

SURVEY RESEARCH

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

Notes from the Field: Contact Strategies for Adults with Serious Mental Illness

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The Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) at the University of Illinois has completed more than 3,750 longitudinal interviews of adults with mental illness by telephone on multiple projects over the last 10 years. SRL worked in collaboration with the Center on Mental Health Services Research and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. We began this work with a contact strategy informed by our prior work on list studies and appointment-based studies. We quickly learned that many of the assumptions of a standardized contact protocol did not fit well to the needs of this population. Over time, a more detailed and successful contact protocol has evolved.

All respondents were receiving public mental health services at the time of their interviews. Some were experiencing symptoms of their mental illness, but the majority were not. Most were living on limited income, many had instability in their living situations, and a very small percentage experienced homelessness during one or more of the field periods. In spite of their life and health challenges, most respondents were invested in completing their interviews even when needing accommodations to do so.

Study design has varied, but sample sizes have usually been small (most have been in the 20–80

range, with rarely more than 50 cases in the field at one time). Interviews were completed at baseline, at Time 2 following an intervention (3 months–1 year after baseline, depending on the study), and at Time 3 (3 months–1 year after Time 2). Subjects were recruited into the study by our client at outpatient clinics or community health agencies and consented on paper as part of the recruitment process. The client collected one or two contact numbers for the subject, as well as information about to whom the number belonged (either the respondent, nonrespondent other, or an organization, such as the main number at a rooming house). They also collected up to three locator contacts—people whom the subject deemed would know how to find him or her. At recruitment, subjects were given study information that included our toll-free number, and they were encouraged to call back and leave messages.

Interviewing was appointment based, with all interviewer work shifts arranged in appointment slots. With all the contact information we received, we expected during the initial waves that we would simply call respondents, schedule appointments, and complete interviews. This turned out to be a misguided expectation, so we worked on developing and encouraging the resourcefulness and patience interviewers needed to make successful contacts.

Cultivation time. Many cases, but not all, required "cultivation time." Respondents, especially at baseline, often needed time to "ease in" to an



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interview, and we, in turn, needed time to learn things about them. Field period lengths were set to allow time for cultivation to take place, so they could be six to eight weeks long even if the sample was relatively small. Some respondents set appointments, and then weren't there, called in to reschedule, weren't there again, rescheduled, answered the phone but were not available, etc. We needed to be patient and assume that such respondents would complete—eventually.

When such respondents developed a rapport with a particular interviewer, it could help move the process along. When the respondent called in, he or she might ask for a particular interviewer, and while it was not always possible to put that person on the phone, it did seem to help over time if respondents felt like there were one or two names they “knew.” Leaving messages helped us in our relationship building because when respondents called back, they had a specific person for whom to ask.

Relationship building. Interviewers who were good at communicating their patience and understanding had the most success gaining cooperation from the most difficult-to-engage subjects. Rather than always trying to complete an interview “now,” it was necessary for the interviewer to back off and embrace the idea of “later.” One respondent who initially refused stated that the interview length (about an hour) was a challenge for him—he had trouble thinking about one thing for that long. It was important for us to communicate to him that we could go as long as he was able and he could let us know when he needed a break. It took five partial interviews over about three weeks to complete the interview. The same interviewer managed the case so that she could interview him each time, and she used that as a strategy to get the respondent back on the phone.

Call windows. Appointment slots were wide enough to accommodate not only the estimated average interview but gave extra time to account for interviews that exceeded the average length as well as the challenges of getting subjects on the phone and ready for the interview. Thus, a 1.5-hour window was standard for an interview that was estimated at 60–70 minutes.

Contact numbers. On a single contact attempt, interviewers would call one or both of the respondent

contact numbers (until we ruled out any given number as not one at which we could ever reach the respondent). Our client also collected information about to whom each nonrespondent number belonged, which could be helpful in determining how often to call a particular number or in determining whether a given number was a viable number for reaching the respondent.

- Respondents often had Tracphones or Lifeline Assistance (Obama) phones (free or reduced-cost cell phones for individuals with low incomes). While they often could be reached on those numbers, they usually could not be interviewed on them because of limited minutes.
- For a handful of respondents each wave, numbers could work at some point, then stop working, then work again. Thus, we never changed or removed numbers in a case. Instead, we relied on phone number information from the client, as well as good notes from the interviewers, to help determine whether a given number should be called again. If a cell phone was nonworking at a given point in a wave, we typically would call it again.
- Interviewers were able to make their own decisions about whether a given number would be called during any contact attempt, based on the history of attempts for the number. They were simply instructed to leave good notes about the decisions they made (e.g., Phone 1: Nonworking. Phone 2: Did not call).

CONTACT CHALLENGES

Answering the phone and talking on it. Not answering the phone did not always indicate unwillingness to interview. There were a lot of reasons participants did not answer their phones or didn't want to talk on them, even when they were home and waiting for appointments.

- There was a group of respondents every wave who didn't pick up when we called (including for scheduled interviews), but who called back within 5–10 minutes. It might have been the case that some participants didn't answer because they were managing difficult feelings or emotions related to their mental illness at the time of the call, but we couldn't document that.

- More than one participant said they never picked up the phone because they were pestered by bill collectors. They told us “when you call, you have to leave a message, and I’ll call you back.”
- Participants would not answer “unidentified” numbers or didn’t receive calls from them.
- Participants who had prepaid cell phones needed other options for interviewing, such as the ability to call in to our toll-free number, though even that sometimes presented challenges because they couldn’t find a phone from which to call. Often the alternate number they provided was a phone on which they could interview, but we used the primary number for contact attempts.

Phone problems. It was not uncommon for a respondent’s phone to run out of battery power in the middle of an interview. In such situations, an interviewer’s flexibility could mean the difference between a complete and a partial.

Unexpected call-ins. Having some knowledge of the hard-to-work sample was helpful. If a respondent called in and wanted to do an interview “now,” it might be really bad timing for us, but we would have to weigh that against how difficult the respondent had been to contact. That might mean pushing back or rescheduling other appointments. At a certain point in the wave, it was helpful to have everyone be able to recognize, or find out very quickly, how hard the person calling in had been to reach.

No-shows. Participants were frequently not there for scheduled appointments (around 40% of the time). For most of the field period, we scheduled as if the completion rate was 100%. But at the end of the wave, when time was tight, we played the odds and overbooked, determining a calling priority for overbooked time slots. In the worst case scenario (when both appointments materialized), an interviewer might stay late to cover an extra interview or the field coordinator would interview.

Forgetfulness. Some respondents were extremely forgetful—due to medication side effects, cognitive needs, or the strain of difficult life circumstances. They might call in to schedule an appointment, then call back one or two days later and schedule another one, making no mention of the first. There wasn’t much we could do about this (outside of seeing the first appointment on the schedule or

being the person who had knowledge of the prior call). It was just something we learned to expect and accommodate.

Forgetfulness, along with having trouble planning and estimating time, emerged as the primary reason that leaving messages was so important. Respondents who had forgotten an appointment might call us back within 10 or 15 minutes, later the same day, or the following day. If we hadn’t left messages, we would have missed the opportunity to facilitate such calls.

STRATEGY AND SOLUTIONS

Early-, middle-, and late-study contact protocol. We employed a different strategy for different points in the field period. Early on, we focused on calling and scheduling cases that were easier to reach and holding the harder ones that might require supervisor intervention or help from our client. Midway through the field period, we began working harder-to-reach cases. Late in the field period, when there was often little sample left to call, we tried to have an interviewer available at some point every day, even when there were no appointments. When an interviewer had appointment slots available but had finished calling available sample, we asked them to wait about an hour before leaving in case of a call-in.

Early in the field period, interviewers were instructed to always schedule respondents into existing slots in the schedule, to minimize down time. Interviewers worked with respondents to find times that worked, taking the lead in such discussions, such as “I have a 1:30 or a 3:00 on Thursday, do either of those work?” rather than “What time on Thursday?” Later in the field period, interviewers were given more latitude for scheduling, so if we had open slots at 12:00 and 1:30, but a respondent was available from 1:00–2:30, they could change the schedule accordingly. This would result in more downtime, but that might be preferable to pushing the appointment into the following week or not completing the interview at all.

Contact attempts. The standard 20 attempts was not enough for a handful of respondents at each wave. Many completed in one to three attempts and most completed in ten or fewer. But some portion of them completed in 15–30 attempts. As a result,

we set the maximum attempts as high as our CATI programming would allow so that no case ever went out on attempts.

Leaving messages. Our client asked us to leave messages every time we called, suggesting that the respondents need to be reminded—maybe even prodded—into taking action. Our initial reaction was resistance: leaving messages put the onus on the respondents to call back and left us with uncertainty about how long to wait before calling back. Our client suggested we shouldn't wait—just call again. The results were positive when we started doing that, and we always used a generic message script for confidentiality reasons.

We were prepared to leave two messages at two different numbers on the same day when we had multiple numbers for the respondent. For nonrespondent numbers, we let interviewers leave messages at their own discretion as the field period advanced.

Reminder calls. Reminder calls were typically made the day before a scheduled interview, if we could reach the respondent at a number that belonged to him or her. Reminder calls were scripted, and if respondents were reached, we could verify the appointment as well as confirm they still intended to keep it (often, appointments were rescheduled at that time). If voicemail was reached, we left an abbreviated message, including our toll-free number.

Noncontact strategy. Even when a number appeared to be working (e.g., we were able to leave messages), our protocol evolved so that locators were tried after two weeks of noncontact. This was true even for cases in which we had had prior contact with the respondent. The interviewer's role in such cases was important, because he or she might be the first one to notice we had made no progress on a retry case.

Working the "very hard to reach" cases. At some point in the field period, cases would fall into "hard to reach" and "very hard to reach" categories. As long as the field period was still open, no such case was ever finalized. Participants who were unreachable sometimes found the motivation to call in and interview even after a long period of noncontact—often because they were paid an incentive for

completing an interview. Such cases might be worked with little or no calling.

Make call-ins easy, make sure everyone knows how to handle them. The ability for respondents to call in is critically important—call-ins are needed to facilitate completion in a majority of cases. Interviewers who answered the phone had to know where to find call-in lists and know how to collect and verify relevant information from a respondent. They also needed to be more than minimally aware (especially at the end of the field period) if the respondent calling in was someone we considered very hard to reach.

Give interviewers latitude to make decisions; make them use it. As noted earlier, when our hard appointments turned into noninterviews, they were not necessarily no-shows. Often we made contact with respondents, who now had other plans or commitments about which they had forgotten. Because of this, we sometimes would double-book appointments or start interviews from call-ins because it seemed likely that the odds would work in our favor. An interviewer's knowledge of the case notes or interactions with a given respondent were critical in this process.

Whether interviewers attempted to complete interviews on the spot or scheduled them for a later time was up to them. In addition to having adequate time available, we wanted them to consider their assessment of the respondent and the situation at the time (e.g., there might be just enough time to complete an interview under perfect circumstances, but a respondent's chattiness or background noise might make rescheduling seem like a better option).

Learn and document people's habits. An interviewer mentioned a case she called in which the respondent tended to "hang around the lobby" of the place he lived. It is helpful to learn such information and use it in either finding people or deciding how to structure work (e.g., it determines whether an interviewer should wait around for a call-in or not).

Beware of bad days and bad times and work around them. Respondents who scheduled interviews sometimes were not up to starting them, or they started them but it was clear they were struggling (e.g., a sleepy respondent who struggled

with staying focused and giving intelligible answers completed a partial morning interview, then finished during an afternoon session; she admitted that her morning meds put her to sleep). As much as possible without mind reading, interviewers needed to assess situations and have interactions with respondents in which they felt they could communicate their needs to us.

Share as much information as possible in case notes. Case notes need to be very thick—much more detail than we typically train interviewers to provide. Our strategy was that no detail was unimportant.

SUMMARY

We were able to achieve good response rates by learning progressively more about adults with mental illness with each wave, by documenting and updating field procedures as needed, and by cultivating a strong working relationship with open lines of communication with our client. Response rates (AAPOR RR3) have been between 77%–100% for baseline waves, 74%–100% for Time 2 follow-up waves, and 62%–100% for Time 3 waves over 52 waves of data collection. Retaining experienced interviewers who are invested in the process and able to contribute knowledge based on their experiences has also contributed to our success.

Listed below are examples of published papers from the studies described here.

Cook, J., Jonikas, J., Hamilton, M., Goldrick, V., Steigman, P., Grey, D., et al. (2013). Impact of Wellness Recovery Action Planning on service utilization and need in a randomized controlled trial. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, 36(4), 250–257.

Steigman, P., Pickett, S., Diehl, S., Fox A., Grey, D., Shipley, P., et al. (2014, March). Psychiatric symptoms moderate the effects of mental illness self-management in a randomized controlled trial. *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 202(3), 193–199.



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.

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Columbia County Resident Survey. Columbia County, Georgia, commissioned a telephone survey of its residents in spring 2015 as part of the Vision 2035 Comprehensive Plan update. The purpose of the survey was to gather public input regarding the future development of the county, and the instrument was designed to measure resident ratings of various aspects of quality of life in their community as well as their preferences regarding future development in Columbia County. The Burruss Institute obtained 405 interviews from a random sample of adult county residents. The sample size allowed for a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of $\pm 5\%$ for the overall survey results.

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Providers, Patients, and the Interpregnancy Interval (IPI). Investigators in the Dept. of Obstetrics

and Gynecology at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) conducted a study of health care providers and OBGYN patients to assess their knowledge, attitudes, and practices as they pertain to IPI following a live birth or stillbirth. Patients were all women sampled from the waiting room of the OBGYN outpatient clinic at UIC hospitals. The survey instrument was programmed using surveygizmo.com, and an interviewer was present to answer questions as the respondent provided responses to the survey questions. Random samples of providers were obtained from the AMA (via Medical Marketing Services) and the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). E-mail invitations were sent to providers by SRL and ACNM. In addition, providers in the sample who had no e-mail addresses were sent a questionnaire packet via mail. Responses were obtained from 281 patients and 344 providers (277 completes by e-mail and 67 by mail). *Principal Investigator:* Ashlee Bergin, *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

Office of Business and Financial Services (OBFS) Transparency Initiative. During March and April 2015, SRL conducted a Web survey of OBFS staff and customers regarding customer service and transparency in OBFS. Nine hundred respondents completed the online questionnaire. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Educational Standards Survey. To better understand its members' perceptions of the processes and programs for establishing veterinary professional standards and its role in these areas, AVMA contracted with SRL to survey its membership. Data collection for this Web study extended from May 26 through June 24, 2015, and 1,684 members completed all or part of the online instrument. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

Faculty and Staff Shuttle Survey. On behalf of the UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, SRL conducted this research with an eye toward enhancing the safety and efficiency with which faculty and staff get around campus. In addition to conducting focus groups with faculty, staff, and campus shuttle drivers and supervisors, SRL surveyed faculty and staff via an online instrument in October 2015. The questionnaire addressed how respondents get to and from campus, how they get around while on campus, and the reasons for selecting various modes of transportation and was completed by 1,211 UIC faculty and staff members.

Project Coordinators: Anne Diffenderffer and Isabel Farrar.

Cook County Patient and Resident Health. SRL conducted questionnaire review for the Illinois Public Health Institute, which is partnering with hospitals and health departments in Cook County on a health survey of patients and residents. The questionnaire includes items on the health and wellness of residents' neighborhoods as well as their personal health and perceptions and will be administered in both English and Spanish. *Project Coordinator:* Isabel Farrar.

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Attitudes towards the T in LGBT: Public Support for Transgender Rights and Supportive Policies. This project was cosponsored and funded by Jason Pierceson, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Univ. of Illinois Springfield and SRO. The online Qualtrics survey was launched July 21 and closed July 24, 2015, with 774 respondents. All potential respondents were randomly selected by Qualtrics from their market research panels. This national survey is aimed at gauging attitudes towards transgender-inclusive policies in health and healthcare, K-12 education, the U.S. military, and prisons. The full report and topline results are available at <http://go.uis.edu/TinLGBT>. *Principal Investigators:* Ashley Kirzinger and Jason Pierceson.

Sangamon County Economic Outlook. This survey examines the economic perceptions, expectations, and evaluations of Sangamon County businesses, public organizations, and nonprofit organizations. It has been conducted biannually (March and September) since 2008 with the goal of providing a longitudinal analysis of the local economy through the lens of area organizations. The project is sponsored by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce with a contribution from the Univ. of Illinois Springfield's Chancellor's Office. Telephone interviews began September 28 and concluded October 15, 2015. *Principal Investigator:* Ashley Kirzinger, *Research Manager:* Matthew Case.

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READS for Summer Learning Project (READS)

2015. During the summer of 2015, CSR partnered with the Harvard Graduate School of Education's NSF-funded project READS. READS mailed out ten age- and reading-level-appropriate books to 3rd-grade student participants in North Carolina. Each book contained a pamphlet the students and their parents were to fill out and return by mail. The students received small prizes after completing the pamphlets. CSR conducted reminder calls to the parents in July, encouraging participation and reminding parents of the importance of returning the pamphlets. CSR exhaustively called the sample for one month and achieved a response rate of over 30%. CSR conducted another round of calling with the same sample in August, collecting information to inform READS organizers of the effectiveness of the project as a whole. This calling resulted in a response rate of over 30% again. READS organizers are exploring how to expand the program beyond the Communities in Schools of North Carolina. *Principal Investigator:* Helen Kingston (READS), *CSR Project Director:* Alycia Cameron.

Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) 2015. CSR has just completed administration of this survey with the Center for Postsecondary Research in the Indiana University School of Education. In 2015, 109 colleges and universities participated in BCSSE, which is administered via a Web survey and paper questionnaire to students who are preparing to enter college, typically during orientation sessions. This year, CSR created a mobile-friendly version of the survey for use by a small experimental group of schools. Results so far are promising, and CSR will work toward scaling up the mobile-friendly version for 2016. BCSSE collects data annually about high school experiences and what students expect from their upcoming undergraduate experience. *Principal Investigator:* Jim Cole (BCSSE Project Manager and Research Analyst), *CSR Project Directors:* Erica Moore and Jamie Roberts.

IOWA

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Gambling Attitudes and Behaviors: 2015. To measure statewide gambling behavior prevalence and attitudes toward gambling, the CSBR has conducted a biannual statewide public survey of adult Iowans since 2011; it is funded by the Iowa Gambling Treatment Program at the Iowa Dept. of Public Health. Using a dual-frame sampling design, the telephone survey assesses types and frequency of gambling activities, prevalence of problem gambling, and awareness and opinions of publicly funded gambling treatment services. *Principal Investigators:* Mary Losch and Ki Park.

Teacher Education 1st-Year Student Evaluation. CSBR is beginning an evaluation of first- and second-year teachers for the UNI College of Education (CoE). The evaluation will include online, short message service, and in-depth interviews focused on teacher perceptions of their training and skills. Interviews also will be conducted with instructional coaches and principals in schools around the state. Funded by the UNI CoE, the project will be used to further assess the Year-Long Student Teaching Pilot program and to improve the teacher education program at UNI. *Principal Investigator:* Mary Losch.

NSF Research Traineeship-Data-Enabled Science and Engineering Plant Phenomics Evaluation. CSBR recently began a five-year evaluation of the P3—Predictive Phenomics of Plants—program at Iowa State University (ISU). The program seeks to transform graduate education using transdisciplinary training and professional development in engineering, plant sciences, and data science. The mixed-method evaluation includes formative, process and summative components that will utilize quantitative surveys and a range of qualitative methods. *Principal Investigator:* Julie Dickerson (ISU), *CSBR Project Director:* Mary Losch.

KENTUCKY

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Collaborative Environmental Approaches to Reduce Obesity Disparities. This survey of 1,800 primary food shoppers in six rural Kentucky counties seeks to learn about where people shop for food, eating habits, and health outcomes. *Principal Investigator:* Alison Gustafson, *Project Director:* Ron Langley.

Kentucky Office for the Blind Customer Satisfaction Survey. This is an annual survey of 550 office clients. *Principal Investigator:* Christina Espinosa, *Project Director:* Absolom Waweru.

Kentucky Office for Vocational Rehabilitation Customer Satisfaction Survey. This is another annual survey that involves interviews of 1,000 office clients. *Principal Investigator:* Katie Wolf Whaley, *Project Director:* Absolom Waweru.

Kentucky Tobacco Program Media Survey. This dual-frame telephone survey of 625 Kentucky adults assesses the impact of a statewide smoking cessation media campaign. *Principal Investigator and Project Director:* Ron Langley.

Bourbon County Smoking Policy. This survey of 400 Bourbon Co. Kentucky adults explores attitudes about indoor smoking in public places and the effects of secondhand smoke on health. *Principal Investigator:* Ron Langley, *Project Director:* Absolom Waweru.

MARYLAND

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Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing in Adolescence Study (Year 15). Year 15 is the sixth round of this longitudinal study that is following a cohort of nearly 5,000 children born in 20 large U.S. cities 1998–2000 (roughly three-quarters of whom were born to unmarried parents). The study collects

information on child health and development and the effects of community services, welfare reform, child support, and paternity establishment policies on families. It is representative of the racial and ethnic composition of each city and is nationally representative of all nonmarital births to parents residing in cities with populations over 200,000. Year 15, funded by an NIH grant to Princeton University, extends the study into the teenage years of the originally sampled focal children.

The Year 15 sample was restricted to 3,626 cases that had completed at least one interview in the previous round. The primary caregiver, usually the biological mother, and the teen each complete hour-long interviews, and a saliva sample is collected from the teen. During home visits with a subset of nearly 1,000 teens, interviewers measure the teens' height, weight, waist circumference, and skin color. They also recruit teens to wear actigraphs for a seven-day period to obtain measures of rest/activity cycles and ask teens to complete an online daily food and activity diary. *Principal Investigators:* Sara MacLanahan (Princeton University) and Irv Garfinkel (Columbia University). Separate NIH grants to Lauren Hale (Stonybrook University School of Medicine) and Dan Notterman (Princeton University) cover home collection of rest/activity cycles, Web diary, and home-visit saliva samples. *Project Director:* Christine Winquist Nord.

National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS). Funded by NCHS, this survey integrates inpatient data formerly collected by the National Hospital Discharge Survey, emergency department (ED) and outpatient department data collected by the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, and the substance-involved ED visit data previously collected by the Drug Abuse Warning Network. It draws on a nationally representative sample of 581 noninstitutional, non-Federal hospitals in the U.S. that have six or more beds staffed for inpatient use. A key task for Westat has been the recruitment of these hospitals in sufficient numbers to produce national estimates. NHCS's goal is to provide reliable and timely health-care utilization data and to conduct special studies. Each of the three feeder surveys relied on medical record abstraction for data collection; NHCS aims to change this historical data collection method and move toward complete collection of inpatient and ambulatory data using electronic health records (EHR). Hospitals unable to send EHR data are asked to send in claims data. Together with NCHS,

we have sought innovative means to ease the burden on hospitals for participation (e.g., a collaboration with the Univ. Healthsystem Consortium and discussions with EHR vendors to build an interface). In addition, all hospitals are asked to complete an annual survey on hospital administration data. Data collected includes personal identifiers that are used to link care across settings and other data sources (e.g., National Death Index in order to obtain 30-, 60-, and 90-day mortality data), which can be shared with participating hospitals. Deliverables include an annual deduplicated merged claims and EHR data file. *Project Director:* Kathy Chimes.

Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). This international study measures the knowledge and skills of 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics, science, collaborative problem solving, and optional topics such as financial literacy. School and teacher questionnaires obtain additional information about cultural environments, teaching practices, curriculum goals, and institutional arrangements associated with student achievement. The focus of PISA is on young peoples' preparedness for postsecondary education and/or careers. PISA is sponsored internationally by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and has been administered in more than 60 participating countries every three years since 2000. In 2015, more than 70 education systems are participating.

Under contract with the NCES, Westat has conducted the U.S. component of PISA for several data collection cycles, most recently PISA 2015. For the data collection cycles, Westat is responsible for overall project management; sample selection; recruitment of schools and students; hiring, training, and supervising test administrators; instrument adaptation; data collection and scoring; performing a confidentiality analysis of the data; and reporting the U.S. results. Depending on the cycle, the U.S. assesses 160–180 schools and 5,200–6,100 students. In addition to the U. S. samples, three states participated as adjudicated entities in 2012, and two states are participating in 2015 with representative state-school samples, to receive state-level PISA results. Puerto Rico also participated in both 2012 and 2015. The PISA 2015 student assessments of core subjects are computer-based, and the school and teacher questionnaires are administered online. PISA shifted from a paper-based assessment mode

to a computer-based assessment mode in 2015. *Project Director:* David Kastberg.

Survey of Science and Engineering Research Facilities. Under contract to the NSF, Westat will conduct this survey for FY 2015. It is a congressionally mandated, biennial survey that collects data on the amount, construction, repair, renovation, and funding of research facilities at U.S. colleges and universities. It is an establishment-based survey completed by institutional coordinators at academic institutions and is a census of all research-performing colleges and universities in the U.S. that expended at least \$1 million in research and development funds in the prior fiscal year. Under earlier contracts, Westat conducted the first three surveys to collect information from research-performing colleges and universities as well as biomedical research institutions. Between 2001 and 2003, Westat assisted NSF in redesigning the survey, with a focus on how changes in the research and development environment and computing and networking capacity had affected the way research is conducted. Westat has conducted or participated in all six subsequent survey cycles. The FY 2015 survey activities include the review and cleaning of the population frame, collection and processing of the survey data, production of detailed statistical tables and eTables, and delivery of a comprehensive data repository and methodology report. Project staff also will conduct usability tests and methodological investigations related to past and future data collection efforts. *Project Director:* Eric Jodts.

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PROST-QA: Prostate Cancer Outcomes and Satisfaction with Treatment Quality Assessment.

The PROST-QA study is a longitudinal study that measures comparative health-related quality of life expectations in prostate cancer patients receiving various therapies. The PROST-QA consortium started in 2003. Patients were recruited for the panel by the clinical site at which the patient initially received treatment and were interviewed by telephone prior

to treatment, at 2-, 6- and 12-month time points, then yearly thereafter. IPPSR just started the 12th year of data collection. *Principal Investigator:* Martin Sanda (Emory University), *Project Manager:* Kyle Davis.

Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Study (BRFSS). OSR has been responsible for data collection on behalf of the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for the CDC's BRFSS study since 1996. Data for this annual general-population telephone study is collected quarterly and consists of questions related to health conditions, behavior, and attitudes. Its data is used to track changing health practices and health conditions throughout the country and guides public health programs and policies at the national, state, and local levels. For 2015, an anticipated 4,200 landline and 4,200 cell phone 22-minute interviews will be completed with English-speaking, noninstitutionalized Michigan adults.

Beginning in 2013, OSR began implementing the minority population BRFSS-type studies for the MDHHS on a rotating schedule for Hispanic (Spanish and English), Asian (English only), and Arab/Chaldean (Arabic and English) subpopulations. OSR's involvement in these studies consisted of both data collection and data weighting/raking using CDC methodology.

Also, due to our collaboration with MDHHS, OSR has been involved in running multiple county- and city-level BRFSS-type studies involving both data collection and CDC weighting of data sets. Further, some counties requested analytical reports. *Principal Investigators:* Chris Fussman and Sheryl Weir, *Project Manager:* Debra Rusz.

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Emergency Department Screen for Teens at Risk for Suicide Follow-up Study (ED-STARS Follow-up). This multisite collaborative project proposes to implement a "universal suicide risk screen" strategy with eligible youth age 12–17 who present at one of 14 emergency departments across the country. The Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network research team will conduct initial screen-

ing of approximately 9,090 youths randomly chosen in these emergency departments over a period of two years. Based on the results of the screening, youths will be contacted for follow-up at three and six months (youths who present with an actual suicide or self-injury concern, youths who present with at least two suicide risk factors, and youths at low-/no-risk for suicide) by SRC's interviewing staff in Survey Research Operations (SRO). SRO will receive electronic files with contact information for the selected youths on a flow basis, with the expectation of receiving approximately 4,360 in total. A second phase of the study will evaluate the effectiveness of an adaptive screening tool designed after the first phase. Data collection is occurring between October 2015 and December 2017. *Principal Investigators:* Cheryl King (Univ. of Michigan), Jacqueline Grupp-Phelan, and David Brent; *Project Manager:* Esther Ullman; *Production Manager:* Lisa Carn.

Detroit Community Survey (Forgiveness). The Templeton Foundation is funding this study of Humility, Forgiveness, and Social Relations in the Detroit metro area. We are particularly interested in how social relationships may contribute to experiences of forgiveness and well-being. Households were sampled from high-density African-American and Arab-American segments, and phone interviews will be completed with adult Arab Americans, African Americans, and Whites (300 with each racial/ethnic group) with questions covering a wide range of topics—including social relationships with friends and family, forgiveness, life satisfaction, and health. In addition, 100 spouses within each racial group will be interviewed. Data collection began in September and is expected to be completed in December. *Principal Investigators:* Toni Antonucci (Univ. of Michigan) and Kristine Ajrouch (Eastern Michigan University), *Survey Director:* Cheryl Wiese, *Production Manager:* Ruth Philippou.

Transition into Adulthood Supplement (TAS)

2015. This survey is part of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) suite. TAS has been conducted every two years since 2005, to follow the participants of the PSID Child Development Supplement (CDS) as they age out of CDS and transition into early adult life. Through interviews with young adults age 17–28, TAS is designed to explore ways in which early childhood and adolescent experiences, social and financial supports, and goals and aspirations shape experiences and outcomes during emerging adult years. 2015 is the final wave in

which TAS will follow the original CDS sample. Future waves will employ a new mixed-mode design. Data collection for TAS15 began in September 2015 and will continue through April 2016, with approximately 1,800 respondents. These data additionally can be used to better understand how early adult life experiences affect development across the life course for these individuals as they are followed into the future as part of PSID. *Principal Investigator:* Narayan Sastry (Univ. of Michigan); *Project Manager:* Maryam Buageila.

MISSISSIPPI

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2015 National Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control. Results from this dual-frame (cell phone and landline) survey will allow researchers to ascertain the degree to which a representative sample of 1,500 U.S. residents live in smoke-free homes, work in smoke-free environments, understand the health risks of tobacco, dine in smoke-free restaurants, talk to their children about tobacco use, etc. The project is funded by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Granite State Poll 58, July 2015. Five hundred and thirty-two (532) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone July 7–20, 2015. The Granite State Poll is a quarterly survey of public opinion in New Hampshire. This study was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning consumer confidence, favorability of elected officials, potential 2016 general election matchups, and state policy issues. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 4.2\%$. *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

Granite State Poll 58 II, July 2015. Seven hundred and twenty-two (722) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone July 22–July 30, 2015. 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 $\pm 3.6\%$. Included were 309 likely 2016 Republican Primary voters (MSE = ± 5.6), 276 likely 2016 Democratic Primary voters (MSE = ± 5.9), and 652 likely 2016 presidential election voters (MSE = ± 3.8). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

CNN/WMUR New Hampshire Primary Poll 59, September 2015. Eight-hundred and twenty (820) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone September 17–September 23, 2015. The poll 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 $\pm 3.4\%$. Included were 343 likely 2016 Republican Primary voters (MSE = ± 5.3), 314 likely 2016 Democratic Primary voters (MSE = ± 5.5), and 747 likely 2016 presidential election voters (MSE = ± 3.6). *Principal investigator:* Andrew Smith.

Granite State Poll 59, September–October 2015. Five hundred and eighty-seven (587) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone September 24–October 2, 2015 to determine present attitudes concerning consumer confidence, favorability of elected officials, potential 2016 general election matchups, and state policy issues. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 4.0\%$. *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

NEW JERSEY

Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP)

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200th Poll/45th Year Anniversaries. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll will celebrate its 200th poll ever in December 2015 and its 45th anniversary during the

upcoming 2016–2017 academic year. Initially known as the New Jersey Poll, the poll was one of the nation’s very first university-based statewide surveys when it was established with funding from the Wallace-Eljabar Fund in October 1971. Conducted by the ECPIP, the poll examines everything from job approval ratings for presidents, governors, and other political figures, to attitudes regarding taxes, corruption, social issues, and a host of other current events and topics both state and nationwide.

Over the past four decades, the poll has undergone a few name changes, and directors have included some of the most prestigious and well-known individuals in the survey research field. The 200th poll will take a look back to New Jersey’s past and a look ahead to its future, touching on issues and topics that truly make the Garden State unique. Previous press releases, questionnaires, and data from the past 199 polls can be found at <http://eagleton-poll.rutgers.edu/>

The Rutgers-Eagleton Omnibus Survey. ECPIP is inviting government, academic, and nonprofit agencies, as well as public policy oriented organizations, to add their own questions to a new regular multi-client telephone survey. The new omnibus survey continues ECPIP’s tradition of integrity, quality, and objectivity, while providing a cost-efficient opportunity for clients to draw on ECPIP’s expertise and high standards for data collection and analysis. The omnibus survey uses statewide representative samples of New Jersey adults age 18 or over and includes a variety of demographic questions for in-depth analysis. ECPIP has handled client projects large and small addressing a variety of topics such as general public policy, social issues, the environment, voting, transportation, food security, legal matters, community development, health and wellness, and much more. For more information, visit <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/omnibus-survey/>

NORTH CAROLINA

RTI International

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Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2017–18 (MGLS:2017). The MGLS:2017, conducted for the NCES, will follow a cohort of 6th-grade students

through the middle grade years. The goal of the study is to assess students’ mathematics and reading skills, executive function, and socio-emotional well-being. Additionally, information will be collected on family and school factors that encourage success during these important yet generally understudied years of education. *RTI Project Director:* Dan Pratt.

Post-high School Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities. This study, being conducted on behalf of the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, will collect administrative records for a cohort of youth with disabilities as they transition out of high school and into postsecondary school and the workforce. It builds on work begun with the National Longitudinal Transition Study 2012 (NLTS 2012), which follows in the tradition of NLTS and NLTS 2. Working with partners SRI and Social Dynamics, RTI will collect secondary and postsecondary education records as well as records from the Social Security Administration. Data will be analyzed and reports prepared to describe the secondary, postsecondary, employment, and earning outcomes of the sample. Data collection begins in 2016. *RTI Project Director:* Michael Bryan.

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being III (NSCAW III). RTI International is collaborating with researchers at the Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and at Washington University in St. Louis to conduct a third national longitudinal survey examining the well-being of children involved with the child welfare system. The survey is sponsored by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, a unit of the Administration for Children and Families. In-person data collection will be conducted with sampled children, their caregivers, and their caseworkers. In addition, child-level survey data will be linked to Medicaid services data and to data on maltreatment re-reports and placements to allow for a richer examination of child outcomes. Study findings will inform child welfare policy and practice. *RTI Project Director:* Melissa Dolan.

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS). Sponsored by CDC, the NISVS provides comprehensive national- and state-level estimates on the prevalence of stalking, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence for the U.S. population. NISVS uses a list-assisted dual-frame (landline and cell phone) RDD, stratified, two-phase design (including nonresponse follow-up). A military

component also will be conducted with three target populations: active duty female personnel, active duty male personnel, and female wives of married male activity duty personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces. Data collection begins in March 2016. *RTI Project Director*: Lisa Carley-Baxter.

Alaska Victimization Survey (AVS). Since 2010, RTI has been providing support to the Justice Center at the Univ. of Alaska Anchorage through annual RDD telephone surveys of women in Alaska. More than 8,500 interviews have been completed since 2010. Female respondents are asked questions related to intimate partner violence, health, and injuries they may have experienced. AVS informs and assesses the Governor of Alaska's ten-year initiative to end the epidemic of sexual assault and domestic violence and to make Alaska the national leader in combating these issues. *RTI Project Director*: Jessica Williams.

Wealth Inequality. This survey, funded by the Ford Foundation through Duke University, measures family financial well-being across multiple racial and ethnic groups (African, African American, Cambodian, Hispanic, Korean, and White). Data are collected through in-person interviews in Los Angeles, using an address-based sample. Field interviewers use tablets, which include video clips from the study's principal investigators, as part of the consent process. They also are taking photos of survey respondents using a standardized protocol to address research questions regarding the role of phenotype in family financial well-being. Data were collected during the first half of 2015, and results are currently being analyzed. *RTI Project Director*: Ellen Marks.

PENNSYLVANIA

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Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness: Descriptive Study (CAPR). ISR is overseeing all data collection for MDRC's Descriptive Study survey of 1,500 college-level academic deans. This is a federally sponsored survey of the developmental education assessment approaches, instructional strategies, and reforms used across the country. It is

funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education's Institute of Education Sciences as part CAPR, a new national center which was spotlighted at a White House convening of college leaders, researchers, and policymakers in the summer of 2014. The descriptive study will capture the current landscape of developmental education across the two- and four-year sectors, in terms of assessment and placement methods, course design and instruction, and associated extracurricular support services. *Principal Investigator*: Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director*: Keisha Miles.

OurPatients Evaluation. "OurPatients" is a unique new Web-based learning and assessment tool that makes it possible for medical students, beginning in the first year, to care for patients with chronic diseases longitudinally by providing the student with a "practice" consisting of "virtual" (computer-created) patients. ISR is conducting a long-term evaluation of the OurPatients tool in collaboration with the Temple University School of Medicine. *Principal Investigator and Project Director*: Nina Hoe.

Minority Access to Research Careers in the Sciences (MARC) Evaluation. The Dept. of Biology at Temple University hosts the NIH-supported MARC U-STAR program for qualified junior and senior undergraduates. The goal of the program is to diversify biomedical research by recruiting and mentoring students from groups underrepresented in biomedical research, including racial minority students, first-generation college students, students with disabilities, and low-income students. ISR is conducting a long-term evaluation of the Temple University MARC program. *Principal Investigator*: Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director*: Nina Hoe.

SOUTH CAROLINA

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South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (SCCPTP). As part of a project to reduce teen pregnancy in Horry and Spartanburg counties, the SCCPTP commissioned SRL to conduct a dual-frame survey of parents of children age 10–19 in

each of these counties, with questions measuring a range of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors pertaining to teen pregnancy prevention. SRL completed 512 interviews—254 in Horry County and 258 in Spartanburg County.

Driving Habits and Attitudes. In May 2015, the South Carolina Dept. of Public Safety (DPS) conducted a campaign designed to promote seat belt usage in the state. To assess awareness and the impact of this effort, DPS commissioned SRL to conduct dual-frame telephone surveys of South Carolina drivers before and after the campaign. SRL completed 401 pre-campaign interviews and 407 post-campaign interviews with licensed drivers, with questions pertaining to seat belt usage, seat belt law enforcement, and awareness of the promotional messages and increased seat belt law enforcement associated with the campaign.

Spring 2015 South Carolina State Survey. As a research service to South Carolina state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and academic researchers, SRL conducts a dual-frame random probability cost-shared omnibus survey of adult South Carolina residents biannually. The survey included questions pertaining to the usage of South Carolina State Library services, attitudes about the arts in South Carolina, and attitudes about current events in the state involving police officers' use of deadly force. SRL completed 809 interviews.

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2015 Vermont Issues Poll. CPI conducted a state-wide, general population public opinion poll utilizing a dual-frame sample (RDD and cell phone) in the fall of 2015. The survey of 617 Vermonters included questions related to name recognition and favorability of potential gubernatorial candidates, gubernatorial and presidential approval, 2016 presidential candidate preference, school consolidation, and recreational marijuana legalization.

WYOMING

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Wyoming Dept. of Transportation (WYDOT) Customer Satisfaction Survey. In fall 2014, WYSAC conducted the 7th iteration of a Wyoming statewide general population survey for WYDOT. The survey is conducted every two years as a telephone interview using a dual-sample frame of landline and cell numbers. Over 900 interviews are completed each time. Results are presented in a report and via a PowerPoint presentation to WYDOT Executive Staff.

California Wildfire Hazard Survey. In winter 2014–2015, WYSAC conducted a statewide survey of California homeowners designed to measure knowledge and awareness of the wildfire hazard in the state. The survey was administered by mail after respondents were recruited by phone. Screening for home ownership was done during these calls. Over 400 completed questionnaires were obtained.

National Park Service (NPS) Lands and Programs Pilot Study. In spring 2015, in collaboration with researchers from Colorado State University, WYSAC conducted the second wave of a nationwide pilot study designed to measure the public's willingness to pay for the preservation of NPS areas. The survey was conducted as mixed-mode (online and mail). WYSAC conducted the first wave of the pilot a year earlier.

Oklahoma Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS). In fall 2014, WYSAC conducted the Oklahoma ATS. The surveys are supported by the CDC and are conducted as telephone interviews, using dual sampling frames (landline and cell phone). The sample was stratified by six geographic regions. Over 3,000 interviews (English and Spanish) were completed.

North Dakota Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS). In spring 2015, WYSAC conducted the 2015 North Dakota ATS. WYSAC has conducted the ATS for North Dakota twice before. The surveys are supported by the CDC and are conducted as telephone interviews using dual sampling frames (landline and cell phone). The sample was stratified by four

geographic regions. Over 3,000 interviews were completed.

North Dakota Hypertension Survey. In spring 2015, WYSAC conducted a statewide telephone survey of North Dakota households designed to measure the public's awareness of issues surrounding the condition of hypertension. The survey was conducted on a dual-frame (landline and cell phone) sample, disproportionately stratified by eight geographic regions. Over 1,700 households participated in the survey.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM W. SMITH HONORED WITH INAUGURAL NORMAN BRADBURN CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Tom W. Smith, director of the General Social Survey, cofounder of the International Social Survey Program, and director of NORC's Center for the Study of Politics and Society, is the first recipient of NORC at the Univ. of Chicago's Norman Bradburn Career Achievement Award. The award was established to recognize those who have made a significant contribution to the field of social science research or methodology through the course of their time working at NORC.

AASRO NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR KENNEDY AND TARNAI AWARDS

The Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO) makes two annual awards: the **John M. Kennedy Achievement Award** and the **John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship**. The Kennedy Award recognizes long service and leadership in academic survey research while the Tarnai Scholarship provides funding to attend a conference for a survey researcher early in their career. The AASRO Awards Committee will be accepting nominations for both awards through December 20, 2015, and encourages you to nominate deserving people who work with you or who you know for these awards. More information and the criteria for the Kennedy and Tarnai awards are available at www.aasro.org/kennedy.docx and www.aasro.org/tarnai.docx, respectively.

CALL FOR IFD&TC 2016 PROGRAM PARTICIPATION: In 2016, IFD&TC Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary!

The International Field Directors and Technologies Conference (IFD&TC) is held annually for government agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit research centers to share practical information on survey data collection (field operations, training, and interviewing techniques), as well as current and emerging technologies required to implement data collection.

IFD&TC attendance is open to personnel from academic, government, and nonprofit survey research centers and takes place immediately following the AAPOR conference in May of each year. The 2016 conference will take place in Austin, Texas, from May 15–18 at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center.

Please plan to join IFD&TC in Austin for a very special 50th Anniversary conference!

For program participation, the abstract submission deadline in January 15, 2016.

Conference registration will begin in March 2016. For questions, contact conference registrar Kelly Elver (kelper@ssc.wisc.edu) or Heather Terhune Marti (htherhune@indiana.edu).

Visit www.ifdetc.org for further details.

2016 3MC CONFERENCE: Call for Presentation Abstracts

Abstracts are being accepted for individual presentations for the Second International Conference on Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts (3MC) being held July 25–29, 2016, at the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel in Chicago.

Abstracts are due January 15, 2016. Below is a list of suggested topics. If your topic is not listed, please feel free to submit an abstract for any topic that relates to comparative survey design, implementation, and analysis.

- Comparability
- Questionnaire development and testing
- Translation, adaptation, and assessment

- Measurement
- Universal indicators
- Data collection challenges
- Innovative uses of technology
- Paradata use
- Metadata use
- Comparative standard demographics
- Data dissemination
- Comparative analyses

Abstracts can be submitted at <http://csdiworkshop.org/index.php/3mc-2016/submit-abstract>. For more information about 3MC, the 2016 conference, and past conferences, visit <http://csdiworkshop.org/index.php/3mc-2016>



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.

Castleton Polling Institute at Castleton University is pleased to welcome **Amanda Richardson** as Associate Director.

Ashley Koning was named Assistant Director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University in July. Koning is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and ECPIP's extensive internship program, as well as for handling all media relations.

Dragana Bolcic-Jankovic was promoted to Director of Survey Operations for the Center for Survey Research, UMass Boston, in March 2015.

The Indiana University Center for Survey Research (CSR) is pleased to announce that **Shelly Clark** has joined the Center as Finance Manager and Fiscal Officer. Shelly is also the Finance Manager for the Office of the Vice Provost of Research (OVPR) and joins the Center in a dual role for CSR and OVPR.

The Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL) at the Univ. of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada, has recently hired **Chanda Hetzel** and **Vita Andersone** as Assistant Survey Research Managers to work in the Survey and Group Analysis Laboratory. Chanda and Vita assist with the management and monitoring of telephone surveys.

Mark Hammel joined RTI's Education and Workforce Development unit as a Research Programmer/Analyst. **Ian Deck**, **Jennifer Krause**, **Beth Hustedt**, **Chloe Stephenson**, and **Amanda Wylie** joined the unit as Education Analysts, and **Carolyn Simon** was added as an Administrative Assistant. **Kimberly Harris**, **Holly Peay**, **Nichole Smith**, **Jennifer Taylor**, **Denise Bradby**, **Serena Hinz**, **Yihua Hong**, **McCaila Ingold-Smith**, **Kevin Jordan**, **Holly Peay**, **Nichole Smith**, **Jennifer Taylor**, **Nitya Venkateswaran**, **Siri Warkentien**, and **Jeanne Snodgrass** all joined RTI's Education and Workforce Development unit as Research Education Analysts. **Rich Seder** was welcomed as a Program Director. **Christopher Sroka** joined the Division for Statistical and Data Sciences as a Senior Research Statistician. **Rachael Allen**, **Jennifer Moncada**, and **Amber Rumsey** joined the Survey Research Division as Survey Specialists, **Julie Linville** and **Derek Stone** as Research Survey Scientists, and **Herschel Sanders** and **Stephanie Eckman** as Survey Methodologists. In the Division for Research Services, RTI has been joined by **Wendy Reed** as a Research Assistant, **Peggy Collins** and **Lisa Ratzky** as Regional Supervisors, and **Mason Gabriel** and **Jacob Montazeri** as Mapping and Sampling Assistants. New to the Programmer/Analyst position in the Research Computing Division: **Steve Gomori**, **Jim Balhoff**, **Kim Chantala**, **Teena Vincent**, **Uma Maryada**, **Gauri Dave**, **Rebecca Watkins**, and **Corinne Howe**. **Stephen Hwang** joined the Division as Bioinformaticist, and **Marcie Rathbun** and **Liz Marin** were added as IT Project Management Specialists.

Debbie Rexrode has stepped down from her position as Senior Project Coordinator and acting Assistant Director at the Univ. of Virginia Center for Survey Research after ten years of service.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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 srl-info@uic.edu. Survey Research does not charge a fee for these postings.

The Center for State Policy and Leadership on the Springfield campus of the Univ. of Illinois seeks to hire a skilled, enterprising leader to serve as **Director** of its Survey Research Office. The Director is responsible for the overall administration of the Office, including administration of the fiscal, human and physical resources of the Office, and is responsible for developing and implementing a wide range of survey and other research and evaluation projects. The Director oversees the design and execution of studies for state and local government agencies, the federal government, foundations, and nonprofit organizations. Annual salary based on qualifications, plus a generous university benefits package. View the complete job announcement at <https://jobs.uis.edu/job-board/job-details?jobID=57239&job=director-of-survey-research>. Screening of applications will begin January 16, 2016, and will continue until the position is filled.

PUBLICATIONS

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

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- Ahlmark, N., Algren, M. H., Homberg, T., Norredam, M. L., Nielsen, S. S., Blom, A. B., et al. (2015). Survey nonresponse among ethnic minorities in a national health survey—A mixed-method study of participation, barriers, and potentials. *Ethnicity & Health, 20*(6), 611–632.
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- Blom, A. G., Gathmann, C., & Krieger, U. (2015). Setting up an online panel representative of the general population: The German Internet Panel. *Field Methods, 27*(4), 391–408.
- Böckenholt, U., & Lehmann, D. (2015). On the limits of research rigidity: The number of items in a scale. *Marketing Letters, 26*(3), 257–260.
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- Diaz de Rada, V. (2015). Quality of data from matrix questions in face-to-face surveys: A compared study using paper and electronic questionnaires. *Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 152*, 167–178.
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- Erickson, L. K., Mierzwa, F. J., With, S. K., Karuntzos, G. T., Fox, K. E., McHale, S. M., et al. (2015). Implementation strategies for workplace data collection: A case study. *Survey Practice, 8*(5). Retrieved October 28, 2015, from www.surveypractice.org/index.php/Survey-Practice/article/view/295/html_39
- Fergusson, D. M., & Boden, J. M. (2015). Exploring issues arising from survey non-response. *Addiction, 110*(9), 1513–1514.

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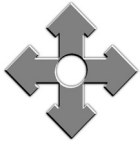
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