

# SURVEY RESEARCH

Volume 47, Number 1, 2016

NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

## We Asked; You Answered Results of the *Survey Research* Readership Survey

Lisa Kelly, Managing Editor, *Survey Research*  
Survey Research Laboratory, University of Illinois at Chicago

The newsletter in your hands—*Survey Research*—was launched by the Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) at the University of Illinois in 1969, making 2016 its 47<sup>th</sup> continuous year in production. The newsletter itself and the process of creating, producing, and disseminating written materials have changed greatly over that almost half a century, so newsletter staff and other SRL staff sat down to take stock of where the newsletter is, where it has been, and its future. And we asked for your help: in mid-February, we launched an online survey, inviting readers for whom we had e-mail addresses (about 130 individuals) to complete the Web questionnaire and to forward the e-vite to other newsletter readers. When we closed the survey on Friday, March 11, we had heard from half of you ( $n = 65$ ). Following is a summary of what you told us.

Fifty-three (82%) respondents had read at least part of one of the three issues of *Survey Research* published in 2015. Of the 12 who had not, seven reported they had not received any issues, two were not interested in reading the newsletter, two were too busy or did not have time to read it, and one person reported a lack of awareness of the newsletter.

**Table 1. Percent of Respondents Who Reported Reading All or Part of *Survey Research*, by Section**

SECTION	% having read
Front page article ( $n = 51$ )	94%
Current Research ( $n = 49$ )	90%
Announcements ( $n = 49$ )	65%
Personnel Notes ( $n = 49$ )	69%
Job Opportunities ( $n = 49$ )	63%
Publications ( $n = 48$ )	67%

Those who had read any part of any of the three 2015 issues were asked about the sections they read. A separate question was dedicated to each section (front page article, Current Research, Announcements, Personnel Notes, Job Opportunities, and Publications), asking if the respondent had read, fully or partly, at least one of those sections of the 2015 issues. As Table 1 shows, respondents were most likely to report having read the front page article (94%) and the Current Research section (90%); the remaining sections were read by around two-thirds, with Job Opportunities being the least-read section.

For those respondents who reported reading a specific section of the newsletter, a follow-up question asked them to rate how useful they personally find that section of *Survey Research* (see Table 2). For each section, this information was combined with responses to the previous question to construct a mean usefulness index, which ranged from 1–5.



**Survey Research  
Laboratory**

**Table 2. Respondent Ratings of the Usefulness of Each Section of *Survey Research***

SECTION	Did not read/ Not at all useful	Not very useful	Somewhat useful	Very useful	Extremely useful	Mean Usefulness Index*
Front page article (n = 49)	6%/—	8%	41%	37%	8%	3.33 <sup>a</sup>
Current Research (n = 48)	10%/—	6%	40%	33%	10%	3.27 <sup>a</sup>
Announcements (n = 49)	35%/—	10%	31%	16%	8%	2.53 <sup>b</sup>
Personnel Notes (n = 48)	31%/—	15%	31%	17%	6%	2.52 <sup>b</sup>
Job Opportunities (n = 48)	37%/2%	17%	23%	17%	4%	2.29 <sup>b</sup>
Publications (n = 46)	35%/—	—	35%	28%	2%	2.63 <sup>b</sup>

\*Responses coded as 1 = did not read section or reported it not at all useful, 2 = reported not very useful, 3 = reported somewhat useful, 4 = reported very useful, and 5 = reported extremely useful. This coding scheme makes the assumption that those reporting not having read a given section of the newsletter did not find it useful.

NOTE: Index values with different superscripts differ significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) from one another using pairwise *t*-tests.

The values of this index for each section of *Survey Research* are reported in the final column of Table 2. The sections that respondents indicated were most useful to them personally were the front page article (index mean = 3.33) and the Current Research section (index mean = 3.27). All other sections were rated as less useful, based on post-hoc pairwise *t*-tests.

When asked about their preference for the format of future issues of the newsletter, almost three-quarters (72%) of the 47 respondents to this question indicated they would prefer a digital version of the newsletter. This topic also was addressed in the 17 answers to the final questionnaire item, which allowed respondents to provide comments or suggestions: four people specifically expressed a desire for a digital version, while one stated a preference for a paper version.

In addition to the newsletter’s future format, the 17 answers to the final survey question addressed the quality and overall usefulness of the newsletter, with all comments being complimentary (e.g., “This is an excellent newsletter,” “we find it extremely valuable for keeping abreast and learning more about our peers,” “It’s a valuable service to the profession”). Respondents also thanked SRL for producing the newsletter.

### The Future

As we have been contemplating ways to improve the cost-effectiveness and the efficiencies associated with newsletter production and the majority of survey respondents indicated a desire for a digital version of *Survey Research*, newsletter and SRL

staff are exploring our options for how to best make that happen. We hope to start moving toward digital by the end of this year but plan to, if at all possible, still make the paper version available to those who prefer it.

We are grateful to the survey respondents for providing us with such valuable input; we also would like to acknowledge our readers—both long-term and newer—thank you!

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The efforts of SRL staff Sowmya Anand, Marni Basic, Jennifer Parsons, and Karen Retzer were invaluable in the design of the survey questionnaire. Thanks to Tim Johnson for statistical support.

### Seeking Notes from the Field

*Survey Research* is extending an invitation to all readers to contribute brief articles that highlight practical field experiences and lessons learned collecting survey data from special populations, using new technologies, or working in unusual environments. See the first “Notes from the Field” article that appeared in issue 46(3). This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with the survey research community. We will consider articles of any length, but 750 to 1,500 words is a good target. Send submissions to [srl-survey@uic.edu](mailto:srl-survey@uic.edu)

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual AASRO Meeting

**Patty Maher**

Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO) was held on the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan March 3–5, 2016. The Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research hosted the meeting, which included 61 participants (see group photo on p. 4) from 38 research organizations.

The opening to the meeting was marked with awards going to Ashley Koning and Ron Langley.

## **JOHN TARNAI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

Ashley Koning, Assistant Director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, was awarded the 2015 John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship. The award provides a scholarship in memory of former AASRO president John Tarnai and recognizes an outstanding early-career survey research professional with great promise for pursuing a long-term career in the field. The scholarship defrays the cost of attending the AAPOR or IFD&TC annual meeting. In addition to her position at ECPIP, Koning is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Rutgers and holds a master's in political science from Columbia University.

Koning's primary role at ECPIP is to manage day-to-day operations of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, which celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> poll across 45 years in December 2015. In nominating Koning for the scholarship, ECPIP Director David Redlawsk wrote: "Without Ashley's tireless work, the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll would not be as effective as it is and, more importantly, would not be providing the high-quality educational experiences for our students that it does."

She has authored several studies includ-



**Ashley Koning**

ing an experiment involving response measurement published as book chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of New York State Government and Politics* (co-authored with Don Levy). She is also co-author of a chapter on public opinion during and after Superstorm Sandy and its implications for NJ Gov. Chris Christie in the new Rutgers University Press book *Taking Chances: The Coast After Hurricane Sandy*, edited by Karen O'Neill and Daniel Van Abs.

The AASRO Awards Committee was especially impressed by how quickly Ms. Koning has moved to a management position in ECPIP. She also developed an internship program that helps Rutgers students directly learn public opinion research and helps disseminate interesting research findings to a broader audience.

## **JOHN M. KENNEDY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

Ronald Langley of the University of Kentucky's Survey Research Center (SRC) was presented with the John M. Kennedy Achievement Award for his service and leadership to academic survey research. Langley has successfully led SRC for two decades and has served as director since 1998. At Kentucky, he has been principal investigator on over 100 survey projects. His professional accomplishments additionally include a variety of peer-reviewed academic papers and book chapters that investigate the relationship between public opinion and public policy, particularly macroeconomic and health policy.

As a leader in the field of research ethics, Langley serves on the University of Kentucky's nonmedical IRB. He was elected and currently serves as the AAPOR Standards Chair, where he has worked to raise member awareness of the importance of respect for the rights of research subjects and its importance to the integrity and reputation of the profession. Langley is also a leader in MAPOR, where he recently served on the Executive Council.

As a founding member of AASRO, Langley has been involved since its initial meeting, serving the organization in many capacities. He was part of the



**Ron Langley and Andy Smith (AASRO Awards Committee)**

steering committee that drafted AASRO's bylaws and served as first vice president in 2008, following as president of the organization in 2009 and past president in 2010. "Ron has been attentive to the wider policy environment that affects university-based survey researchers. While president, he wrote a memo to OMB related to the Paperwork Reduction Act and quickly responded to errors in a PRIM&R (Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research) training for IRB committee members that suggested multiple recruitment attempts of respondents were not allowed," said Martha Van Hartsma, codirector of the University of Chicago Survey Lab. "He has been our organizational representative at national Con-

sortium of Social Science Associations most years, traveling on his own time and reporting back."

## PROGRAM

Interviewer training, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, IRBs, big data, big social data and their relationship to scientific surveys, as well as a roundtable session where participants could discuss key special topics of interest were all part of the meeting agenda. The keynote speaker was Bob Groves, Provost of Georgetown University. Past director of the U.S. Census Bureau and the University of Michigan Survey Research Center and one of the catalysts founding AASRO, Groves touched on a variety of topics in his talk, including survey research shaping the development of the social sciences, how his time at the Census Bureau affected his perspective on survey centers, how smaller survey centers can position themselves to stay relevant in the current climate, big data and their effect on the research community, and the National Academies panel he chairs that is looking at the blending of data sources for U.S. Federal statistics. He concluded with a question-and-answer session.

## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2017 AASRO annual meeting will be held March 9–11 at the University of Northern Iowa. If you would like to learn more about AASRO or to join the organization, please visit our Web site at [aasro.org](http://aasro.org)





## CURRENT RESEARCH

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

### ARKANSAS

#### **Survey Research Center (SRC) Institute of Government**

##### **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

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501-569-8572; fax: 501-683-3473  
clbennett@ualr.edu; <http://ualr.edu/iog/surveyresearch/>

**Arkansas Adult Tobacco Survey.** SRC is conducting a dual-frame—landline and cell—phone survey of Arkansas adult residents between January and June 2016 on behalf of the Arkansas Dept. of Health. More than 5,200 interviews will be conducted statewide with an oversample of Hispanic residents; the study is designed to assess the prevalence of tobacco use and the factors promoting and impeding tobacco use.

### CALIFORNIA

#### **Institute for Social Research (ISR) California State University, Sacramento**

6000 J St., Sacramento, CA 95819-6101  
916-278-5737; fax: 916-278-5150  
isr-03@csus.edu; [www.csus.edu/isr/](http://www.csus.edu/isr/)

**California Speaks (CALSPEAKS).** ISR has officially launched CALSPEAKS, the only survey panel of Californians ( $n = 2,300$  and growing) to use probability-based sampling methods. For comparison purposes, the panel recruits participants in three ways. The first is a pure probability-based method, whereby we use CATI to contact a random sample of Californians and invite them to join the panel (either online or by mail). The second adds a layer of self-selection; as respondents complete the BRFSS

questionnaire—commissioned by the CDC and the California Dept. of Public Health, we ask them if they would be interested in joining the online or mail panel. The third is a quota-based opt-in method; we set demographic and partisanship quotas based on the latest American Community Survey and voter registration lists and rely on Qualtrics to recruit from their omnibus panels. We will phase out the opt-in sample over time but are using it now to test hypotheses about efficiency, break-off, and representativeness according to sampling methodology. CALSPEAKS is conducting 6–12 surveys per year for media, government, academic, and nonprofit community organizations. *Study Director:* David Barker, *Political Polling Director:* Kim Nalder.

### ILLINOIS

#### **NORC at the University of Chicago**

55 E. Monroe St., 30<sup>th</sup> Fl., Chicago, IL 60603  
312-759-4000  
info@norc.org; [www.norc.org](http://www.norc.org)

**Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS).** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have selected NORC to continue conducting the MCBS, a project first awarded to NORC in 2014. MCBS is the most comprehensive and complete survey available on the Medicare population and is essential in capturing data not otherwise collected. It is an in-person, nationally representative, longitudinal survey of Medicare beneficiaries that captures beneficiary information. Survey data are enhanced by linkage with administrative data (e.g., fee-for-service claims, prescription drug event data, enrollment) to provide users with more accurate and complete estimates of total health care costs and utilization. The MCBS has been continuously fielded for more than 20 years (encompassing over 1 million interviews) and consists of three annual interviews per survey participant. *Project Director:* Susan Schechter.

**Scientific Literacy Survey (SLS).** The Univ. of Michigan has selected NORC to perform the data collection for the national NASA-sponsored SLS. The survey will be conducted twice a year for five years beginning in 2016 and will use AmeriSpeak®, a probability-based panel that is representative of the U.S. household population. Data will be collected using a Web instrument. *Co-investigator:* J. Michael Dennis.

**National Education and Employment Study (NEES).** NORC will conduct the NEES, sponsored by the Lumina Foundation. This study seeks to gain more knowledge about adults' educational background and to determine the percentage of U.S. adults who hold a high-quality certificate or certification as their highest credential. Data collection will be conducted by telephone and Web. *Project Director:* Bronwyn Nichols Lodato.

**Sentinel Communities Health Values Surveys (SCHVS).** As part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's focus on building a national Culture of Health, NORC currently is completing work on the American Health Values Study (AHVS). The AHVS is a national survey of approximately 9,500 U.S. adults. The purpose of the study is to better understand how American adults differ in their health values and beliefs through the construction of a health values typology of U.S. adults. For the SCHVS, NORC will replicate the typology development work in five local communities to better understand how the groups identified in the analysis of national data, and their distribution, might vary based on local differences. Data will be collected by Web, mail, and telephone. *Project Director:* Larry Bye.

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**Neighborhood Crime and Justice Study.** Under the direction of Wes Skogan at the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University, with funding from the MacArthur Foundation, this is an area probability study of Chicago residents age 16+ about their perceptions of and experiences with the Chicago Police Department (CPD). The study was designed as part of a larger evaluation of procedural justice reforms underway in the CPD. Baseline face-to-face data collection was completed in February 2016, with 1,436 residents. This is a two-wave panel

study, with interviews being conducted approximately 13 months apart to track changes in perceptions and experiences over time. Wave 2 phone interviews began in January 2016, and will continue through March 2017. *Project Coordinator:* Jennifer Parsons.

**UIC Campus Shuttle Student Survey.** UIC's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services contracted with SRL to coordinate focus groups with and administer an online survey of UIC students about their experience using the campus shuttle service. The purpose of this research was to collect student feedback on how they get around campus and use the transportation services in an effort to improve traffic circulation throughout campus to enhance safety and efficiency. The online questionnaire was administered in April and May 2015. *Project Coordinator:* Anne Diffenderfer.

**iSMART Pilot Project.** The purpose of this project was to design and evaluate an educational intervention/feedback program for low-income seniors living in Illinois public housing authorities (PHAs). A primary goal of the study is to identify motivations to reduce energy consumption and costs. Five PHA buildings in Illinois were chosen for the study; staff and residents' attitudes were measured before and after the educational interventions. SRL trained the iSMART staff to conduct pre- and post-surveys, and SRL analyzed the pre-treatment survey data; the post-treatment data collection is in progress. The pre-treatment questionnaire was completed by 146 residents and 10 staff. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

**Survey of Veterinarians.** SRL assisted the American Veterinary Medical Association with an online survey of members of its own and other organizations, including the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association, the American College of Laboratory Medicine, the American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners, and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners about their current professional work situation and compensation. Data were collected via Web instruments between July 31 and September 29, 2015. A total of 2,749 respondents completed the questionnaire. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

## IOWA

### Center for Social & Behavioral Research (CSBR)

#### University of Northern Iowa (UNI)

2304 College St., Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0402

319-273-2105, fax: 319-273-3104

csbr@uni.edu; www.uni.edu/csbr

**Iowans' Perceptions of Renewable and Wind Energy.** CSBR will conduct a dual-frame telephone survey during spring 2016, funded by the NSF Iowa Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research program. The survey will assess general views about renewable energy, knowledge of and attitudes toward wind energy, and knowledge of and attitudes toward energy transmission lines. *Principal Investigators:* Mary Losch and Andrew Stephenson.

**Lyons Creek Farmer Interviews.** During spring 2016, CSBR is conducting in-depth interviews with farmers and landowners in Webster County, IA. Sponsored by the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, these interviews seek to illuminate the barriers to and motivational facilitators for participation in a project designed to help improve water quality in Lyons Creek. *Principal Investigator:* Mary Losch.

**Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management.** In partnership with the UNI Tallgrass Prairie Center (TPC), CSBR recently began a mixed-mode survey of county engineers and roadside managers to better understand how best to implement integrated roadside vegetation management activities. *TPC Principal Investigator:* Kristine Nemeč, *CSBR Project Director:* Andrew Stephenson.

## KENTUCKY

### Survey Research Center University of Kentucky

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langley@uky.edu; www.research.uky.edu/survey

**Road Maintenance Evaluation Survey.** This is a dual-frame telephone survey of 1,200 Kentucky adults (100 per highway district) who have driven Kentucky highways in the preceding 30 days. The study assesses opinions about the state of Kentucky

highways and the priorities for spending in the next few years. The survey also asks respondents how they get—and how they prefer to get—information about highway traffic, directions, and weather delays. *Principal Investigator:* Clark Graves, *Project Director:* Ron Langley.

**The Kentucky Survey.** This statewide dual-frame omnibus survey of 800 Kentucky adults explores attitudes regarding political, economic, and social issues affecting Kentuckians. The current survey includes questions about restoring voting rights for convicted felons who have served their time and how people have weathered the economic storm since the start of the "Great Recession." *Principal Investigator and Project Director:* Ron Langley.

## MARYLAND

### Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) Anne Arundel Community College

101 College Pkwy., Arnold, MD 21012-1895

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ddnataf@aacc.edu; www.aacc.edu/csli/

**Health Care Provider and Patient Survey.** CSLI is conducting two related health care studies regarding the transition of severely ill youth to adulthood. The provider questionnaire focuses on the scope of planning for the transition, and the patient questionnaire asks about patient experiences with providers.

**Entrepreneurial Studies (ES) Recipient Scholarship Survey.** CSLI is conducting a study of Anne Arundel Community College ES scholarship recipients; the questionnaire asks about the backgrounds, traits, and expectations of scholarship recipients.

### Westat

1600 Research Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850

301-251-1500; fax: 301-294-2040

marketing@westat.com; www.westat.com

**National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS).** The primary objective of the NOPUS is to provide reliable national estimates of restraint use in passenger vehicles and helmet use by motorcyclists over time. Westat has conducted NOPUS annually since 1999 and will continue to do so under the current contract until 2017. The NOPUS is conducted every year at approximately 2,000 sites in 57 primary

sampling units. The survey includes two components: (1) a Moving Traffic study, in which observers record restraint use and handheld electronic device use among drivers and restraint use by front-seat passengers in passenger vehicles along with helmet use by motorcyclists, and (2) a Controlled Intersection study, in which observers stationed at traffic signals and stop signs record information about restraint use and demographic characteristics (e.g., race, age, sex) for all passengers as well as driver use of handheld electronic devices. Westat trains field data collectors and uses Android-based tablets to collect data, incorporates GPS technology to manage field staff, and uses GIS to perform complex scheduling and mapping procedures and monitoring of data collection tasks.

**Ghana Breast Health Study.** On behalf of NCI, Westat is collaborating with investigators at three medical centers in Ghana to conduct a case-control study to learn more about detecting, treating, and preventing breast disease in Ghanaian women. Westat supports efforts to recruit more than 2,250 cases suspected of breast cancer and 2,250 population controls. The study is identifying risk factors, particularly modifiable risk factors that could impact the occurrence of disease, and is attempting to better understand why many women present with poor prognosis and/or advanced disease. Westat worked with the researchers to establish protocols and procedures for data and biospecimen collection. Further, Westat developed a Web-based data entry system that allows data collected in Ghana to be closely monitored by Westat and the NCI investigators; it provides rapid feedback to NCI and study sites on the progress of participant recruitment and on the completeness and accuracy of the collected data. Materials preparation also included creating recruitment materials to give credibility to the study when presented to potential participants. Westat currently is conducting the final phases of data management, cleaning, and reporting of results. Outcomes of the study will guide the development of interventions for earlier detection of breast disease and improved survival.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Center for Survey Research (CSR) University of Massachusetts Boston

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617-287-7200  
csr@umb.edu; www.csr.umb.edu

**Understanding the Value of Community Care: Can Consumer Decision-Making Be a Tool for Cost Containment?** CSR is working with Tufts University and the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission on this online survey of Massachusetts residents to understand consumers' preferences when seeking health care. The survey instrument includes the Discrete Choice Experiment portion designed to better understand how people choose between different health care options.

**Survey of Civil Surgeons.** In conjunction with a faculty sponsor at UMass Boston, CSR is conducting a survey of civil surgeons—physicians who conduct medical screenings of new immigrants to the U.S. The study is conducted using a mail questionnaire sent to a random sample drawn from a list frame of civil surgeons. Questions ask about common practices, typical screening outcomes, and measures of work satisfaction.

## MICHIGAN

### Office for Survey Research (OSR) Institute for Public Policy & Social Research Michigan State University

1407 S. Harrison Rd., Ste. 343, East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-353-1763; fax: 517-432-1544  
storkl@msu.edu; www.ippsr.msu.edu

**Saginaw Community Study.** This study was an experimental-design multimode survey of Saginaw, MI residents. The NIJ-funded project was developed to evaluate multiple approaches for collecting data on crime victimization, police interactions, and community satisfaction. Experiments involved altering opportunity for different modes as well as expediency of post-incentive delivery. A total of 4,525 Saginaw households were contacted to obtain 849 completes by Web, mail, and phone. *Principal Investigators:* Edmund McGarrell and Christopher Melde, *Project Manager:* Debra Rusz.

**Impact of Family Leave Policies on Small Businesses.** This is a three-year study of businesses in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut to measure the impact of paid mandatory leave policies on food service and manufacturing sector businesses with 10–99 employees. The instrument contains questions about workflow processes, leave management strategies, employee benefits, and support of public policies related to family leave. OSR is currently using a multimode approach (Web, paper, and telephone) to re-interview businesses that participated in 2014 and 2015 and will add an additional sample of businesses in 2016. *Principal Investigator:* Ann Bartel (Columbia School of Business), *Project Manager:* Karen Clark.

**Weed Management Practices Among American Farmers.** This is a national study of farmers to collect current information on weed-management decisions and the effectiveness of actions based on these decisions in various regions of the U.S., with specific focus on single-herbicide and multi-herbicide-resistant weeds. This is a multi-university collaborative effort, led by professors at Michigan State University and Iowa State University. OSR is responsible for data collection and is using a mixed-mode approach of Web and mail. Funding for this research is from the USDA. *Principal Investigators:* Raymond Jussaume, Jr. (Michigan State University) and Micheal Owen (Iowa State University), *Project Manager:* Karen Clark.

**Post-residency Assessment of Training.** Conducted on behalf of the Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors, this study is an annual Web-based survey of graduates of 205 emergency medicine residency programs across the U.S. and their employers. It seeks to determine if graduating residents have attained proficiency in the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education General Competencies. Program directors, residents who are one year post-graduation, and their employers participate in the survey. OSR has been conducting this research since 2011 and will continue through 2017. *Project Manager:* Karen Clark.

## Survey Research Center (SRC) University of Michigan

426 Thompson St., Ann Arbor, MI 48106  
734-764-8365  
www.src.isr.umich.edu

**Improving Life Chances of Disadvantaged Students Through Social-Cognitive Skill Development and Intensive Academic Remediation: A Randomized Control Trial Study.** This study is attempting to answer the question “What is the most effective—and cost-effective—way to improve the long-term life outcomes of disadvantaged youth?” The team of researchers at the Univ. of Chicago Crime Lab is conducting an expansion of the 2014 pilot study to examine the effectiveness of two Chicago-area intervention programs that focus not only on academic skills but also on social-cognitive skills. Survey Research Operation’s role includes using a list of 1,700 students (males age 14–18+ from 21 different Chicago high schools who have participated in one or both of the intervention programs) to contact the families and conduct an in-person interview (either at school or home). The survey includes a 60-minute CAPI interview, as well as a self-administered math achievement test. *Principal Investigator:* Jens Ludwig (Univ. of Chicago), *Project Manager:* Sarah Crane.

**The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID).** The PSID, which began in 1968, is a longitudinal study of several thousand individuals (men, women, and children) and the family units in which they reside. Most of the information collected is about family composition and changes, income sources and amounts, employment, pensions, and wealth. The main focus is on how these family composition and financial factors interact with each other and how they change over time. PSID uses a CAI application that includes an event history calendar to collect employment and health histories. Interviews are conducted primarily via telephone. In December, PSID concluded its 2015 data collection, interviewing over 9,000 families with a response rate of 90%. During 2016, families that immigrated to the U.S. within the last 20 years will be added in preparation for the 2017 wave. The study’s primary funding source is NSF with substantial additional funding provided by NIA and NICHD. *Principal Investigators:* David Johnson, Charlie Brown, Vicki Freedman, Narayan Sastry, and Katherine McGonagle; *Survey Director:* Shonda Kruger Ndiaye.

## MISSISSIPPI

### Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) Social Science Research Center Mississippi State University

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**Survey of Agricultural Producers.** SRL is conducting a telephone-based survey of agricultural producers throughout Arkansas. With evidence suggesting that groundwater levels in the mid-South U.S. are in decline, the survey will provide agricultural research scientists with estimates of the total number and types of systems being used to irrigate cropland in Arkansas. This research is funded by the Rice Research and Extension Center at the Univ. of Arkansas.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Survey Center University of New Hampshire

Huddleston Hall, 73 Main St., Durham, NH 03824  
603-862-2226; fax: 603-862-1488  
[andrew.smith@unh.edu](mailto:andrew.smith@unh.edu); [www.unh.edu/survey-center](http://www.unh.edu/survey-center)

**CNN/WMUR New Hampshire Primary Poll, December 2015.** Between November 30 and December 7, 2015, 954 randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone. The poll was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning the upcoming presidential primary in New Hampshire. The margin of sampling error for the survey is  $\pm 3.2\%$ . Included were 402 likely 2016 Republican primary voters (MSE =  $\pm 4.9$ ) and 370 likely 2016 Democratic primary voters (MSE =  $\pm 5.1$ ). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

**CNN/WMUR New Hampshire Primary Poll, January 2016.** January 13–18, 2016, 972 randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone to determine present attitudes concerning the upcoming presidential primary and general elections in New Hampshire. The margin of sampling error for the survey is  $\pm 3.1\%$ . Included were 414 likely 2016 Republican primary voters (MSE =  $\pm 4.8$ ), 421 likely 2016 Democratic primary voters (MSE =  $\pm 4.8$ ), and 903 likely 2016 presidential election voters (MSE =  $\pm 3.4$ ). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

**CNN/WMUR New Hampshire Primary Tracking Poll, January–February 2016.** Two thousand seven hundred and eighty-four (2,784) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone between January 27 and February 8, 2016. The poll was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning the upcoming presidential primary in New Hampshire. Included were 1,207 likely 2016 Republican primary voters and 1,127 likely 2016 Democratic primary voters. *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

**Granite State Poll 60, Mid-February 2016.** The Survey Center interviewed 534 randomly selected New Hampshire adults by landline and cellular telephone February 12–18, 2016. 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 and state policy issues. The margin of sampling error for the survey is  $\pm 4.2\%$ . *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

**Granite State Poll 60, Late-February 2016.** Six hundred and eighty-seven (687) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone February 20–28, 2016. This study was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning the upcoming 2016 general election, favorability of elected officials and potential candidates, and various other state issues. The margin of sampling error for the survey is  $\pm 3.7\%$ . Included were 628 likely 2016 presidential election voters (MSE =  $\pm 3.9$ ). *Principal Investigator:* Andrew Smith.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### RTI International

3040 E. Cornwallis Rd., P.O. Box 12194  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194  
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**2016–2020 Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP) and Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ).** Since 2009, RTI International has been providing support to the Bureau of Justice Statistics to annually collect inmate death records from each of the nation's 50 state prison systems and approximately 2,900 local jail jurisdictions. More than 4,000 death reports from January to July of the previous year are processed, followed by data quality editing and processing. In addition to death-related data, DCRP

annually collects key population data from each of the jail jurisdictions. Starting in 2015, the DCRP integrated the previously distinct ASJ collection, which gathers more detailed population, capacity, and related information from a subset of the DCRP jails. Data for all three components are collected via multiple concurrent modes: Web, hard copy (fax or mail), bulk data files, and telephone. The DCRP is the only national statistical collection that obtains comprehensive information about deaths in adult correctional facilities. *Project Director:* Chris Ellis.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA).** RTI International has begun development of SAMHDA, a new data archive for SAMHSA. The cornerstone of the project is a new Web site, designed for consistency with the SAMHSA Web site, which will allow users to view and download public use files from a number of SAMHSA-funded data aggregation projects. A new graphical analytics tool also is being developed for the site by RTI. Additionally, the project includes a restricted data set portal for researchers and research teams and a variety of technical assistance and outreach activities. *RTI Project Director:* David Uglow.

**National Survey of Precision Medicine in Cancer Treatment (NSPMCT).** The NCI and RTI International designed the NSPMCT to assess medical oncologists' experiences, attitudes, and recommendations concerning genomic tests; determine the prevalence of genomic testing in oncology; and identify facilitators of and barriers to the integration of genomic testing into oncology. To meet these objectives, RTI will conduct a nationally representative survey of over 3,300 medical oncologists, including a pilot study in the fall of 2016 and a full study in early 2017. Data will be collected using a sequential, mixed-mode approach, including screening/prenotification calls, mailed questionnaires, e-mail invitations with a personalized link to the Web survey, and a telephone reminder prompt.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### **Institute for Survey Research (ISR) Temple University**

1509 Cecil B. Moore Ave., Ste. 401, Philadelphia, PA 19121  
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isr@temple.edu; www.temple.edu/isr

**BeHeardPhilly.** ISR is creating a citywide survey panel, representing the diverse demographics of

Philadelphians. The goal of the panel is threefold: (1) to create a cost-effective and convenient resource for investigators conducting social science or public opinion research in Philadelphia, (2) to create a civic-engagement tool by which Philadelphians can have their voices heard through opting-in to participate in polls and surveys pertaining to life in Philadelphia, and (3) to conduct survey experiments and better understand the nature of opt-in panel respondent behavior at the local level. Participants are recruited through multiple methods including address-based sampling and community outreach. Initial findings show high response rates and engaged survey participation. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Nina Hoe.

**New Mathways Project (NMP) Evaluation Student Survey (ESS).** ISR is currently administering the NMP/ESS. The NMP is a new program developed by the Charles A. Dana Center at the Univ. of Texas-Austin consisting of three new math pathways: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; Statistics; and Quantitative Literacy. The sample for the ESS includes 1,000 individuals, approximately 600 who will be part of the NMP and 400 who will be evaluated over four semesters at the four participating colleges (El Paso Community College, Trinity Valley Community College, Eastfield College, and Brookhaven College). *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Keisha Miles.

**Traffic Knowledge and Behavior.** ISR is conducting a citywide survey of over 1,000 Philadelphians to measure their knowledge of traffic laws and to better understand the unsafe and illegal behaviors in which they engage. The goal is to inform future policy and projects that will reduce and eliminate traffic injuries and fatalities. The study also includes focus groups and behavior observations. *Principal Investigator:* Heidi Grunwald, *Project Director:* Nina Hoe.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### **Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) Institute for Public Service & Policy Research**

#### **University of South Carolina**

1400 Pickens St., Ste. 400, Columbia, SC 29208  
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lyleml@mailbox.sc.edu; www.ipspr.sc.edu/srl

**Atlanta Neighborhood Survey.** Faculty researchers at the Univ. of South Carolina, Clark Atlanta

University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College commissioned SRL to conduct a dual-frame telephone survey of Black adults residing in particular Atlanta neighborhoods. SRL completed 457 interviews, with questions pertaining to respondents' views about their neighborhoods, political participation in their local community, and opinions regarding various issues, including local race relations.

**Fall 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 state residents biannually. The instrument included questions pertaining to experience and familiarity with the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Dept., attitudes and experiences related to the massive flooding that occurred in the state in October 2015, and attitudes about current events involving police officers assigned to schools and the use of force by school resource officers. SRL completed 999 interviews.

**Faith, Activity, and Nutrition (FAN) Program Pre-training Survey.** The Prevention Research Center at the Univ. of South Carolina commissioned SRL to conduct telephone interviews with the pastors and coordinators of churches that were eligible to participate in the FAN Program. These interviews were conducted to acquire a baseline understanding of the existing health-related programs at these churches as well as the factors that make it easier and harder for churches to adopt and put health-related programs in place, prior to providing FAN training to a subset of randomly selected churches. Interviews were completed with all of the pastors ( $n = 60$ ) and coordinators ( $n = 62$ ) from the eligible churches.

## TEXAS

### **Center for Community Research & Development (CCRD)**

#### **Baylor University**

One Bear Place #97131, Waco, TX 76798-7131  
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larry\_lyon@baylor.edu; www.baylor.edu/ccrd

**Community Health Needs Assessment.** This year, CCRD conducted a telephone survey on the health care needs and practices of Waco/McLennan Co. residents at the request of local health organizations. The questionnaire measured health-related behav-

iors and habits, access and affordability of care providers, as well as new incidences of health problems in the last 12 months.

**Texas Hunger Initiative (THI).** In June 2015, CCRD completed an Internet survey of THI community partners. The questionnaire asked about experience with THI services and opinions on potential improvements for service distribution.

## VERMONT

### **Castleton Polling Institute (CPI)**

#### **Castleton University**

P.O. Box 6049, Rutland, VT 05701  
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polling@castleton.edu; www.castleton.edu/polling

**The Vermont Public Radio (VPR) Poll.** CPI was contracted by VPR to conduct a dual-frame (cell and landline) poll of Vermonters prior to the March presidential primary election and Town Meeting Day. Over 800 adult residents were asked about who they support in the presidential and gubernatorial primaries, the siting of renewable energy projects, recreational marijuana legalization, and universal background checks for gun ownership. Forty percent of the interviews were conducted on landline phones, and 60% were conducted on cell phones (<http://digital.vpr.net/post/vpr-poll-races-issues-and-full-results#stream/0>).

## CANADA

### **Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL)**

#### **University of Saskatchewan**

Room 260 Arts Bldg., 9 Campus Dr.,  
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5A5  
306-966-8409; fax: 306-966-8819  
ssrl@usask.ca; ssrl.usask.ca

**Feral Boar Presence in Rural Canada.** SSRL successfully launched a large-scale national telephone survey regarding wild boar observation to examine observations and opinions on wild boar activity across rural Canada. This project was initiated by the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Univ. of Saskatchewan, and administered by the SSRL Survey and Group Analysis Laboratory. The survey was translated and completed in both English and French, with a final result of 3,006 completed in-

interviews proportional to the rural populations of ten Canadian provinces. The response rate was 22.3%.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### QDET2 CONTRIBUTED ABSTRACT ONLINE SUBMISSION NOW OPEN

QDET2 is the first international conference in more than a decade dedicated to questionnaire design, development, testing, and evaluation. Researchers are invited to contribute papers or e-posters within three main conference topics: questionnaire design, pretesting methods, and data quality and measurement error. The submission deadline is May 5, 2016. For additional information and suggestions, see the QDET2 Web site ([www.amstat.org/meetings/qdet2/](http://www.amstat.org/meetings/qdet2/)). Keynote speakers will be Gordon Willis (cognitive psychologist at NIH) and Mario Callegaro (Senior Survey Research Scientist at Google UK).

### SURVEY NEWS BULLETINS AVAILABLE

The Survey Research Laboratory at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago sends out weekly e-mail news bulletins during the academic year that cover various aspects of survey research and best practices in data collection and survey management, sampling, data analysis, questionnaire design, and Web survey design. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send your name, affiliation, and e-mail to [srl-surveynews@uic.edu](mailto:srl-surveynews@uic.edu). To see an archive of past bulletins, go to [www.srl.uic.edu/Publist/bulletin.html](http://www.srl.uic.edu/Publist/bulletin.html). We also welcome suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in these bulletins.



## PERSONNEL NOTES

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

RTI International's Research Computing Division welcomed **David Pegram** and **Carol Jenkins** as Programmers/Analysts, **Robert Steinert** as a Mo-

bile Applications Developer, **Rebecca Boyles** as a Bioinformatics Data Scientist, and **Erin Friday** as an IT Documentation Specialist. The Survey Research Division has been joined by Survey Specialists **Martha Ryals**, **Zoe Moore**, and **Madison Cline**; Research Survey Methodologist **Ashley Amaya**; and Program Manager for Health Surveys and Registries **Alicia Frasier**. RTI's Division of Research Services was joined by **Mandee Lancaster** and **Kurt Johnson** as Managers of Research Services and **Rachael Rosenberg** as a Quality Control Specialist. New to RTI's Education and Workforce Development unit are **Jonathan Gordon** as a Senior Research Education Analyst; **Lee Honeycutt** as a Research Education Analyst; **Miles Fink** as a Research Programmer/Analyst; **Nichole Shelton** as a Programmer/Analyst; **Lori Trowbridge** as a Senior Administrative Assistant; and **Miranda Guardiola**, **Bethany van Spronsen**, and **Chi Wong** as Education Analysts.

**Lisa DeRamos**, **Leah Roberts**, and **Daniah Buageila** have joined the Univ. of Michigan's Survey Research Operations Unit as Survey Specialist Associates. **Rebecca Loomis**, **Ian Ogden**, **Anthony Romanowski**, and **Heather Rejto** were promoted to Survey Specialist Intermediate positions; **Joseph Matuzak** and **Donnalee Grey-Farquharson** were promoted to Survey Specialist Senior. The unit welcomed **Debra Heier**, **Kelley Popielarz**, **Suzanne Hodge**, **Stefanie Skulsky**, and **Wendy Furst** as Survey Specialist Associates and **Rachel Orłowski** as Survey Specialist Senior. **Grant Benson** has accepted the role of Director of Data Collection Operations.

The Survey Research Laboratory at the Univ. of South Carolina is pleased to announce the promotion of **Shirel Frazier** to the position of Field Director.

**Jocelyn Hasting** joined Temple University's Institute for Survey Research as Program Coordinator.



## PUBLICATIONS

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

Akmatov, M. K., RübSamen, N., Schultze, A., Kemmling, Y., Obi, N., Günther, K., et al. (2015). Diverse recruitment strategies result in different participation

- percentages in a Web-based study, but in similar compliance. *International Journal of Public Health*, 60(8), 937–943.
- Aarnio, P., & Kulmala, T. (2016). A pilot study of a picture—and audio—assisted self-interviewing method (PIASI) for the study of sensitive questions on HIV in the field. *Field Methods*, 28(1), 38–49.
- Barash, V. D., Cameron, C. J., Spiller, M. W., & Heckathorn, D. D. (2016). Respondent-driven sampling—testing assumptions: Sampling with replacement. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 32(1), 29–73.
- Barron, M., Davern, M., Montgomery, R., Tao, X., Wolter, K. M., Zeng, W., et al. (2015). Using auxiliary sample frame information for optimum sampling of rare populations. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 31(4), 545–557.
- Beaumont, J.-F., Béliveau, A., & Haziza, D. (2015). Clarifying some aspects of variance estimation in two-phase sampling. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 3(4), 524–542.
- Bergstrom, J. C. R., Erdman, C., & Lakhe, S. (2016). Navigation buttons in Web-based surveys: Respondents' preferences revisited in the laboratory. *Survey Practice*, 9(1).
- Bethlehem, J. (2016). Solving the nonresponse problem with sample matching? *Social Science Computer Review*, 34(1), 59–77.
- Blom, A. G., Bosnjak, M., Cornilleau, A., Cousteaux, A.-S., Das, M., Douhou, S., et al. (2016). A comparison of four probability-based online and mixed-mode panels in Europe. *Social Science Computer Review*, 34(1), 8–25.
- Bosnjak, M., Das, M., & Lynn, P. (2016). Methods for probability-based online and mixed-mode panels: Selected recent trends and future perspectives. *Social Science Computer Review*, 34(1), 3–7.
- Bradburn, N. M. (2016). Surveys as social interactions. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 4(1), 94–109.
- Brown, J. A., Serrato, C. A., Hugh, M., Kanter, M. H., Spritzer, K. L., & Hays, R. D. (2016). Effect of a post-paid incentive on response rates to a Web-based survey. *Survey Practice*, 9(1).
- Chen, S., & Kalton, G. (2015). Geographic oversampling for race/ethnicity using data from the 2010 U.S. population Census. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 3(4), 543–565.
- Coopersmith, J., Vogel, L. K., Bruursema, T., & Feeney, K. (2016). Effects of incentive amount and type on Web survey response rates. *Survey Practice*, 9(1).
- DeCamp, W., & Manierre, M. J. (2016). “Money will solve the problem”: Testing the effectiveness of conditional incentives for online surveys. *Survey Practice*, 9(1).
- de Leeuw, E. D., Hox, J. J., & Boevé, A. (2016). Handling do-not-know answers: Exploring new approaches in online and mixed-mode surveys. *Social Science Computer Review*, 34(1), 116–132.
- Dean, N., & Pagano, M. (2015). Evaluating confidence interval methods for binomial proportions in clustered surveys. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 3(4), 484–503.
- DiSogra, C., & Callegaro, M. (2016). Metrics and design tool for building and evaluating probability-based online panels. *Social Science Computer Review*, 34(1), 26–40.
- Eckman, S. (2016). Does the inclusion of non-Internet households in a Web panel reduce coverage bias? *Social Science Computer Review*, 34(1), 41–58.
- Edwards, D., Gilliland, D., Ward-Besser, G., & Lasecki, J. (2015). Conservative penny sampling. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 3(4), 504–523.
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- Krueter, F., Sakshaug, J. W., & Tourangeau, R. (2016). The framing of the record linkage consent question. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 28(1), 142–152.
- Labott, S., Johnson, T. P., Feeny, N. C., & Fendrich, M. (2016). Evaluating and addressing emotional risks in survey research. *Survey Practice*, 9(1).
- Lugtig, P., & Toepoel, V. (2016). The use of PCs, smartphones, and tablets in a probability-based panel survey: Effects on survey measurement error. *Social Science Computer Review*, 34(1), 78–94.
- Liu, M., Lee, S., & Conrad, F. G. (2015). Comparing extreme response styles between agree-disagree and item-specific scales. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 79(4), 952–975.
- Morera, O. F., & Stokes, S. M. (2016). Coefficient  $\alpha$  as a measure of test score reliability: Review of 3 popular misconceptions. *American Journal of Public Health*, 106(3), 458–461.

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O’Malley, A. J., & Zaslavsky, A. M. (2016). Optimal small-area estimation and design when nonrespondents are subsampled for follow-up. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology, 4*(1), 2–21.

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Schober, M. F., Pasek, J., Guggenheim, L., Lampe, C., & Conrad, F. G. (2016). Social media analyses for social measurement. *Public Opinion Quarterly, 80*(1), 180–211.

Sciarini, P., & Goldberg, A. C. (2016). Turnout bias in postelection surveys: Political involvement, survey participation, and vote overreporting. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology, 4*(1), 110–137.

Sinibaldi, J., & Eckman, S. (2015). Using call-level interviewer observations to improve response propensity models. *Public Opinion Quarterly, 79*(4), 976–993.

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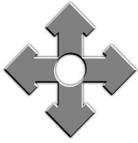
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## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

<b>We Asked; You Answered: Results of the <i>Survey Research</i> Readership Survey</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Annual AASRO Meeting</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Current Research</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Personnel Notes</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Publications</b>	<b>13</b>

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