quality in U.S. mathematics classrooms to assess progress toward these three goals. The MTTTS study includes a mail survey and collection of classroom video-recordings of mathematics instruction in a nationally representative sample of 694 public and charter school districts. Once recruited, participating districts will be asked to provide rosters of middle-school mathematics teachers, from which a random sample of 833 teachers will be selected. Teachers will complete an hour-long mail survey of curriculum use, content knowledge, and educational preparation. Four hundred of those also will be asked to use a tablet computer and Swivl robot to video-record four classroom mathematics lessons each. Data collection will occur February 2015–March 2016. *Principal Investigators:* Heather Hill, Barbara Gilbert, and Daniel McGinn (Harvard University); *Survey Director:* Barbara Ward; *Production Manager:* Russ Stark.

Child Development Supplement (CDS) 2014. The CDS is part of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) suite. The original CDS followed a cohort of children in PSID families who were 0–12 years of age in 1997 through three waves of data collection. All of the children in the original cohort have reached adulthood, and a new generation of children has replaced them in PSID families. The aim is to collect information on all children age 0–17 years in this new generation, shifting the orientation from a cohort study to one that obtains information on the childhood experiences of all children in PSID families, who later will become primary respondents in the Core PSID when they form their own economically independent households. Data collection will end in spring 2015, including 2,500 children and 4,600 primary caregivers. These new data will support studies of health, development, and well-being in childhood; the relationship between children's characteristics and contemporaneous family decision-making and behavior; and the effects of childhood factors on subsequent social, demographic, economic, and health outcomes over the entire life course as they are followed into the future as part of PSID. *Principal Investigator:* Narayan Sastry (Univ. of Michigan), *Survey Manager:* Jennifer Arrieta.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Survey Center

University of New Hampshire

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WMUR-UNH Election Poll, November 2014. The Survey Center interviewed 757 randomly selected New Hampshire likely voters by landline and cell phone between October 29–November 2, 2014. This survey was conducted to determine voting behavior in the elections for Governor, Senate, and Congress in New Hampshire. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.6\%$. *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

Granite State Poll 56, January–February 2015.

The Survey Center interviewed 776 randomly selected likely New Hampshire 2016 presidential election voters by landline and cell phone January 22–February 3 for the Granite State Poll, a quarterly survey of public opinion in New Hampshire. This study was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning the upcoming presidential primary and general elections in New Hampshire. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 3.5\%$. Included is a subsample of 297 likely Democratic primary voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 5.7\%$) and 348 likely Republican primary voters (margin of sampling error $\pm 5.3\%$). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

Granite State Poll 56, February 2015. A total of 509 randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone between February 5–12, 2015. This study was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning consumer confidence and favorability of elected officials. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 4.3\%$. *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

NORTH CAROLINA

RTI International

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Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS). The GATS is sponsored by the CDC Foundation and is the international standard for systematically monitoring adult tobacco use and tracking key tobacco control

indicators. A nationally representative household survey of adults age 15 or older, GATS uses a standard protocol intended to generate comparable data within and across countries. To date, it has been implemented in 28 countries and 48 languages. The project uses mobile devices and RTI Mobile FS software to enhance countries' capacity to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control interventions. RTI provides software, questionnaire programming, IT support, and training. *Project Director:* Steve Litavec.

Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Data Collection. The O*NET program is a comprehensive system for collecting, organizing, describing, and disseminating information on occupational requirements and worker attributes. The O*NET database is the most comprehensive source of occupational and skill information in the U.S. and replaces the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, and the program is an ongoing effort to populate and maintain the O*NET database with valid, reliable, and current occupation and skills data. Under contract to the National Center for O*NET Development, RTI provides sampling, data collection, data processing, and data analysis services. *Project Director:* Mike Weeks.

Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS). RTI is working with IMG-Crown Energy Services to conduct two rounds of pilots to test and evaluate the feasibility, cost effectiveness, and validity of moving to new modes (web and mail) of data collection for the RECS Household Survey. RECS is administered by U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). The results of the pilots will inform the EIA's ability to produce key statistical measures of household energy use using more sustainable, timely, and cost-effective methods, as well as EIA's capacity to broaden the utility of the RECS program. *Project Director:* Joe Murphy.

California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The largest state health survey in the U.S., CHIS is a stratified dual-frame telephone survey of adults, adolescents, and children (by proxy) that provides accurate and statistically reliable estimates on the health of California's diverse population. RTI will lead tasks including questionnaire revisions, translations, culturally appropriate methods, sampling, interviewing in seven languages (English, Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese), implementing responsive design, data

processing, analysis, and reporting. *Project Director:* Lisa Carley-Baxter.

PENNSYLVANIA

Institute for Survey Research Temple University

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Social-Structural Stressors, Resilience, and Men's Sexual Risk Behaviors (Menhood). This study seeks to learn how factors such as poverty, racial discrimination, incarceration, crime, and neighborhood values relate to African-American men's sexual risk behaviors with their sexual partners. ISR is conducting cognitive interviews with 20 study-eligible men in Washington, DC, to refine the survey instrument and will conduct door-to-door interviews with 1,181 men beginning in the spring of 2015. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

Does a Supermarket Improve the Diet and Food Environment of Low-Income Residents? The main purpose of this study is to evaluate whether a new supermarket opening in an urban food desert in January 2015 with healthy food retail funding favorably influences dietary intake of residents. ISR is conducting a 3-year longitudinal study with 600 residents (300 in a treatment neighborhood and 300 in a control neighborhood). Study participants are surveyed 8 times during 4 data collection periods. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) Institute for Public Service and Policy Research University of South Carolina

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lyleml@mailbox.sc.edu; www.ipspr.sc.edu/srl/

Market Rate Survey of Child Care Providers. To fulfill its requirement to conduct a statewide survey of child care providers every two years, the South Carolina Dept. of Social Services contracted with SRL to conduct a mixed-mode survey of child care providers in South Carolina, with a mail survey as

the base and a follow-up telephone survey with providers who did not return the mail questionnaire. SRL is surveying up to 250 randomly selected child care providers from each of 11 provider types. The results will be used to inform child care subsidy payment structures.

TEXAS

Center for Community Research & Development (CCRD) Baylor University

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Local Health Care Provision Assessment. This telephone survey interviewed community residents to assess views on health-related issues and preference of health service providers. *Project Directors:* Katie Halbesleben and Jeff Tamburello.

Perceptions of Crime and Safety. This telephone survey asks Waco-area residents about their perception of local crime and the police. *Project Directors:* Emily Hunt and Jasmine Wise.

VERMONT

Castleton Polling Institute Castleton College

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802-770-7040
rich.clark@castleton.edu; www.castleton.edu/polling/

VTDigger Public Policy Poll. Castleton recently completed a public policy poll for VTDigger, a non-profit online news source (<http://vtdigger.org/>). The poll explored several issues that the Vermont legislature is confronting in 2015. The data were collected by phone between February 9–24, 2015. Phone numbers were drawn from a dual-frame sample of cell phone and landline numbers. The final sample includes a total of 700 completed interviews, 477 by landline (68%) and 223 by cell phone (32%).

Census of Sudbury and Whiting. Castleton is conducting a census of households in two Vermont towns, Sudbury and Whiting, who are considering merging their elementary schools. Castleton is exploring public opinion on the issue to understand where support and opposition exist in the commu-

nity and to assess what barriers exist to the merger. The data is being collected by mail and online after a questionnaire and cover letter with the URL and password were sent to all residents in both towns. Castleton has contracted with both towns' school boards on this project.

VIRGINIA

Center for Survey Research (CSR) University of Virginia

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dlr3r@virginia.edu; <http://surveys.virginia.edu>

Citizen Satisfaction Survey. In the fall of 2014, CSR conducted a telephone survey of Loudoun County residents to gain feedback on their satisfaction with county services as well as opinions on major issues facing the county. Many of the survey questions have remained the same for several years, with some changes reflecting current topics of interest to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors who sponsored the survey. Some of the specific topics of interest were household Internet, cell phone service, funding of improvements for the Metrorail, and traveling patterns of Metrorail riders. The survey was conducted using a probability sample drawn from landline and cell phone numbers.

Of the 1,017 cases in the study, 261 represent the rural portion of the county and 756 represent the nonrural portion.

Class of 2014 First Destinations. CSR conducts an annual survey of students expecting to graduate in the spring or summer of each year to get a sense of UVa graduates' plans after graduation and to learn more about their academic experiences and the resources they had during their time at UVa. In 2014, this Web-based survey was conducted in two phases: the first phase in the spring and the follow-up phase in the fall. The follow-up phase reaches out to those whose plans were incomplete at the time of the spring survey and attempts to reach spring survey nonrespondents.

A total of 2,156 students completed the survey yielding an adjusted response rate of 63%. The success of this survey is attributed to several factors: the president of the university sends an advance letter encouraging students to participate, and the Dean of Students provided several incentives

during phase one, including lunch with the dean and special seating at Valediction that featured Peyton Manning. During the follow-up phase, tickets to two men's basketball games provided more incentive for students to participate. The results of this study are published each year and made available to interested students, employers, and faculty to promote the career potential of graduates from UVA.

WASHINGTON

Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC)

Washington State University

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National Survey of Business Competitiveness.

In 2014, SESRC implemented a mixed-mode survey for USDA's Economic Research Service of U.S. businesses to examine the challenges firms are facing in today's economy. SESRC sent letters describing the study and invited 53,234 respondents to complete a mail questionnaire, a Web-based questionnaire, or a telephone interview. The information will contribute to a better understanding of how increasing international competition and the increasing knowledge of economic activity in the U.S. affect the economic vitality of rural areas and the conditions associated with effective adjustment to these pressures. Overall, 10,952 respondents completed or partially completed the survey, yielding a response rate of 22%.

Survey of Certified Organic Producers in the Western U.S. In 2014, Certified Organic Producers were surveyed in order to better understand the weed control, irrigation, soil fertility, and related management practices in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Utah. Four mailings were used to encourage response to the mixed-mode (mail and Internet) survey: an introductory letter, questionnaire, postcard, and replacement questionnaire. Of the 419 producers invited to participate, 158 responded, and a 38% response rate was obtained. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Arina Gertseva.

Fair Market Rent Survey. SESRC administered this survey for the King County Housing Authority in order to challenge the 2015 Fair Market Rent figures provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD). A random sample of 7,000 residential households in King and Snohomish Counties were mailed the HUD Fair Market Rent questionnaire in September 2014. A postcard reminder and replacement questionnaire were mailed to nonrespondents. Of those invited to participate, 680 renters, plus an additional 1,582 nonrenters, completed the survey resulting in a 348% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Lena Le, *Study Director:* Thom Allen.

Landscape Professionals Survey. In 2014, SESRC conducted a mixed-mode survey with a small number of Washington businesses for the Washington Association of Landscape Professionals to ask about entry-level landscape worker wages (and then estimate their prevailing wage) and their responsibilities. Seventy-five landscape businesses were contacted by mail, e-mail, and phone; respondents had the option of completing the survey online, via a paper questionnaire, or over the phone. Overall, 28 respondents participated, which represents a 46% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Nathan Palmer.

Medicaid Payment Increase Survey. In 2014, SESRC implemented a mail and Web-based survey of Washington physicians for the WWAMI Center for Health Workforce Studies at the Univ. of Washington to find out how the temporary increase in Medicaid rates for primary care physicians for 2013 and 2014 affected physicians and their practices. Each respondent received a mailed questionnaire packet mailed, which included a letter describing the project, a supporting letter from the Washington State Medical Association, a questionnaire, a postage-paid business reply envelope, and a \$20 honorarium. One week later, a postcard reminder was mailed; two weeks after that, a replacement questionnaire was mailed to all nonrespondents. Of the 390 physicians invited to participate, 274 completed the questionnaire, yielding a response rate of 72%. *Principal Investigator:* Lena Le, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Effects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on Health Coverage and Employment in the Agricultural Industry. In 2014, Washington agricultural producers were surveyed regarding opinions about the ACA and its effects on agricultural businesses. The protocol for this mixed-mode, mail and internet survey included an introductory letter, questionnaire, postcard, replacement questionnaire, and a second

replacement questionnaire. Of the 901 agricultural producers invited to participate, 209 did so, which represents an overall 25% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Nancy Holmes.

Shellfish Farming and Your Community Residential and Stakeholder Surveys. SESRC was asked by the Pacific Shellfish Institute to develop and conduct surveys of residents and stakeholders regarding the possible future growth of near-shore shellfish aquaculture in Washington, Oregon, and California. In 2014, the surveys were conducted to facilitate visualizations of the status and needs of shellfish aquaculture operations for marine and coastal planning efforts, increase understanding of the range of public perspectives held about shellfish aquaculture, and provide relevant shellfish aquaculture information that is responsive to a wide range of needs and interests. Of the 3,735 residential households randomly selected to participate in the mail and Internet

survey, 1,250 completed or partially completed, which represents a 33% response rate. Of the 865 selected stakeholders in Oregon, Washington, and California, 257 completed or partially completed the questionnaire, resulting in a 30% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Thom Allen.

WYOMING

Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WSAC)

University of Wyoming

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Child Health Community Survey. This survey was conducted as an extension of the Larimer County, CO, Comprehensive Community Health Survey of 2013–14. The Health District of Northern Larimer

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County has conducted comprehensive community health surveys every three years since 1995. For the most recent one conducted by WYSAC, they requested that an Internet and mail survey be administered to households with children age 5–9; respondents received a \$5 cash incentive. *Principal Investigator:* Michael Dorssom.

Wyoming 2014 Judicial Advisory Poll. Judicial evaluation polls are guided and used by bar associations to provide feedback to judicial officials about their performance on the bench and to help the public make more informed judgments in judicial elections. Judicial evaluation polls and their dispersal to the media have been conducted in Wyoming each year since 1976; WYSAC has been involved with those since 2002. As was done for the last three iterations, the poll was conducted as a Web-based survey. Over 1,500 Wyoming attorneys were invited to provide feedback. A response rate of 41% was achieved. *Project Director:* Bistra Anatchkova.

West Virginia Adult Tobacco Survey 2014. Under contract to West Virginia University, WYSAC conducted this survey following CDC guidelines for sample design and questionnaire content and flow, as well as CDC protocols for sample management and assignment of disposition codes. Over 2,000 telephone interviews were completed statewide. *Principal Investigator:* Brian Harnisch.

Oklahoma Shape Your Future Survey 2014. Under contract to Oklahoma University, WYSAC conducted a phone survey of Oklahoma households to collect data on healthy diets and exercise. Information on knowledge and awareness, as well as behaviors, was collected on a sample stratified by income level to secure oversampling of low income households. Over 1,000 completes were obtained. *Principal Investigators:* Bistra Anatchkova and Brian Harnisch.

Wyoming Driving Behaviors Survey 2014. WYSAC conducted the first such survey in 2010 under contract to the Wyoming Dept. and has conducted follow-up surveys in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, the purpose of which were to assess changes in drivers' attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, and behaviors. Both the sampling frame (landline and cell phone) and the questionnaire remained unchanged to achieve maximum comparability. *Principal Investigators:* Bistra Anatchkova and Brian Harnisch.

Wyoming 2014 Pre- and Post-election Survey. Every election year, WYSAC conducts a statewide telephone survey sponsored by the Univ. of Wyoming to collect data on voting intentions and behaviors as well as a wide variety of social and economic issues of importance to the state. Over 600 interviews are completed using the pre-election survey instrument (100+ questions). All respondents then were approached for a much shorter post-election survey. *Principal Investigator:* Brian Harnisch.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORC Labs Formed; AmeriSpeak™ Launched

NORC at the University of Chicago announces the formation of NORC Labs, an innovation-focused business unit that will drive the creation and introduction of cutting-edge products and services in data collection, analytics, and technology. Chris Kalb, a 15-year veteran of the healthcare and technology industries, has been named Senior Vice President of NORC Labs; he will be based in NORC's Bethesda, MD office and work across all of NORC's departments. To learn more, visit <http://NORCLabs.NORC.org>

Also, NORC has launched AmeriSpeak™, the first multiclient, panel-based research platform to combine the speed and cost effectiveness of traditional panel surveys with enhanced representativeness of the U.S. population, an approach designed to achieve an industry-leading response rate and an innovative sample quality report card. The platform enables organizations to conduct research with a representative panel of pre-recruited participants who have agreed to take part in regular online and phone surveys on government policies, social and political issues, new consumer products and services, and other topics. To learn more, visit <http://AmeriSpeak.NORC.org>

Don't Miss the AAPOR 70th Annual Conference and the IFD&TC 49th Annual Conference!

This year's AAPOR conference will be held May 14–17, in Hollywood, FL, while the IFD&TC conference will take place about 15 miles away in Fort Lauderdale from May 17–20.



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.

The Univ. of Illinois Springfield's Survey Research Office (SRO) is excited to announce that **Matthew Case** rejoined the SRO as Research Manager in January 2015.

RTI's Research Computing Division welcomes Mobile Applications Developers **William Bailey** and Matt Boyce, Proposal and Business Development Specialist **David Rice**, and IT Project Management Specialist **Pat West**. Recently joining the Division for Statistical and Data Sciences are Research Statisticians **Stephanie Zimmer**, **Darryl Cooney**, and **Michael Jacobsen**. In the Education and Workforce Development unit, RTI has been joined by Senior Graphic Designer **Larry Clay**, Education Analysts **Logan Collins** and **Patrick Shaw**, Research Programmer/Analyst **Kongporn (Pall) Kunchai**, and Communications Specialist **Genevieve Larose**; **Linda Wilson** returned to the unit as a Senior Editor/Writer. New faces in the Survey Research Division include Research Survey Methodologist **Rebecca Powell**, Survey Scientist **Jennifer Foley**, and Survey Specialists **Michelle Passerotti**, **Samita Bhattarai**, **Stephanie Dombek**, **Chantel Johnson**, **Dawn Dampier**, **Charles (Ross) Owens**, and **Erin Dobbins**.



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

The Information and Communication Technology Program in the Research Computing Division at RTI International is looking for a **Systems Engineer** to provide technical support to international development projects. Qualifications include a BS/BA with

3+ years' experience or a MA/MS with 1+ year experience working as a systems analyst, network administrator, server administrator, or ICT technical support specialist. Experience working in less developed countries is preferred; must be willing to travel to countries to install and configure systems and to provide training and technical support. Must have working proficiency in English, limited working proficiency in French and/or Spanish, experience working in less developed countries, and strong skills in most of the following: Windows Server configuration and management; Microsoft Excel and Access; networking, telecommunications technologies and services; system automation; data security and disaster recovery; remote system monitoring and training and technical support. View the entire job requisition at www.rti.org/careers (job 5758).

A tremendous opportunity exists to lead the Division for Statistical and Data Sciences (DSDS), which is comprised of the Center of Excellence for Complex Data Analysis (CoDA), Center for Survey Statistics, and Center for Data Sciences. The ideal candidate is an energetic leader who will help to shape more than 95 statisticians and data scientists to compete in both established and emerging markets. The position will be located in our Research Triangle Park, NC headquarters. Consideration will be given to location in our Washington, DC or Chicago offices. RTI requires a mature, poised individual who can be a compelling leader and representative of the division both internally and externally. The **Division Vice-President** reports directly to the Unit (Senior) Vice President for the Survey, Computing, and Statistical Sciences (SCSS). View the entire job requisition at www.rti.org/careers (job 15200).

The Division for Statistical and Data Sciences is seeking a **Senior Survey Statistician** to work on projects in the domains of public health, health care, health communications, global health, social science research, sample surveys, and the environment. Candidates must possess creative and adaptive thinking skills, be resourceful. The Senior Survey Statistician will be asked to lead efforts to identify and secure funding for surveys, liaise with clients, manage project teams, and publish results, as well as collaborate with a multidisciplinary team of social scientists, survey methodologists and specialists, programmers, and subject matter experts. View the entire job requisition at www.rti.org/careers (job 15885).

RTI International's Division for Statistical and Data Sciences is seeking a Master's-level **Survey Statistician** to work on projects in the domains of public health, health care, social science research, sample surveys, and the environment. The statistician would 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. This position requires the ability to work independently and as a member of a team to deliver high-quality work. View the entire job requisition at www.rti.org/careers (job 15555).

RTI International's Early Education, Disability, and Health program is seeking a **Research Scientist** interested in genetic testing of minors. RTI is looking for an early- to mid-career scientist with broad ranging interests and expertise related to genetic testing and the ethical, clinical, and policy issues surrounding genetic testing of minors. Minimum qualifications include a PhD in public health, medicine, genetics, bioethics, or other field related to genetic testing in minors, 3 years of relevant experience. View the entire job requisition at www.rti.org/careers (job 15630).

RTI International is seeking a **Director** for the Early Education, Disability and Health (EEDH) Program located in Research Triangle Park, NC. Responsibilities include building and defining a research and development program for EEDH, identifying high impact areas well suited to RTI and EEDH expertise, and marketing capabilities to new clients. Qualifications: PhD and 15 years' related experience/Master's degree with 19 years of related experience. View the entire job requisition at www.rti.org/careers (job 15582).

Education and Workforce Development (EWD) at RTI International has an immediate opening for a **Program Director** for K-12 Education Partnerships. This role will expand EWD's education research capabilities through strategic business development and innovative approaches to education partnerships. Qualifications: PhD and 10 years' related experience or equivalent. View the entire job requisition at www.rti.org/careers (job 15855).

Westat is seeking a **Survey Methodologist**. Responsibilities include conducting methodological research to develop and improve survey procedures and capabilities as well as serving as a senior meth-

odologist on survey projects. In doing methodological research, the candidate will work independently as part of a team with other senior members or lead small research projects. As a methodologist on data collection projects, the successful candidate will provide development and design expertise across all modes and will share responsibility with project staff in development activities. This role will require working with a team of substantive and operational specialists to implement and evaluate surveys conducted for a wide variety of clients in both the public and private sector. A PhD in a relevant field or a master's degree with 5+ years of experience in survey methods research is required. For more information, visit www.westat.com/careers (job 8660BR).

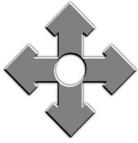


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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Bloustein School, Rutgers University
Hosts 9th Annual AASRO Directors
Meeting March 5–7, 2015: Reflections
and Directions**

1

Current Research

6

Announcements

16

Personnel Notes

17

Job Opportunities

17

Publications

18

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