

SURVEY RESEARCH

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

Notes from the Field:

Making Sure Interviewers are in the Right Location via LAPOP's Innovative Real Time Geo-fencing System

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The Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) at Vanderbilt University has carried out multiple rounds of nationally representative surveys in 34 countries across the Americas. These studies form our core program, the AmericasBarometer, which includes responses to over 240,000 face-to-face interviews. While LAPOP's roots date to the 1970s, the AmericasBarometer originated in 2004 with the objective of providing high quality public opinion and behavioral data on topics related to democracy and governance, political institutions, elections, crime, corruption, and more.

In field-based survey projects, a number of factors condition the degree to which the sample design is implemented successfully. For one, accurate census maps are not always available, a problem we have addressed in some cases by creating software that reads public satellite images and replaces the elusive census segments with grids that can be selected as data collection areas. Yet even once maps are obtained, there remains a critical step: interviewers have to locate themselves accurately with respect to area assignments.

For the AmericasBarometer LAPOP draws stratified, multi-stage, and clustered nationally representative samples to select around 1,500 individuals in each Latin American and Caribbean country. In each round,

teams work in approximately 250 census segments. Success in physically locating these areas requires significant coordination among fieldwork directors, supervisors, and interviewers. While many teams are well-prepared to locate assigned areas, gains in precision from scientific survey sampling are lost when those efforts are unsuccessful.

How can we better ensure that interviewers are indeed carrying out interviews in the sampled locations? At LAPOP, we have developed a three-part Geo-fencing System. The system includes a Geo-fence Module, Location Consistency Check, and a Distance Audit Module. Each relies on the use of handheld mobile devices for data entry in the field and software that records the geo-location of the interviewer for quality control purposes. LAPOP never releases precise GPS coordinates associated with interviews.

The Geo-fence Module

LAPOP's Geo-fence Module ensures that interviewers are in the right location through the creation of a series of circles placed around selected census segments or municipalities (which in LAPOP are typically our Primary Sampling Units). We use three elements to build these geo-fences: shapefiles, centroids, and radii. LAPOP obtains shapefiles (electronic files that store locations, shapes, and attributes of geographic areas in the form of polygons) from census bureaus and/or open source websites. Most of the shapefiles we have obtained so far are at the municipal level.



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With these files, LAPOP uses ArcGIS to calculate the GPS coordinates for each polygon's centroid. Combined with a project-specific decision on radii size, these centroids allow us to draw circumferences around the selected municipalities or, ideally, census segments. The geo-fencing module then flags all interviews conducted beyond the fences, by an automatic tool programmed into the data collection software. As soon as each interview is completed, the results upload automatically to a server via phone or Wi-Fi signal. Each device is equipped with an activated SIM card that provides this signal. On occasions in which the interviewer is located beyond the range of a cell phone tower, as soon as the device moves to an area with a signal, interviews are uploaded to the server automatically. Since all of our samples are drawn based on Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) principles, few respondents live in areas that are so sparsely populated that there is no cell phone signal nearby. Through this process, supervisors and interviewers are quickly notified if the interviews are in the wrong location, and appropriate steps can be taken to correct this problem.

The success of LAPOP's geo-fencing module depends on the availability of shapefiles and GPS signal. Even though they are publicly available, shapefiles may sometimes have errors, meaning that it is possible to get false negatives (erroneous outside-the-fence alerts). At other times they can be insufficiently fine-grained, meaning that we may receive false positives (no alert of an out-of-area interview). Those such false positives should be exceptionally rare, especially given other quality control efforts, including but not limited to the next item, which collectively bolster our efforts to detect and prevent out-of-area interviews.

The Location Consistency Check

LAPOP's Location Consistency Check (LCC) works to prevent interviewers from reporting incorrect locations even before an interview takes place. Prior to fieldwork, the LCC is programmed, along with the entire sample, into the data collection software to permit an interviewer-administered location check. The LCC works as follows. Fieldwork supervisors assign interviewers to work areas (such as a census segment), and the interviewer is informed of that selection and is required to select the area before seeking to locate the first respondent to be interviewed on any given day. Then the interviewer is asked by the software to select the primary sampling unit (municipality or neighborhood) in which they believe they are located. If they select an area that does not correspond to the

selected sample location, the software immediately informs the interviewer of the problem, and prevents them from proceeding. We have found this to be particularly useful in the Latin America and Caribbean region, where two or more municipalities or neighborhoods within a country can have the exact same name even though they are located in different provinces or departments. The LCC helps ensure that interviewers collect data from the neighborhood selected in the sample and not from another neighborhood with an identical name.

The Distance Audit Module

LAPOP's Distance Audit Module (DAM) allows us a computationally efficient means to assess interviewers' distance from the bounds of the geo-fence. We are on the third generation of our approach to this module and now program it directly into the software that we use for fieldwork. Once each interview is transmitted to the cloud, the team monitoring fieldwork is able to instantly distinguish among major and minor location violations on the one hand and no violations on the other.

The DAM returns the distance in kilometers between the interviewer's location, and the closest point of the circumference around the census segment or municipality (i.e., the limit of the geo-fence). If the number is negative, this indicates that the interview was carried out within the fence's boundaries. A positive number means a wrong location. Of course, the more precise and compact the location of the shapefile, the more precisely we can detect errors.

Conclusions

Making sure that interviewers are in the right location is critical to high quality face-to-face public opinion research. The use of handheld technology (tablets, phones) for interviews combined with specialized modules greatly enhances one's ability to assign, check, and correct the location of interviews while surveys are in progress. Carefully collected (and securely stored) geolocation data, accompanied by other means we have implemented but have no room to describe here, enhance our ability to monitor survey research in real time—that is, during the course of fieldwork. In short, the LAPOP multi-pronged Geo-fencing System efficiently increases the quality of survey projects conducted in the field, while reducing the need for cumbersome and costly post-hoc error correction.

More information on LAPOP including the authors' contact information is at www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop

11th Annual AASRO Meeting

Mary Losch, Conference Chair

Center for Social & Behavioral Research, University of Northern Iowa

In a joint celebration of their 50th Anniversary, the Center for Social & Behavioral Research (CSBR) at the University of Northern Iowa hosted the 11th annual meeting of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO) March 9–11, 2017. CSBR welcomed 43 participants from 33 member organizations.

PROGRAM

Highlights of the conference included a keynote address by NORC Emeritus Director Norman Bradburn, who spoke about “The changing world of surveys” and a presentation by Margaret Roller concerned with “Mixed Methods: A Value-added Approach to Applied Research.” Other sessions included a case study of how CSBR has adapted to a changing research environment, staffing, training & professional development challenges, updates on key issues, center introductions & highlights, discussion of new technology and Big Data, and a panel presentation of member online panel initiatives. During the meeting, recipients of the 2017 John M. Kennedy Achievement Award and the John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship were also announced.

JOHN M. KENNEDY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT



Andy Smith, left (Awards Committee chair) & Tom Guterbock

Thomas Guterbock, Director of the Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia, was named the 2017 recipient of the John M. Kennedy Achievement Award. As a founding member of AASRO, Guterbock attended the initial meeting in 2007 at the University of Michigan and has participated in every meeting since. At the 2008 Berkeley meeting, he authored AASRO’s “Declaration of Interdependence” that served as AASRO’s initial charter document. He

served on the steering committee, helped to draft the AASRO by-laws, and was elected as the first secretary of AASRO. Guterbock was also elected as AASRO’s third President and led a strategic planning process that helped to chart AASRO’s future. He has continued to be active in AASRO, serving as Chair of the History and Archives Committee and playing an active role in developing AASRO’s presence on Twitter.

JOHN TARNAI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Matthew Strawn of the Washington State University Social and Economic Sciences Research Center (SESRC) was awarded the 2017 John Tarnai Memorial Scholarship. The award provides a scholarship in memory of John Tarnai, former AASRO president, and recognizes an outstanding but relatively new survey center employee with great promise for pursuing a long-term career in survey research. The scholarship defrays the cost of attending the annual meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). In nominating Strawn for the scholarship, Rose Krebill-Prather, Assistant Director of SESRC, wrote: “Matt aspires to diversify his skills in applied survey research and he wants to innovate new approaches to data collection as the environment for surveys continues to change in the future.”



2018 ANNUAL MEETING

It was announced that the 2018 AASRO annual meeting will be held March 1–3 at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. If you would like to learn more about AASRO or join the organization, please visit our Web site at www.aasro.org.



CURRENT RESEARCH

Further information on the studies described in this section should be obtained from the organizations conducting the studies. 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

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Graduates Assessment Survey. SRC conducted this Web and telephone survey on behalf of the UALR Administration—from June through November 2016—to assess graduates' opinions of UALR's contribution to their skills, abilities, and workforce preparedness.

Arkansas Employers' Assessment Survey. On behalf of the UALR Administration, SRC conducted this telephone survey of Arkansas-based organizations to assess their opinion of UALR graduates. The survey took place November–December, 2016.

CALIFORNIA

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Valley Vision Survey Panel. ISR has developed this stratified, probability-based panel of Californians in Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, Eldorado, Sutter, Yuba, and San Joaquin counties. This panel will be used—starting in April 2017—to conduct quarterly surveys of residents to inform local policymakers.

Northern California Asian-American and Pacific Islander Panel. In partnership with the California Endowment and other community organizations, ISR is beginning work on this panel which will seek to obtain sizable sub-samples of Chinese, Korean, Southeast Asian, South Asian, Filipino, and Hmong Americans

in Northern California. We anticipate the panel being completed in late summer of 2017.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Language and Cross-Cultural Research
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Doorstep Messaging to Encourage Respondent Participation. CSM is conducting research on doorstep messaging in non-English languages to encourage respondent participation in censuses and surveys. Focus groups are being conducted in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, and—as a basis for comparison—in English. Both monolingual and bilingual respondents are included. RTI International and Research Support Services are working with the Census Bureau. *Project Director:* Patricia Goerman.

ILLINOIS

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Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS). NORC's nationally representative, probability-based survey panel *AmeriSpeak* will serve as the data collection vehicle for the NSF's TESS. TESS offers investigators the opportunity to submit proposals for experiments and, if selected, those experiments are fielded at no charge to a representative sample of adults in the U.S.

Gun Policy Survey. NORC has just concluded a survey of U.S. adults on issues related to gun policy. The mixed-mode data collection used *AmeriSpeak*, NORC's nationally representative, probability-based survey panel. The research was sponsored by the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. *Project Director:* Stephanie Jwo.

Arizona Youth Survey (AYS). In association with the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University, NORC will analyze data and generate reports for the AYS, the largest regular publicly sponsored survey of youth in Arizona. Fielded in class to 8th, 10th, and 12th-graders every two years, it gathers data on alcohol, drug, and tobacco use, gambling, firearms, gangs, school safety, family issues, and includes

items designed to assess the presence of “risk” and “protective” factors. *Project Director:* Eric Hedberg.

National Congregations Survey IV (NCS IV). NORC will collect data for the NCS IV for Mark Chaves of Duke University. This survey of pastors or knowledgeable representatives of congregations who are identified in the 2018 General Social Survey will gather data by telephone, with in-person follow-up as needed. *Project Director:* Jodie Smylie.

Attitude and Awareness Survey on Highway Safety. NORC will survey drivers on site in 12 offices of the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division. Data will be collected in either English or Spanish and will help the state evaluate and refine its highway safety priorities. *Project Director:* Jim Fell.

Kuwait Public Attitudes Toward Science. With the sponsorship of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, NORC will design and pilot test a survey about science knowledge and attitudes. The study builds on surveys of science knowledge NORC has done in the U.S. Work will begin with a review of the extant literature on science surveys to be followed by questionnaire design. *Project Director:* Tom W. Smith.

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Office of Institutional Research (OIR) Non-Returning Student Survey. OIR along with the Office of the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, the Office of Student Affairs, and the Office of Academic Enrollment Services at UIC, asked SRL to follow up with non-responders to a Web survey sent to students who were enrolled in the fall 2016 semester but did not return for the spring 2017 semester. We are calling over 1,100 students to conduct telephone interviews. Data collection started on February 14, 2017, and will end by mid-March 2017. *Project Coordinator:* Isabel Farrar.

National Survey of Free & Charitable Clinics. The purpose of this study is to learn about the free and charitable clinic movement and community—how many free and charitable clinics exist, where they are located, how many patients they serve, and what range of services they provide. List samples of clinics from *Americares* and other similar organizations at the state and national levels were obtained. SRL assisted

with programming the questionnaire and managing the data collection process. Data collection started in July 2015 and is scheduled to end in April 2017. So far, 792 completed questions have been received from 1,503 clinics that are still open for business (however, the number of eligible clinics might change based on new information we receive). *Principal Investigator:* Julie Darnell (Loyola University), *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

Oakland University Climate Survey. SRL is conducting a Web-based study on behalf of Oakland University to assess perceptions of the current academic and work climate. The data collection protocol involved sending an advance e-mail to all faculty, staff, and students (approximately 22,000 potential respondents) to inform them about the upcoming survey, with an invitation to an online questionnaire sent within two days. Data collection is ongoing and is anticipated to end by March 31, 2017. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

2017 Census of Veterinarians: Employment and Compensation. SRL is in the process of conducting this Web survey of veterinary professionals to understand factors associated with different levels of income and debt and to measure unemployment and underemployment within the profession. A list sample that included 15,893 of its members was obtained from the American Veterinary Medical Association. The questionnaire has been programmed and data collection will be underway soon. *Project Coordinator:* Sowmya Anand.

IOWA

Center for Social & Behavioral Research (CSBR)

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Children’s Mental Health Crisis Stabilization–Parent Survey. During spring 2017, the UNI CSBR is conducting a telephone survey to measure parents’ awareness of—and experience with—children’s mental health services in a seven-county area. Funded by the Iowa Dept. of Human Services, this project is part of a larger needs assessment CSBR is conducting for the Francis Lauer Agency and Youth and Shelter Services. *Principal Investigator:* Mary Losch.

National Study of Playground Surface Impact Attenuation. In partnership with the National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) at UNI, CSBR is providing sampling consultation and logistical support for a national survey of playgrounds that will assess general

safety and surface testing on public playgrounds.
Principal Investigator: Heather Olsen (NPPS), *Project Director:* Mary Losch.

KENTUCKY

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Kentucky Office for Vocational Rehabilitation Customer Satisfaction Survey. Annual survey of 1,000 office clients. *Principal Investigator:* Katie Wolf Whaley, *Project Director:* Absolom Waweru.

Kentucky Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Communities Survey. This dual frame telephone survey of 5,000 Kentucky adults who live in 26 communities that have an MS4 permit from the EPA was conducted to assess knowledge and behaviors regarding water quality and storm water runoff. This is a follow-up survey to evaluate local education campaigns following collection of baseline data in 2009. *Principal Investigator and Project Director:* Ron Langley.

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

MARYLAND

Westat

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Caregivers' Reactions and Experience (CARE). CARE, a substudy of the Imaging Dementia—Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS) Study, gathers preliminary information about how diagnostic amyloid PET scan imaging in dementia affects the experiences of diagnosed patients and their caregivers. CARE integrates clinical science questions with social and behavioral science data on how patients and their caregivers make decisions about—and cope with—the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease. CARE will recruit 3,500 patients in the IDEAS Study and will obtain their permission to contact their care partners. On behalf of Brown University School of Public Health, Westat

will conduct telephone interviews with patients and their care partners as they enter and progress through the diagnostic and treatment process for Alzheimer's disease. The interviews will ask about demographics, history of seeking diagnostic information about dementia symptoms, health care decision making, advanced care planning, health care preferences, and current cognitive status. Ultimately, these responses will be linked to PET scan results, clinical reports, and comprehensive Medicare claims data.

Evaluating E-Verify. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) asked Westat to conduct the latest evaluation of E-Verify to find out to what extent it is meeting its goals of reducing unauthorized employment, safeguarding workers against verification-related discrimination, protecting workers' rights to privacy, and preventing undue burden on employers. Westat conducted a survey of 3,700 employers enrolled in E-Verify to determine how well they understood and complied with the program requirements and how satisfied they were with the program; analyzed 35 million cases to determine the accuracy of E-Verify findings; conducted periodic case studies of employers and their workers to understand more about program compliance; and assessed the effectiveness of different E-Verify communication and outreach methods, including conducting a customer satisfaction survey of participants in E-Verify webinars and usability testing of the E-Verify public Web site.

MICHIGAN

Office for Survey Research (OSR) Institute for Public Policy & Social Research (IPPSR)

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Para-Educator Training and Supervision in Michigan's Public Schools. There are very few laws or policies regarding the hiring, training, and supervision of para-educators (also known as paraprofessionals, aides, and classroom support staff) in Michigan's public schools. This research seeks to provide an overview of current practices with the goal of recommending hiring, training, and supervision guidelines to policymakers. School districts were randomly selected based on rural, urban, and suburban classification. Survey invitations were sent to school administrators, who in turn provided contact information for teachers, who in turn provided contact information for para-educators with whom they work. The goal is to complete

Web questionnaires with each level (administrators, teachers, para-educators) within the randomly selected school. *Principal Investigator:* Sarah Douglas (MSU), *Project Manager:* Karen Clark.

Nonprofits Advancing Urban Recovery. Beginning in spring 2017, OSR is conducting a survey of nonprofit organizations in select American cities to examine their role in aiding urban recovery from major crises such as bankruptcy and environmental or natural disasters. The initial phase of the project will be administered to a sample of over 1,000 nonprofit organizations serving the City of Detroit, while future efforts are slated to target organizations in Flint and New Orleans. Respondents will be recruited by mail and directed to complete a Web-based questionnaire, with potential telephone follow-up interviews. The initial questionnaire covers such topics as interaction with government institutions and other nonprofit organizations, sources of funding, and responsiveness to community needs and preferences. *Principal Investigator:* Sarah Reckhow (MSU), *Project Manager:* Daniel Thaler.

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Housing and Children's Healthy Development (HCHD). This study aims to better understand how low-income parents with limited resources juggle the tradeoffs between housing quality, neighborhood quality, and school quality—and how the decisions they make influence growth and developmental outcomes for their children. HCHD includes innovative features such as in-home room measurements, a new cognitive sensitivity parent-child observation, and the collection of dried blood spots from children. Interviews will be conducted in approximately 1,700 households with children age 3–10 in Cleveland and Dallas. The sample consists of a general population sample and a list sample of families that have applied for housing vouchers. Caregiver interview length will range from 75–90 minutes and will include anthropometric measurements, collection of blood spots, and neighborhood observations. Child assessments will range from 45–60 minutes and will include a neurocognitive test, Woodcock-Johnson assessments, anthropometric measurements, and the collection of blood spots. The study is funded by NICHD, HUD, the MacArthur Foundation, and the RWJ Foundation. *Principal Investigators:* Sandra Newman (Johns Hopkins University) and Tama

Leventhal (Tufts University), *Survey Directors:* Barbara Ward and Grant Benson.

Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO). This project will attempt to understand pressing childhood health concerns such as autism spectrum disorders, low birth weight, and childhood obesity. The project will assess the effects of persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals across two generations, the effect of maternal nutritional and weight status in pregnancy, and the effects of pregnancy infection and inflammation. A statewide probability sample of 1,000 women will be recruited from ten Michigan hospitals (20 prenatal clinics) in 2017 and 2018. Survey data and bio-specimens will be collected starting in the first trimester of pregnancy and continue through age 6 of the child. Mothers will be interviewed when the children are ages 3 months, 12 months, 3 and 5 years. In-home visits will be made when the children are 2, 4, and 6 years old. The children will be assessed using standardized developmental assessments, while the mothers will complete a 60-minute interview. Bio-specimens will be collected from the mother during pregnancy (blood and urine) and after the birth (placenta), and from the children at 3 months (fecal samples) and 4 years (shed teeth). The study is funded by NIH and the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. *Principal Investigators:* Nigel Paneth (Michigan State University) and Michael Elliott (Univ. of Michigan); *Survey Director:* Eva Leissou.

Daily Experiences and Well-Being Study (DEWS). This study is designed to assess social networks and cognitive health among adults. Initial screening is done by phone with respondents who must be age 65 or older, reside in Austin, Texas, live at home, and not currently work full time. A 90-minute in-home interview is completed including questions on current health status and social support network. A series of cognitive tests are administered and blood pressure is measured. Respondents are then fitted with an Actigraph watch to wear for five days and an Android device programmed to trigger sound recordings throughout the day and to deliver six ecological momentary assessment (EMA) surveys to be completed throughout the day on the phone. A self-administered questionnaire is also left with the respondent. The goal is to capture two full weekend days and two full weekdays of EMA surveys and recordings. Five days after the initial interview, the interviewer returns to retrieve the devices and the self-administered questionnaire. At that time, several pictures of the room the respondent spends the most time in are taken. The goal is to obtain complete data for 300 respondents. *Principal Investigators:* Karen

Fingerman (Univ. of Texas) and Kira Birditt (Univ. of Michigan), *Survey Director*: Heidi Guyer.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Granite State Poll 64, January–February, 2017. Five hundred and five (505) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cell phone between January 31 and February 8, 2017. The Granite State Poll is a quarterly survey of public opinion in New Hampshire. This study was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning the favorability of elected officials, presidential and gubernatorial job approval, and various other national and state issues. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 4.4\%$. *Principal investigator*: Andrew Smith.

Granite State Poll 64, February, 2017. Between February 10–19, 2017, 513 randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by landline and cellular telephone. This study was conducted to determine present attitudes concerning consumer confidence and state policy issues. The margin of sampling error for the survey is $\pm 4.3\%$. *Principal investigator*: Andrew Smith.

NORTH CAROLINA

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National Electronic Health Records Survey (NEHRS). RTI International was recently awarded the 2017 NEHRS from the CDC's NCHS. Conducted annually since 2008, this multimode (Web, mail, phone) survey of 10,302 physicians collects data on the adoption of electronic health records (EHR) by office-based physicians. NEHRS provides state and national estimates on physician and practice information, characteristics of EHR use, characteristics of health information exchange, and unintended consequences of using EHRs. *Project Director*: Julie Linville.

Occupational Information Network (O*NET). Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, O*NET is a comprehensive system for collecting, organizing, describing, and disseminating information on occupational requirements and worker attributes. The O*NET database is

the most comprehensive source of occupational and skill information in the U.S. and replaces the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. The O*NET Data Collection Program is an ongoing effort to populate and maintain the database with valid, reliable, and current occupation and skills data. Under contract to the National Center for O*NET Development, RTI International has provided sampling, data collection, data processing, and data analysis services to support the O*NET Data Collection Program since its inception in 1997. *Project Director*: Michael Weeks.

Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Firefighter Study. RTI International was recently awarded a contract to provide data collection support to the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center and The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health for this study. The purpose of this Web study is to address the James L. Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act research mandate to answer critical questions about physical and mental health conditions related to the September 2001 WTC terrorist attacks. It will seek to enhance the FDNY's previous research on the WTC-exposed FDNY cohort by creating a comparison cohort of urban firefighters from San Francisco, Chicago, and Philadelphia, who did not respond to the WTC attacks. *Project Director*: Suzanne Triplett.

WASHINGTON

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2016 Bureau of Land Management Visitor Survey. In order for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and better meet the needs of the public, a visitor satisfaction survey was conducted at 24 BLM recreation sites in 13 states during fiscal year 2016. The survey was developed to measure each site's performance related to the BLM GPRA goals of providing for a quality recreation experience, including access, and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources on DOI managed and partnered lands and waters and providing for and receiving fair value in recreation. The information collected during the survey will also help the BLM better serve the public. The data collected included visitor satisfaction data regarding the use of maps, signs, and brochures, recreation use management, resource

management, BLM staff and service, programs, commercial recreation operations, educational and interpretive materials, fees, accessibility for visitors with disabilities, activities, and demographics. *Principal Investigator:* Lena Le, *Study Director:* Matthew Strawn.

City of Tacoma Employee Survey. A survey conducted on behalf of Human Resources for the City of Tacoma was used to gather information from City of Tacoma employees regarding how they feel about working for the city. Employees were contacted up to three times by e-mail and once with a paper questionnaire. A total of 1,374 questionnaires out of 1,988 employees were completed or partially completed (1,284 Web completes, 25 partial Web completes, and 65 mail completes) resulting in a response rate of 69.1%. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore; *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income LGBTQ Individuals. The Office of Civil Legal Aid of the State of Washington requested this study as a supplement to the 2014 Civil Legal Needs Study Update. This supplement was a non-probability survey assessment of the legal needs of low-income Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals in Washington State, where approximately 4% of the population between 18 and 45 self-identify as LGBTQ. The survey targeted those individuals with household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Although low-income LGBTQ people face many of the same socio-economic and legal challenges that other low-income people who share their race, ethnicity, age, and disability do; they face additional problems because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. *Principal Investigator and Study Director:* Danna Moore.

Oral Healthcare in Washington. In fall 2016, a mixed-mode survey (Web and paper) of dentists, family physicians, and pediatricians was conducted for the Univ. of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies to learn more about oral healthcare in Washington. The findings will inform decisions about access to oral health services. The overall response rates were: Dentists 63.6% (896 completes + 2 partial completes / 1412 eligible sample), Family physicians 47.2% (331 completes + 0 partial completes / 701 eligible sample), and Pediatricians 54.7% (248 completes + 0 partial completes / 453 eligible sample). *Principal Investigator:* Lena Le, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Permitted and Inspected Customers for the Washington State Dept. of Ecology (WSDE). From August through October 2016, a random sample of permitted or inspected customers of WSDE were contacted to complete a questionnaire about actions that might be needed

to further improve regulatory processes and customer service. Customers were initially contacted by mail, and respondents had the option of completing the questionnaire online or waiting to be called for an interview. Later in the data collection period, e-mail reminders were sent to non-respondents. Overall 787 respondents completed the questionnaire by Web, 73 partially completed by Web, 1,236 completed it over the phone, and 111 partially completed it over the phone. This return yields an adjusted response rate of 63.2%. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Nathan Palmer.

Washington State University (WSU) Alumni Survey. In fall 2016, six thousand one hundred and ninety-three 2005–2010 WSU alumni were contacted to participate in a mixed-mode (online, paper, or telephone) survey for the WSU Office of Institutional Research. The purpose of the survey was to better understand the WSU undergraduate—and subsequent—workforce experiences. A 22.6% response rate was achieved—1,006 completed the survey online, 114 over the phone, and 135 returned a completed paper questionnaire. Additionally, 110 partially completed on the Web, and 114 partially completed over the phone. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Beth Ficklin.

Residents in Wenatchee School District (WSD). In January 2017, a random sample of residents in the WSD was contacted by telephone to ask about the needs of the district schools. A sample of 3,064 phone numbers was prepared including approximately one-quarter directory listed numbers, another quarter random-digit-dial (RDD) numbers; the remaining half were cell numbers. A total of 339 completed and 33 partially completed interviews were obtained, resulting in a 20.3% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Nathan Palmer.

California Electricity Time-of-Use Study (CETUS). A mixed-mode (Web, mail, telephone) survey was conducted in fall 2016 in collaboration with Research Into Action to collect data from customers enrolled in CETUS. The purpose of the survey is to learn how changes to electricity rates impacted the respondents' life and electricity bills. The overall response rate was 84.1% (44,558 completes + 966 partial completes / 54,113 eligible sample). *Principal Investigator:* Lena Le, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

2016 Click! Cable TV Customer Satisfaction Survey. A survey sponsored by the Tacoma Public Utilities was used to gather information from Click! Cable TV subscribers about the services provided by Click! Subscribers were divided into phone and e-mail groups. The e-mail group was contacted up to four times, and the phone group received up to seven call attempts. A

total of 429 questionnaires were completed or partially completed (211 e-mail and 218 phone) resulting in a response rate of 22.6%. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Univ. of Washington Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (DEOHS) Stakeholder Survey. From July–October 2016, a Web survey of stakeholders of the Univ. of Washington’s DEOHS was conducted to understand the impact DEOHS has on Washington’s employers, labor groups, governmental organizations, and other interested parties. Stakeholders—initially contacted by mail—also received up to five e-mails, a postcard, and five reminder phone calls to invite participation. Of the 171 stakeholders contacted, 76 completed the survey and 9 partially completed it. This return yields an overall adjusted response rate of 53.5%. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Nathan Palmer.

Northwest Justice Project (NJP) Legal Services Follow-up. A telephone survey of past clients of the CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral) hotline was conducted to better understand levels of satisfaction with the hotline service provided by NJP. Conducted between August and December 2016, the survey sought to discover how effective the legal advice offered from the service was and the rate at which clients took the advice. The survey also asked about the outcomes of legal issues after using the hotline service. One hundred fifty-four of 568 client names submitted to the SESRC by CLEAR completed or partially completed the survey for a 28.3% response rate. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Thom Allen.

Heat Waves. A Web and paper survey of households in Brawley, CA and Peoria, IL was conducted through a series of postal contacts. The purpose of the survey was to better understand how people detect heat waves and how they perceive the risks associated with them. A total of 756 surveys were completed, resulting in an overall response rate of 21%. *Principal Investigator:* Lena Le, *Study Director:* Matthew Strawn.

Washington State University (WSU) 2016 Survey of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. A Web-based survey was conducted to better understand the experiences and extent of WSU research faculty’s interactions with the WSU Office of Commercialization and the current process for disclosing and advancing inventions. The WSU Office of Research sent an e-mail to all 1,889 WSU tenured research faculty on October 17, 2016, informing them of the study. The SESRC sent an invitation e-mail with the survey link to the same list the following day. Over the course of the next two weeks,

two follow-up e-mails were sent to nonresponders. Of those on the list, 638 completed or partially completed the survey resulting in a 34% rate of response. *Principal Investigator:* Lena Le, *Study Director:* Thom Allen.

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. On behalf of the Wildlife Science Division Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, SESRC contacted 5,054 hunters in order to gather information regarding the hunting tags they purchased and where they were used. Calling took place February 6–17, 2017. Of the 25,000 names on the list, 5,054 interviews were completed. *Principal Investigator:* Danna Moore, *Study Director:* Kent Miller.

Southwest Washington Aging in Place: Needs Assessment. A random sample of households in southwest Washington were contacted to participate in a telephone survey aimed at those who are 60 years of age or older or are caregivers of an adult (18 years or older) with a functional disability. The purpose of the survey was to better understand how to support aging adults to live independently and to learn about the need for services and programs. A total of 514 respondents completed the questionnaire. *Principal Investigator:* Rose Krebill-Prather, *Study Director:* Dan Vakoch.

WYOMING

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Missouri Crime Victimization Survey (CVS), 2016.

In spring 2016, WYSAC conducted the Missouri CVS. State CVSs are sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and use a survey instrument based on the one used for the National CVS. Individual states make adjustments to reflect their priorities. The survey was conducted as a telephone interview and used a sample disproportionately stratified to secure a disproportionately high number of completions from African-American households. Over 1,800 surveys were completed statewide. *Project Director:* Bistra Anatchkova, *Principal Investigators:* Bistra Anatchkova and Brian Harnisch.

Wyoming Crime Victimization Survey (CVS), 2016.

In fall 2016, WYSAC conducted the Wyoming CVS. State CVSs are sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and use a survey instrument based on the one used for the National CVS. Individual states make adjustments to reflect their priorities. The survey was conducted as a telephone interview and used a

sample disproportionately stratified to secure a disproportionately high number of completions from certain geographic areas (defined by county) expected to have significantly different problems with crime. Over 1,800 surveys were completed statewide. *Project Director:* Bistra Anatchkova.

Wyoming and North Dakota Substance Abuse Surveys. In summer 2016, WYSAC conducted telephone interviews about substance abuse issues with young adults (age 18–29) in Wyoming and North Dakota. Both surveys used dual (landline and cell phone) sampling frames and very similar questionnaires; over 600 interviews were completed in each state. *Project Director:* Brian Harnisch.

Tobacco Use Assessment Survey in New Mexico (TES2). In summer 2016, WYSAC conducted the second iteration of this survey, which is a key element of the evaluation of the Tobacco Cessation and Control Program Evaluation that WYSAC has been conducting for the past five years. Both iterations were conducted by telephone and oversampled adults 18–29 years of age. *Principal Investigators:* Laura Feldman and Humphrey Costello, *Survey Manager:* Brian Harnisch.

Louisiana Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS), 2016. In the spring and summer of 2016, WYSAC conducted the Louisiana ATS. State ATSs are supported by the CDC and are conducted as telephone interviews, using dual—landline and cell phone—sampling frames. The sample for the Louisiana ATS was stratified by eight geographic regions. Over 6,000 surveys were completed. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. *Project Director:* Bistra Anatchkova, *Principal Investigator:* Brian Harnisch.

Wyoming Driving Behaviors Survey, 2016. WYSAC conducted the first such survey in 2010 under contract to the Wyoming Dept. of Transportation. By design, follow-up surveys were conducted in 2011–2014, and again in 2016 to assess changes in drivers' attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, and behaviors. Both the sampling frame (landline and cell phone) and the questionnaire remained mostly unchanged to achieve maximum comparability over time. *Project Director:* Bistra Anatchkova, *Principal Investigator:* Brian Harnisch.

Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2016. In fall 2016, WYSAC conducted the 8th iteration of a Wyoming statewide general population survey for WYDOT. This dual (landline and cell) telephone survey is conducted every two years using a questionnaire that remains for the most part unchanged to provide maximum comparability over time. Over 900 interviews are completed

with each iteration. Results are presented to WYDOT Executive Staff. *Project Director:* Bistra Anatchkova, *Principal Investigator:* Brian Harnisch.

Wyoming Judicial Advisory Poll, 2016. Judicial advisory polls are guided and used by bar associations to provide feedback to judicial officials about their performance on the bench and help the public make more informed decisions in judicial elections. These polls have been conducted in Wyoming in late summer each election year since 1976; the results are disseminated to the media about a month before election day. WYSAC has been involved since 2002. Like the past four iterations, the 2016 poll was conducted as a Web-based questionnaire. *Project Director:* Bistra Anatchkova.

Wyoming Pre- and Post- Election Survey, 2016. Every election year WYSAC conducts a statewide telephone survey, sponsored by the Univ. of Wyoming to collect data on voting intentions and behaviors as well as a wide variety of social and economic policy issues of importance to the citizens of the state. Over 600 interviews are completed for the pre-election survey (100+ questions) A dual landline and cellular phone sampling frame is used. All who complete the pre-election survey are approached for a much shorter post-election survey. *Principal Investigator:* Brian Harnisch.

CANADA

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Perceptions of Nurse Practitioners in Small Towns.

The SSRL will be conducting its second telephone survey about perceptions of nurse practitioners in small towns. In late 2016, the SSRL conducted the first version of the survey with residents of a small town surrounding Saskatchewan's most populous city. The intention of the survey was to assess residents' perceptions of, and attitudes toward, nurse practitioners. Currently, many residents must travel to the city to receive medical care from a physician. However, much of the medical care they seek are services that a nurse practitioner would be qualified to provide in their own town. This second survey will be conducted in a neighboring town where they are considering implementing a similar health care model, which could eliminate unnecessary travel for minor medical treatment.

PATRONS

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kinds of interdisciplinary exchanges (Ozolins, 2009; Baird & Skariah, 2016; Sha & Lai, 2016). This special issue aims at further building this bridge and the body of literature. We welcome full-length papers of up to 6,000 words (APA style). Please consider when writing your article that this special issue has a threefold readership—those coming from traditional translation, cross-cultural survey methodology, and subject matter expert fields. Submission deadline is August 14, 2017. More information is available at www.trans-int.org/index.php/transint/announcement/view/19

Guest Editors: Dorothee Behr, GESIS—Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Mannheim, Germany, Dorothee.Behr@gesis.org and Mandy Sha, RTI International, msha@rti.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 FIELD TEST FOR THE 2018 BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The University of Alabama at Birmingham Survey Research Unit will host the 2017 Field Test to assess questions for the 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) in late May/early June 2017. Questions will be reviewed from the following sectors: Population Health Surveillance Branch, Division of Population Health, National Centers for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. BRFSS is a CDC-sponsored system of cross-sectional telephone health surveys concerning individual health risk behaviors, health conditions, and preventive health practices that are associated with chronic diseases, infectious diseases, and injury. Since CDC and BRFSS partners produce a new set of state-specific BRFSS questionnaires each calendar year, field testing provides a final check of changes related to instructions, conditional logic, and other implementation and usability issues.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE OF TRANSLATION & INTERPRETING

A special issue of *Translation & Interpreting* entitled *Translation of questionnaires in cross-national and cross-cultural research* is to be published in July 2018. As of now, few translation scholars have tried to reconcile translation studies and the field of questionnaire translation (Behr, 2009; Bolaños-Medina & González-Ruiz, 2012; Dorer, 2016; Kussmaul, 2007; Ozolins, 2009; Przepiórkowska, 2016). *Translation & Interpreting* stands out among refereed journals in having provided a unique platform for one of the first

JOIN THE CROSS-CULTURAL AND MULTILINGUAL RESEARCH AFFINITY GROUP

We are professional practitioners, government researchers, university faculty members, and students. Our mission is to connect AAPOR researchers and leaders to facilitate a regular dialogue about improved methods, measurement, and research & publication opportunities. Our vision is to cultivate an environment where cross-cultural and multilingual research is visible and important to all survey and public opinion researchers. For more information, contact one of the co-chairs: Patricia Goerman, U.S. Census Bureau (patricia.l.goerman@census.gov) about upcoming conferences; Anna Sandoval Girón, U.S. Census Bureau (anna.b.sandoval.giron@census.gov) to join our list-serve; or Mandy Sha, RTI International (msha@rti.org), AAPOR lead.

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.

Kirsten Becker was promoted to Director of the RAND Survey Research Group (SRG) effective January 2017. Kirsten has been with SRG for 18 years and for the past three years has served as RAND SRG's Associate Director. **Julie Brown**, who had served as Director since 2002, will continue as a member of SRG as a Senior Survey Director and will also serve as RAND's first Director of Survey Market Development, a new corporation-wide role.

The University of Michigan Survey Research Center's Survey Research Operations Unit is pleased to announce the promotions of **Derek Dubuque** and **Andrea Sims** to Survey Specialist Intermediate positions, and we welcome **Terri Ridenour** and **Juan Carlos Donoso** as Survey Specialist Seniors.

Dorothyjean Cratty joined RTI's Education and Workforce Development unit as Senior Research Education Analyst. **Austin Caperton**, **Katherine (Ratterree) Johnson**, **Jonathan Boyette**, **Gauri Deole**, and **Elizabeth Spurgeon** all joined the unit as Education Analysts. **Sara Andrews** was added as Research Public Health Analyst. **Deepak Pisipati**, **Joy (JT) Kaufman**, **Patrick Tucker**, and **William Gates** all joined RTI's Education and Workforce Development unit as Systems Programmer Analysts. **Reed Benjamin** was welcomed as Web Specialist. **Matthew Check** joined RTI's Research Computing Division as a Systems Programmer/Analyst, and **Imrul Hassan** was welcomed as an IT Quality Assurance Specialist. **Jesse Pegg**, **Leenisha Marks**, **David Alward**, and **Joli Brown** all joined RTI's Survey Research Division as Survey Specialists, and **Nathan Reim** was added as an Unmanned Aircraft Advisor.

PUBLICATIONS

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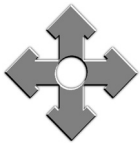
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