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the important questions. That's what NORC is all about. NORC is a non-profit corporation affiliated with the University of Chicago that conducts survey research in the public interest for government agencies, educational institutions, private foundations, non-profit organizations, and private corporations. We collect data to help policymakers, researchers, educators, and others address the crucial issues facing the government, organizations, and the public. NORC was established in 1941 through a grant from the University of Denver and the Field Foundation, the philanthropic institution endowed by Chicago department store heir and newspaper owner Marshall Field III. In 1947, NORC moved to the University of Chicago campus, where our headquarters remain today.

NORC currently has a staff of approximately 400 professionals dedicated to social science research, technical support, and management. These professionals are spread across our four Chicago offices as well as our branch offices in New York and Washington D.C. and our field offices in 21 states, including Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, California, Utah, Oregon, Montana, Minnesota, and Missouri. In addition, we currently have nearly 1,500 professional field interviewers across the country. NORC's current research portfolio includes six broad research areas including alcohol, drugs, and mental health; education; epidemiology and health care; labor, income, and finance; public concerns; and statistics and methodology.

In the pages that follow, we will introduce to you two new faces at NORC and present some of the exciting and innovative studies we conducted in 1995.

“At **NORC**,
1995 has been
a year of change,
enhancement
and innovation.”

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At NORC, 1995 has been a year of change, enhancement, and innovation. In addition to our large program of survey work, we've added two new Vice Presidents, conducted some of our most innovative and ambitious studies ever, undertaken major technological upgrades, and begun developing statistical software.

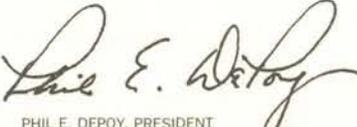
In the next few pages, you will meet Barbara Bailar and Michael Oak, NORC's new Vice Presidents. Barbara Bailar joins us from the American Statistical Association and has been serving as Vice President for Survey Research. Michael Oak comes to us from A.C. Nielsen and has been serving as Vice President and Chief Information Officer. We are pleased to have them with us, and their work for NORC has already paid great dividends.

NORC's technological advances in 1995 included conducting the *Prospective Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health*, the first national survey with over 20,000 audio computer-assisted self interviews (audio-CASI). In addition, we worked to further refine our computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) capabilities as CAPI becomes the survey research standard. Under Michael Oak's leadership, we have undertaken major upgrades of our computing capabilities. We have also begun developing our own suite of statistical software, the first prototypes of which will soon be ready. In addition, we are bringing in new staff and upgrading our skill base to take advantage of state of the art technologies.

To keep NORC at the forefront of survey research methodology, we have been pursuing research that will allow us to continue offering high quality data. For our study, *Laboratory Research on Responses to Sensitive Survey Questions*, we used videotaped vignettes to identify situations that make people less likely to disclose sensitive information. And for *Response Errors in Survey Questions on Children's Immunizations*, we have been researching the use of memory aids to improve reporting about childhood immunizations. In addition, we also worked on an innovative study, *HIV Risk Behavior in Drug Injector Risk Networks and HIV Transmission*, which combines innovative survey research and ethnographic methodologies to better understand the social networks of drug users and their relationship to HIV transmission.

During our 54 year history, our field staff has always been our strength. In 1995, to meet our heavy schedule of studies, especially CAPI studies, we increased our number of Field Managers to 100 and our number of professional field interviewers to nearly 1,500.

In the pages that follow, we present more details on the studies we have conducted this year as we go about the business of asking the important questions.


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In 1995, NORC named two new Vice Presidents, Dr. Barbara Bailar and Michael Oak, and we would like to take this opportunity to introduce them to you.

In January, Barbara Bailar joined NORC after serving as Executive Director of the American

VICE PRESIDENT FOR SURVEY RESEARCH

Statistical Association (1988-1994) and as Associate Director for Statistical Standards and Methodology at the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1979-1987). At the Census Bureau, Dr. Bailar came up through the ranks, working on all aspects of surveys from design and sampling to methodology and evaluation. She brings to NORC extensive experience with all aspects of household and establishment-based surveys. Both at the Census Bureau and the American Statistical Association, Dr. Bailar was a highly successful consensus builder, which she sees as one of the most important aspects of her role at NORC as we change and grow.

Dr. Bailar's arrival at NORC has coincided with an unprecedented amount of survey work, and she has successfully guided NORC's survey staff to meet this challenge. Dr. Bailar has been working on making NORC's survey research more efficient and building better working partnerships among all departments and centers. Both Dr. Bailar and Mr. Oak are major players in our effort to standardize survey procedures across and within functional areas. In addition,

Dr. Bailar has worked to expand and enhance NORC's matrix structure and to increase the capabilities of the functional operations centers to provide additional support to NORC research projects.

To enhance the opportunities available for survey staff, Dr. Bailar is developing a recognition system that rewards team-building skills. She is also increasing training in all areas for which Project Directors are responsible.

In February, Michael Oak joined NORC after a highly successful career with A.C. Nielsen, where

he served most recently as Vice President for Efficient Consumer Response Business Development (1994-1995) and Vice President for Information Services (1987-1994). Mr. Oak brings to NORC his expertise in information management, marketing, market research, and data collection and processing.

This spring under his direction, NORC created the Information Services Division, which brings all of NORC's technology responsibilities under one Vice President and Chief Information Officer. This new division has taken over the job of introducing and implementing new technologies and processes for NORC's research projects and corporate functions.

Mr. Oak and his staff have embarked on a project to update all aspects of NORC's technology, making organizational changes and investing in new hardware and network infrastructures. One of Mr. Oak's goals is to create organizational structures that empower our staff to develop and improve their areas of expertise, because these changes will foster creativity and will enhance quality and productivity.

Since Mr. Oak's arrival, he has secured a commitment from NORC's Senior Management

Team to convert NORC to Microsoft® Windows™ software and technology and has overseen NORC's migration to Windows™. This move is well under way and will be completed early in 1996. Mr. Oak has also secured support for a mid-level computing platform to fill needs that require more than a PC but less than a large mainframe.

In addition, Mr. Oak and his staff have begun building a suite of products that will standardize a great deal of NORC's survey work. The first prototypes of these products will be unveiled shortly.

HOW can we reduce the harm done by addict

The data NORC collected in 1995 on substance use and mental health are sure to significantly expand what the scientific community knows about substance abuse and its treatment, as well as how social environments affect psychological well-being.

This year, NORC continued to assist the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) by analyzing data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse and producing both annual main findings and special *Reports on Drug Use*. For example, NORC's analysis of the data provided the most vivid and sweeping picture yet seen on how World War II served as a major turning point in the incidence of drug use: generations born before and after the war differ dramatically in the range and diversity of their substance use. NORC staff are also preparing analyses of the co-occurrence patterns of substance use, family

structure, and the onset of substance use and related problems. NORC was also recently awarded the *National Archive and Analytical Center for Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Data* (NAAC) contract for which we will analyze data from a larger set of SAMHSA and other epidemiological and treatment services data collections, as well as disseminate the databases and the results of our analytical work.

NORC is conducting *Drug Use and Problem Behaviors in Minority Youth* for the National Institute of Drug Abuse. This study assesses stages of drug involvement and examines the interrelationships of drug use with acculturation, family, personality, peers, and drug domains in an inner-city sample of African American and Puerto Rican adolescents in New York City.

After completing the pilot phase, we are currently launching the main study of the *Services Research Outcomes Study* (SROS), which is a five to six year follow-up of a



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national sample of 3,000 drug abuse treatment participants. The results of SROS will provide the first nationally representative picture of long-term outcomes of drug treatment.

Under the terms of a cooperative agreement between the University of Chicago and the National Institute of Mental Health, NORC is conducting the *National Survey of Use, Needs, Outcomes, and Costs in Child and Adolescent Psychopathology* (UNOCCAP). NORC will collect two waves of data to obtain high-quality estimates of the incidence and prevalence of mental disorders and unmet need for psychiatric services among children and adolescents. The data will also be used to provide national estimates of costs, patterns, and predictors and barriers to service use.

This year, NORC collaborated with Cygnus Corporation to conduct the third follow-up of the National Institute of Mental Health's *Social Environments and Psychological Functioning in Older People*. The original study in 1964 focused on the relationship

R **C** **The social networks of drug users comprise a distinctive, powerful, and as yet poorly understood influence on individual HIV-risk behavior, particularly in terms of HIV transmission through needle sharing and unprotected sex. To better understand these networks, NORC has been conducting a prospective study of *HIV Risk Behavior in Drug Injector Risk Networks and HIV Transmission* for the National Institute of Drug Abuse. This study involves an unusual combination of ethnographic studies, personal interviewing methods, and innovative network, sampling, and statistical analysis techniques.**

NORC's *National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study* completed its data collection effort recently, conducting

between work experience and attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors in nonoccupational areas, especially child-rearing. Data from this latest survey will shed light on how the psychological functioning of older persons, whether working or not, relates to environmental conditions over the course of their lives. The study examines how factors such as environmental complexity, social support, financial resources, and physical health affect and are affected by cognitive functioning, orientations and values, coping behavior, and feelings about one's self and one's circumstances.

17,000 computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI) with 6,600 persons receiving treatment as well as thousands of other questionnaires and record abstractions from treatment units. NORC is currently analyzing the data and preparing reports for SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment in an effort to enhance treatment services at the hundreds of clinical units participating in the Center's demonstration grant programs and the more than 15,000 treatment units throughout the United States.

CAN

student *today's* meet tomorrow challenge

NORC's current portfolio of education studies covers a wide range of populations and settings, ranging from Head Start and kindergarten students to high school and college graduates, as well as parents, teachers and principals, and postsecondary faculty. In order to successfully conduct studies with these differing groups, NORC has taken great care to maintain and enhance our staff who have substantive expertise in education and survey sampling and statistics, as well as the ability to manage large and complex studies.

Since 1993, NORC has been collecting data for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for the *Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study* (B&B). For 10 years, B&B will follow a sample of students who received their bachelors' degrees in 1992-1993 to explore how undergraduate indebtedness impacts college graduates' decisions concerning employment, graduate education, and family formation. NORC is currently gearing up to conduct the second follow-up interviews with these young adults and is processing their college transcripts.

In addition to studying graduates, NORC has been conducting the *National Study of Postsecondary Faculty* (NSOPF), which is the most comprehensive survey ever conducted of higher education instructional and noninstructional full- and part-time faculty. NORC collected data from approximately 1,000 public and private nonproprietary higher education institutions and over 31,000 faculty members across all types of teaching disciplines to provide a national profile of



Schools

faculty: their professional backgrounds, responsibilities, workloads, salaries, benefits, and attitudes. NORC is currently preparing analytic reports based on NSOPF findings for NCES, the National Science Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In 1995, NORC completed work on the *National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88), Second Follow-up* with several methodological monographs and other reports. The 1992 second follow-up data collection interviewed over 21,000 students and dropouts, as well as their parents, principals, and science or math teachers. NORC is currently producing reports and preparing *NELS:88 Third Follow-up* data, which was collected in 1994 from a 14,000 member subsample of the second follow-up sample.

R Most of the public discussion
C on education focuses on children's early years—how their minds develop, what they can learn before their eighth birthday and at what age, what they need to know before they go to school, what progress they make over their first years of school and what constitutes success. To explore questions such as these, NORC is conducting the *Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS)*, which also includes the *Head Start Longitudinal Study (HSLS)*. ECLS will provide descriptive data on a national basis of children's status when they enter school, their transition into school, and their progress through fifth grade. In addition, it will furnish a rich data set that will enable researchers to study how a wide range of family, school, community, and individual variables affect early success in school. The HSLS will follow a cohort of Head Start children into kindergarten and the early grades to examine these same issues.

What factors promote health and a healthy lifestyle? What aspects of adolescents' school experience assist them in making sound health decisions? What factors threaten the well-being of young people? NORC's *Prospective Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health*, conducted for the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is seeking answers to these questions. In our most ambitious field data collection effort ever, we interviewed over 96,000 students, as well as an administrator from each school. The students were interviewed using a new approach to obtaining sensitive information—computer-assisted personal interviewing and audio-computer-assisted self-interviewing (CAPI/audio-CASI). Audio-CASI allows the students to listen to the sensitive questions through headphones and to enter their responses directly into the computer. NORC's methodological studies have shown that participants answer sensitive questions more candidly with audio-CASI.

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CAN our workers compete in the global economy

NORC's labor, income, and finance research contributes a vast amount of data that policymakers use to make critical decisions about vocational education, taxation, pension benefits, and occupational health and safety. Currently, the largest segment of this research is being conducted for the Department of Labor (DOL), with the *National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 97* (NLSY97), the *NLSY97 Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery* (ASVAB), and the continuation of the *National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experience Youth Cohort, Round 17 Survey and Child School Survey*.

At the recommendation of the American Statistical Association, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has undertaken a *Redesign of the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Series*. This series is a source of some key economic indicators such as total employment by industry, hours, and earnings. In collaboration with the State of Illinois, NORC will develop and evaluate alternative estimators for key economic indicators at various reporting levels. NORC will empirically test potential estimators that may reduce data variance and minimize bias on CES sample data. NORC will also test alternative sample rotation plans and benchmark schedules and will test and develop methods of estimating the variances of the series estimators.

In collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Eastern

IN THE Global economy

Research Group, NORC conducted *Technical Support to Enhance Industry-Specific Health Targeting: Analysis of Alternative Ranking Schemes and Evaluation of Hazard Recognition Industry Profiles for Compliance Officer Use*. Health targeting is the mechanism that OSHA uses to decide when to inspect establishments. This study interviewed OSHA field and State Plan Association staff to get their input for pilot studies that will improve their health targeting strategies.

Beginning in 1995, NORC took the lead on the NLSY97 survey, which is the latest in a series of DOL studies to examine the issues surrounding youths' entry into the work force, as well as subsequent work transitions. NLSY97 adds a new cohort of respondents to these studies, while the Round 17 survey will follow up with a previous cohort. Data from these studies are used by economists, sociologists, government policymakers, and private organizations to examine a wide variety of policy issues such as employment, educational experience, training programs, the relationship between work and family issues, and juvenile delinquency and criminal behavior. In conjunction with NLSY97, NORC will participate in a Department of Defense effort to renorm the ASVAB, which is an exam administered as part of both the Enlistment Testing Program (ETP) and the Student Testing Program (STP). The ETP assesses the suitability of 18 to 23 year olds for enlistment in the armed services, and the STP is targeted at students in grades 10 through 12 and focuses on career and military enlistment options. Finally, the Child School Survey collects school and educational information on the children of mothers in the adult cohorts to examine how mothers' experiences affect their children.

NORC is again conducting the *Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF)* for the Federal Reserve Board, in order to understand the financial behavior of U.S. households and to provide guidance to policymakers concerned with inflation, unemployment, interest rates, and national saving. This research will also help policymakers understand how wealth patterns have been changing in the economy, how pensions from jobs have been changing the economic status of older families, and how families make provisions for an uncertain future. The data collected will be used to calculate wealth accumulation in the country as well as to model the effects of potential changes in taxation. The 1995 SCF includes a sample of households with incomes in the top 2 percent of the American population, the results of which promise to be quite interesting.

HOW does our environment influence our lives?

Housing

NORC conducted two studies this year for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The first, *Housing Survey Item Diagnosis and New Item Development*, responded to evidence that some of the items currently used to identify and estimate housing assistance rates in the American Housing Survey (AHS) provide inaccurate estimates. A record check study found that many people under-report, misidentify, or over-report the housing assistance they receive, so NORC used cognitive interviews and other research to develop and test new questions that will lead to more accurate responses. The second study, *Public Housing Resident Survey Instrument Development*, is constructing a survey that can be used by individual Public Housing Authorities and HUD field offices to obtain resident feedback on subjects of importance to both public housing residents

and the Office of Public and Indian Housing. The survey will focus on quality of life, services, maintenance, and residents' perceptions of and experience with crime and security conditions in their projects and neighborhoods.

Environment

In 1995, NORC conducted the *Toxic Release Inventory/User Support (TRI/US) Customer Service Project* to bring our contract with the Environmental Protection Agency to a successful close. A White House directive ordered the EPA to evaluate its service to customers, so NORC conducted focus groups with current and potential users of the TRI/US data and hotline in order to identify customers and to determine the kind and quality of services their customers want.

Leadership

How is public opinion shaped by the leaders around us? That's the question being explored by the *Study of Leadership Characteristics*, conducted for the Department of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute

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"I think it's a wonderful development. And if there's anybody in this group who wonders whether or not this is going anywhere or has accomplished anything, you should stop wondering because I think this has been a tremendous success and I think you've started something great here." That was Vice President Al Gore's opening remark at the final session of the four-day National Issues Convention in Austin, Texas. Professor James Fishkin proposed the convention to supplement the polls and primaries as a vehicle for educating the American public about issues and the candidates for President. According to Professor Fishkin, the convention was "an effort to allow the public to reframe the issues in terms that ordinary people care about and can relate to, and to try to galvanize citizen engagement all over the country."

NORC selected a random sample of U.S. citizens of voting age to attend the convention, and we studied them both before and after the convention. Convention delegates read discussion papers that summarized three positions on major issues such as the economy, foreign policy, and family values. After familiarizing themselves with these issues, they spent over nine hours discussing them in small groups. The delegates then addressed questions to a panel of experts, and to Republican Presidential candidates Lamar Alexander, Steve Forbes, Senator Phil Gramm, Senator Dick Lugar, and Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Vice President Al Gore.

Unlike other election polling, the National Issues Convention was a deliberative poll. As Professor Fishkin explains: "Instead of a top of the head impression of shrinking sound bytes and headlines, people will really have a chance to get good information, hear opposing points of view, and come to a considered judgment. And so this represents what the country would think if it were really engaged in the issues." Jim Lehrer moderated the convention, which was broadcast on PBS stations across the country. In addition, a week later PBS televised a documentary on the convention and the results of NORC's surveys of the delegates.

Social Environment

Another exciting and innovative NORC study is the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Harvard School of Public Health. NORC is studying the influence of community, family, and peers on individual development in a neighborhood setting, particularly in terms of violent and criminal behaviors. The first part of the study involved identifying, selecting, and interviewing key community leaders in six domains (law, politics, religion, education, business, and community organizations) in 80 neighborhoods. For the second part of the study, NORC videotaped 27,700 face blocks in the 80 neighborhoods in order to gather data about their physical characteristics and public social interactions in as objective a manner as possible.

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of Technology and the Center for the Study of Social and Political Change at Smith College. This study is collecting data from U.S. opinion leaders—feminist leaders, African American civil rights leaders, Federal judges, journalists, religious leaders, lawyers, career bureaucrats (in the Federal government), business leaders (CEOs), and TV and film directors, producers, and writers—and was designed to examine the differences and similarities among these nine leadership groups and between these groups and the general public.

Crime

The National Institute of Justice recently awarded a grant to the Urban Institute and NORC to evaluate *Community Oriented Policing Strategies*. With funding from the national program that was a cornerstone of the 1994 Crime Act, NORC will develop a questionnaire and interview a national sample of police chiefs and officers.

does **the** data **accurate** reflect **real**

STATISTICS AND METHODOLOGY RESEARCH

In 1995, NORC's Statistics and Methodology research involved assisting organizations and government agencies in designing and implementing studies, as well as research to enhance survey methodology.

For the *United Nations Resident Coordinator Questionnaire*, the UN's Development Unit collected data from staff within its own agencies and representatives of member nations to learn about the problems that both groups face and how the UN could best address these issues. They then turned to NORC to enter data, develop coding schemes, produce a final dataset and basic tabulations, and to assist UN staff in carrying out extensive analyses of the data.

NORC also worked with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on *Sample Design for a Statistically Valid Evaluation*

of Accuracy and Completeness of an Establishment's OSHA Mandated Employer Records. For this ongoing project, NORC will review previous pilot work evaluating the accuracy of OSHA record-keeping and will recommend a statistically valid and cost effective sampling strategy for further evaluating the records. This work will entail developing options for data sampling as well as a complete sample design with specifications for confidence intervals and sample sizes. In addition, NORC will produce annotated tables that can be used by field staff in selecting and reviewing records.

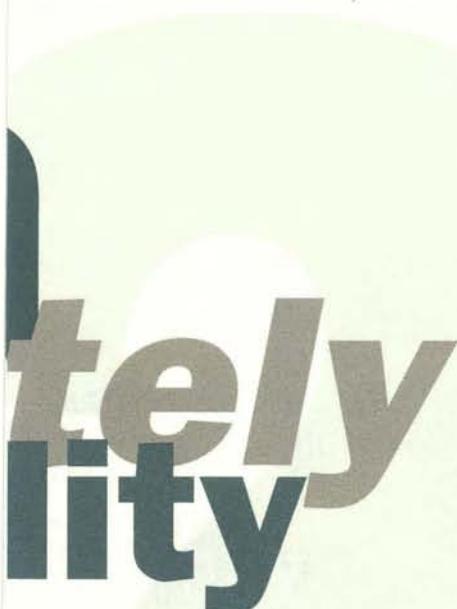
NORC Research Associates are also working with the Bureau of the Census to investigate the use of records as a basis for improving population estimates and on methods for making small-area estimates.

In 1995, NORC augmented our ongoing *Laboratory Research on Responses to Sensitive Survey Questions* with an innovative new laboratory study. Sponsored by

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C Also sponsored by the National Center for Health Statistics, *Response Errors in Survey Questions on Children's Immunizations* is one of several surveys that have begun to monitor the progress toward meeting the President's goal of increasing the proportion of children who have received all their recommended vaccinations. Unfortunately, parents have difficulty recalling the details of their children's vaccination history and may be embarrassed to admit that their child has not received all the correct shots. This survey will attempt to pinpoint the sources of error in parents' reports about their children's vaccinations and will explore methods for improving the accuracy of those reports.

Many people are troubled by the fact that in interviews men report more sexual partners than women. A project supported by the National Science Foundation, *Misreports of the Number of Sexual Partners by*

Men and Women, explored whether the method of data collection affected the discrepancy between the reports of men and women. The study compared three modes of data collection—computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), computer-assisted self-interviewing (CASI), and audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (audio-CASI). Audio-CASI is a relatively new method of collecting data, in which a laptop computer simultaneously displays the questions visually on the screen and plays a digitized recording of the questions for the respondents via earphones. Both forms of computerized self-interviewing helped close the gap between the number of sexual partners reported by men and women, and the number of partners reported by women markedly increased when audio-CASI was used.



the National Center for Health Statistics, the main study examines the cognitive processes associated with answering survey questions related to illicit drug use, sexual behavior, and abortion. As a methodological study, the project is less concerned with the answers to such questions than with the cognitive operations through which the answers are produced. For the new study, subjects watched a videotape of a survey interview in which the video respondent (actually an actor) faced a realistic survey dilemma, such as whether to reveal an abortion in the presence of other family members. The subjects watching the videotape rated the likelihood that the video respondent would tell the truth and judged a number of risks and consequences. This video study is an attempt to determine the factors that affect respondents' willingness to respond honestly in survey interviews.

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In 1995, NORC's epidemiology and health care research has examined a wide array of health care concerns, including services, exposure, and treatment. Health care quality, cost, and delivery has captured the nation's attention during recent years, and NORC's research has helped illuminate the country's ongoing debate. In addition, we have been exploring care of the terminally ill and issues related to cancer to increase what we know about quality of life and how the environment around us affects our health.

NORC and the University of Chicago are collaborating on the *DES and Vaginal and Cervical Cancer Collaborative Studies* conducted for the National Cancer Institute. In 1971 the Registry for Research on Hormonal Transplacental Carcinogenesis was established

after an association was found between in utero exposure to diethylstilbestrol (DES) and clear cell adenocarcinoma (CCA) of the vagina and cervix. Beginning in early 1996, NORC will conduct a survey with 600 to 800 women whose mothers were exposed to DES during the 1940s, 1950s, or 1960s, because many daughters born to these mothers developed CCA tumors. The interview will focus on factors associated with the onset of the disease, quality of life after radical treatment, and issues relating to recurring disease. In addition, NORC will interview a sample of women who were exposed to DES but have not developed CCA tumors.

For the last three years, NORC has been conducting rapid response research for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). For these studies, NORC conducts studies to evaluate the relationship between exposure to hazardous substances and adverse health outcomes. In 1995, we conducted the *Lorain County,*



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Ohio, Methyl Parathion Clean-up Study, where we provided data collection support services to ATSDR, the Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Department of Public Health to determine clean-up protocols for exposed households. NORC is currently conducting a follow-up study for the *National Exposure Registry—VOCs Subregistry (TCA, TCE, and Benzene Subsets) and Dioxin Subregistry*. The Registry represents a long-term effort to collect information about the impact of hazardous substances on human health. In addition, we are preparing to conduct five additional studies for ATSDR: the *Wilms' Tumor Study*, the *Kellogg—Young Adult Follow-up*, the *Hazardous Waste Workers Surveillance Project*, *Cancer Morbidity and Mortality at National Exposure Registry Sites*, and *Determining Immuno-Toxicity of Lead Exposure in Children in the Tri-State Mining District, Galena, Kansas*.

There is perhaps nothing more trying and heart-breaking than dealing with a loved one who is terminally ill. To better understand what factors help improve quality of life for both patients and caregivers, NORC is conducting the *Quality of Life for Patients with Life-Threatening Illnesses* study for the Commonwealth Fund and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. This study will develop information for patients, families, health care providers, and policymakers that can help improve the care of terminally ill patients. This study will explore how patients and their families feel about physicians' discussions of death and the likely symptoms and problems, what constitutes adequate assistance at home and the burdens of care, advanced care planning, and the spiritual needs of both the patient and family.

In a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, the Health Research Services Administration, and the National Institute of Mental Health, NORC is conducting the *HIV Cost and Services Utilization Survey (HCSUS)*, which will examine the uses and costs of medical and nonmedical services through a national probability sample of people who are HIV-positive and their medical providers. The study's complex design involves interviews with physicians, multiple waves of interviews with two primarily overlapping samples of patients (urban and rural), and a supplemental survey on patients' mental health. This study will also closely examine women and rural populations, whose experiences have been overlooked in the past.

In 1995, NORC completed the fifth *Survey on Best Hospitals for U.S. News & World Report*. The 1995 survey once again resulted in the calculation of the specialty-specific Index of Hospital Quality Scores for 1,631 tertiary-level hospitals. Results were published in the July 24, 1995 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*.

NORC's *Survey of Family Health Experiences*, funded by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, is taking a longitudinal look at access to health care and insurance problems of U.S. families. The data will provide important information about how changes in the health care delivery system affect families. By examining access, insurance problems and the experiences of sample members over the course of several years, the study will be able to address these

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issues in greater depth because, unlike a cross-sectional study, it will be able to examine the ways in which health care problems vary with changing life circumstances.

Another exciting NORC study funded by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is *Getting Behind the Numbers*, conducted in collaboration with the Harvard University School of Public Health. While the public is becoming familiar with the fact that there are over 35 million uninsured people in the United States, the Kaiser Foundation wished to portray the human dimension of this problem by gathering and presenting details about how being uninsured impacts everyday lives. Respondents either had experienced a period of being uninsured or had a problem paying for or obtaining medical care.

For the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), NORC continues to collaborate with Westat on the *Medical Expenditure Panel Survey* (MEPS) (formerly known as the *National Medical Expenditure*

Survey-3, NMES-3), which is a large-scale survey of the country's medical use and expenditures. MEPS will interview families, employers and sources of health insurance, and medical providers. The results of NMES surveys have been used to provide national estimates of health care use, medical expenditures, and health insurance. In addition, they have been used to document changes in health care delivery, insurance, and costs of health care, and to analyze how these changes affect health care policy.

Research Centers

NORC's Research Centers house researchers from the University of Chicago and universities around the world who conduct substantive and methodological studies across the social science disciplines.

The Population Research Center

We are pleased to report that the past year has been a productive one for the Population Research Center (PRC). During the past year we received formal notification of the award of a new center, a P20 Exploratory Center on Demography and Economics of Aging. Funded for five years by the National Institute on Aging, this center is a PRC offshoot for which we will provide administrative support in the early stages.

In contrast to some institutes dedicated only to research, one of PRC's critical missions is training students to become future leaders in the field of demography. We currently offer fellowships to University of Chicago students through several training grants. In addition, the PRC also supports training through a grant from the Hewlett Foundation for students from developing countries and through a grant from the Mellon Foundation that funds United States citizens' research on developing countries.

During the past year we established a regular dissemination schedule for our *Working Paper Series*. In addition, this year we produced the first issue of a PRC newsletter, which covers recent research findings and ongoing research and training projects.

In addition, the PRC established a Home Page on the Web, and during the coming year we expect to have all new *Working Papers* available via the World Wide Web.

**The Ogburn-Stouffer Center for
the Study of Social Organization**

The Ogburn-Stouffer Center (OSC) has a three-fold mission: to house and support funded social organizational research, to provide start-up support and related assistance to junior faculty in the early years of their appointments, and to provide practical research training for graduate students in the University of Chicago's Department of Sociology. Fifteen faculty members serve as Research Associates of the Center, including members of other University of Chicago academic departments. In addition, the Center also houses several visiting sociologists from abroad.

In 1995, the *Sloan Study on Youth and Social Development* finished its third year of field work. This multidisciplinary study continues to investigate how young people go about visualizing their future occupational roles, what steps they are taking to prepare for them, and how career decisions become crystallized in adolescence.

The NSF project, *Improving Mathematics and Science Learning*, continues to develop new analytical models for identifying mechanisms in the classroom and school that are instrumental in fostering mathematics and science learning.

The Spencer Foundation grant, *Adolescence Through Adulthood: Education and Work Transitions in the United States and the Soviet Successor States*, is a collaborative project between Professor Mikk Titma of the Estonian Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law, and Professor Nancy Tuma of Stanford University. This grant supports activities to design the fourth phase of a longitudinal study, *Paths of a Generation*

(PG), conducted in the Soviet Union and now in its successor states, which has been following the life course of a cohort of adolescents through adulthood. The data generated from the former Soviet Union can be merged with findings from NORC's longitudinal study *High School and Beyond*.

The NSF project, *Dynamic Sequencing Methods for Studying Turning Points in the Criminal Career*, integrates a new methodology of optimal matching for event sequences with a substantive theory of crime and deviance over a life course. Narrative life records of the sequence of job and marital histories have been coded, and they are being analyzed in conjunction with existing data on criminal careers and criminal justice sanctioning histories from an ongoing longitudinal study of 500 delinquents and 500 nondelinquents followed from adolescence until age 32.

The *Social Demography of Interpersonal Relations* study seeks to extend the research on the social organization of sexuality by looking at sexual networks in a single metropolitan area, Chicago, and in geographically defined sub-communities of the city.

The Center on Demography and Economics of Aging

The initial year for the Center on Demography and Economics of Aging (CoA) has been a very fruitful one. The CoA is an "exploratory" center funded for a period of five years by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) as one of nine such new centers around the country. At the end of the five years, it is expected that the centers will have become well-enough established and have large enough grant portfolios to convert to more traditional ongoing funding mechanisms. The overriding goal of the Center is to increase the amount of research done in Chicago in demography and economics of our aging populations. Research Associates are faculty members of the University of Chicago; Affiliates are either faculty at other Chicago-area institutions or are collaborators with Research Associates.

One of NIA's goals in establishing the nine aging centers was to increase the use of data collected through NIA-funded projects. As part of this effort, the CoA provides some support for the data archive at the Social Sciences and Public Policy Computing Center, including hardware, personnel, and purchase of datasets and documentation. During the past year, the data archive has acquired several surveys of interest to CoA researchers.

The CoA currently has 19 faculty-level Research Associates representing several different University departments and divisions, including Economics, Psychology, Sociology, the Graduate School of Business, the Pritzker School of Medicine, the School of Social Service Administration, and the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy

Studies. In addition, the field of health-related demographic research, including biodemography and population-based measures of health, is rapidly becoming an important focus for research in the CoA.

Another function of the center is to sponsor outreach efforts to the broader research community. As part of this effort, the Center on Aging will sponsor or cosponsor three conferences to be held in Chicago during the coming year. The first, REVES 8, is an international conference on "Policy Implications of Measures and Trends in Health Expectancy." The second, a small meeting cosponsored by NIA and the Bureau of the Census, deals with aging populations in Latin America, and participants from throughout the Western Hemisphere are expected. The third conference is designed to introduce participants to the Union Army dataset, being readied for public use by a team lead by CoA Research Associate (and Nobel Prize winner) Robert Fogel. Again, participants will arrive from around the world to learn about this ground-breaking effort and rich source of information.

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