

Survey Research Laboratory

In 2024, the Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) collected data for 10 research projects. This involved interviewing more than 10,000 survey respondents. The SRL continued its work with the Mississippi Department of Health to collect survey data for two research initiatives by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: The Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System and the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System. In addition to its data collection efforts for the CDC, the SRL continued its collaboration with The University of Mississippi Medical Center by measuring the health conditions of minority populations in Mississippi and their opinions of COVID-19. The SRL also collected data on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Human Services to determine the average cost of providing childcare in Mississippi. In collaboration with the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture, the SRL obtained data from Mississippi landowners interested in using their land to start a natural resources-based business. Additionally, the SRL worked with the Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion to better understand financial stressors associated with farming. The SRL also continued its surveillance of tobacco use in the state of Mississippi on behalf of the SSRC's Tobacco Control Unit. In a separate project with the Tobacco Control Unit, the SRL provided its call-center services to a Harvard/MassGeneral, NIH-funded, randomized controlled smoking cessation intervention trial. Lastly, the SRL administered its annual client satisfaction surveys for both the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services.

In the past year, the SRL's core staff members included Dr. John F. Edwards, Laura Grandfield, Cy Johnson, Eniko Marcus, Morgan Moore, Kaen Allen, and Dr. Wolfgang Frese. Additionally, the SRL's call center employed more than 50 telephone interviewers.

Survey projects conducted in 2024 include:

CDC's Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System

For the 4th consecutive year, the SRL collected data for the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. BRFSS is the nation's premier system of health-related survey data from U.S. residents regarding their potential for exhibiting health risk behaviors and experiencing chronic health conditions. In 2024, the SRL completed nearly 3,000 telephone-based, BRFSS interviews with a representative sample of adults residing in Mississippi.

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

In addition to the BRFSS data, the SRL collected data for another CDC health initiative known as PRAMS - The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System. The goal of PRAMS is to reduce infant mortality and low birthweight by promoting healthy pregnancies. PRAMS is a population-based surveillance system designed to identify and monitor maternal experiences and behaviors that occur before and during pregnancy. In 2024, the SRL interviewed approximately 100 women participating in Mississippi's PRAMS program.

Efficacy of Smoking Intervention Program for Parents: Follow-up Survey

The SRL collected data for a Harvard/MassGeneral, NIH-funded, randomized controlled smoking cessation intervention trial. This research tested whether adding a biomarker measurement for child tobacco smoke exposure and providing personalized biomarker feedback to parents about their child's toxin exposure would increase smoking cessation among parents. The SRL interviewed approximately 60 research study participants as part of a 12-month follow-up assessment of smoking cessation.

2024 Childcare Market Rate Interviews

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Human Services' Child Care Payment Program, the SRL interviewed nearly 600 directors of childcare facilities throughout the state of Mississippi to determine the average cost of providing childcare. The Department of Human Services requires these data to assure its subsidy rates are high enough to cover the actual cost of providing childcare so that parents who are eligible for childcare subsidies have access to the same level of childcare provided to parents who are not eligible for assistance.

2024 Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19 Disparities

The SRL collaborated with researchers from The University of Mississippi Medical Center to conduct an updated version of a COVID-19 survey first administered in 2021. The data collected from 650 Mississippians was part of a nationwide research effort led by the National Institutes of Health. The purpose of this research was to measure the health conditions and attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccines by minority populations.

Natural Resource Enterprises Landowner Survey

The SRL conducted the data entry and verification process for the 2024 Natural Resource Enterprises Landowners Survey. This survey was administered by the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture at Mississippi State University. This paper-based survey was completed by 210 Mississippi landowners who were interested in using a portion of their land to start a natural resource enterprise such as agritourism, fee hunting/fishing, horse trail riding, etc.

Southern Agriculture Exchange Network Survey

On behalf of the Southern Agricultural Exchange Network and Mississippi State University's Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion, the SRL interviewed a representative sample of approximately 800 crop growers from the South Atlantic and South Central regions of the U.S. The purpose of this research was to measure the current financial status of small to medium size farms and better understand the financial stressors associated with farming.

2024 Mississippi Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control

For the 26th consecutive year, the SRL conducted the Mississippi Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control on behalf of the Tobacco Control Unit at the Social Science Research Center. Results from this survey assist researchers in better understanding the degree to which people in Mississippi live in smoke-free homes, work in smoke-free environments, understand the health risks of using tobacco, and talk to their children about tobacco use. This telephone-based survey of the general public included a representative sample of 900 adults residing in the state of Mississippi. Funding for this research was provided by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

2024 Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation Client Satisfaction Survey

For the 24th consecutive year, the SRL completed approximately 1,000 telephone-based interviews with individuals who received vocational rehabilitation services from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) in the past year. MDRS uses these data to support its ongoing efforts in program evaluation and development.

2024 Mississippi Department of Mental Health Consumer Satisfaction Survey

For the 9th consecutive year, the SRL conducted the Consumer Satisfaction Survey for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MDMH). Using paper-based questionnaires, the SRL

surveyed 2,843 individuals who received mental health services from one of the department's mental health programs in the past year. This survey measured consumers' opinions regarding the quality of services provided by MDMH.