

# Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Lab

calendar year 2023

---

In 2023, the Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) collected data for eight research projects. It continued its contract with the Mississippi Department of Health to collect survey data for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC manages the Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System (BRFSS) which is one of the nation's primary sources of health-related survey data that monitors health risk behaviors and chronic health conditions. The SRL collects all BRFSS data for the state of Mississippi. In addition to its work with the CDC, the SRL continued its collaboration with The University of Mississippi Medical Center in measuring the health conditions of minority populations in Mississippi and their opinions of COVID-19. The SRL also administered two surveys on behalf of the non-profit agency Mississippi First: One measuring Mississippians' perceived value of funding early childhood education and the other measuring parents' opinions of charter schools in Mississippi. Additionally, the SRL collaborated with the Community College Advocacy Lab at Mississippi State University's College of Education on an AmeriCorps study documenting the civic and community engagement efforts at all community colleges across the nation. The SRL also continued its surveillance of tobacco use in the state of Mississippi on behalf of the SSRC's Tobacco Control Unit. Lastly, the SRL administered its annual client satisfaction surveys for both the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services.

The survey laboratory's core staff includes Dr. John F. Edwards as laboratory director, Laura Grandfield as laboratory manager, Cy Johnson as programmer, Eniko Marcus as lead call center supervisor, Kaen Allen as data assistant, Morgan Moore as call center supervisor, and Dr. Wolfgang Frese as emeritus research professor. Additionally, the SRL's call center employs more than 50 telephone interviewers.

Survey projects conducted in 2023 include:

## **CDC's Behavioral Risk Factors Surveillance System**

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 2023, the SRL completed over 4,000 telephone-based, BRFSS interviews with a random sample of adult respondents from Mississippi.

## **2023 Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19 Disparities (CEAL)**

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 1,800 Mississippians was part of a nationwide research effort led by the National Institutes of Health titled, "Community Engagement Alliance." The purpose of this research was to measure the health conditions and attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccines by minority populations. This telephone-based survey focused on members of three population groups in Mississippi: Black Mississippians, Hispanic Mississippians, and members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

## **2023 Mississippi Charter School Survey**

On behalf of the Mississippi Charter Schools Authorization Board and Mississippi First, the SRL conducted the 2023 Charter School Survey. The survey respondents included approximately 200 parents who had a child attending a charter school and 400 parents who had a child eligible to attend a charter school, but not enrolled in one. The purpose of this project was to provide the members of the Authorization Board with a better understanding of parents' attitudes and opinions of Mississippi's charter schools.

## **Mississippi First Pre-K Survey**

On behalf of Mississippi First in Jackson MS, the SRL administered a telephone-based survey of public opinion regarding the value of funding early childhood education programs. The survey respondents included a representative sample of 600 adults residing in the state of Mississippi.

## **Community College Civic Engagement**

The SRL collaborated with the Community College Advocacy Lab at Mississippi State University's College of Education to build a database of approximately 1,000 community colleges throughout the U.S. with the goal of documenting civic and community engagement efforts at the community college level. This study was funded by AmeriCorps and is a critical component of the AmeriCorps Community Engagement among Community Colleges Project.

## **2023 Mississippi Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control**

For the 25th 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.

## **2023 Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation Client Satisfaction Survey**

For the 23rd consecutive year, the SRL conducted telephone-based interviews with approximately 1,000 individuals who received vocational rehabilitation services from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) during the past 12 months. MDRS uses these data to support its ongoing efforts in program evaluation and development.

## **2023 Mississippi Department of Mental Health Consumer Satisfaction Survey**

For the 8th consecutive year, the SRL conducted the Consumer Satisfaction Survey for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MDMH). Using paper-based survey booklets, the SRL surveyed approximately 3,700 individuals who had received mental health services from one of the department's mental health programs. This survey measured consumers' opinions regarding the quality of services provided by MDMH.