

Economics, Labor, and Population Studies



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The U.S. economy is facing major problems and millions of American families are hurting. Job loss and unemployment remain high. In fact, America has lost 1.5 million jobs over the last 10 years. Compounding the employment crisis, more Americans are losing health care coverage and states are struggling to fill record budget gaps. American households lost \$13 trillion in wealth between mid-2007 and March 2009, or about 15 percent in all. That decline badly hit baby boomers just as they're headed into retirement. And middle-income families whose head of household is age 50 or younger actually have smaller net incomes today than in 1983. Economic policy decision makers need high-quality data and analyses to help them address these issues and emerging economic and labor issues in the coming years.

The Economics, Labor, and Population Studies department houses many of NORC's large-scale flagship surveys that investigate such subject areas as labor force participation, the finances of consumers, housing needs, and trends in general social indicators. The multidisciplinary team includes experts in survey design and methodology, multimode data collection, data dissemination, and researching hard-to-reach populations.

The department's hallmarks include the capacity to field both large and complex surveys, with high item quality and response rates. This, combined with a strong analytical capacity, allows the team to provide a broad range of value-added services that exceed the expectations of its clients.

Areas of Expertise:

Consumer and family financial characteristics and behavior

Housing conditions and relocation

Labor force participation

Poverty

Omnibus surveys

Program evaluation

Entrepreneurialism

Migration

Social/Economic well-being of children, youth, and families

Major Capabilities:

Telephone, mail, web, and in-person survey data collection

Survey/Sample design and survey methods

Longitudinal surveys

Secure, remote data access

Database design, implementation, and documentation

Cognitive interviewing and focus groups

Qualitative research

Technical assistance and program support

Stakeholder interviews and site visits

Data dissemination and statistical disclosure control

Locating/Tracing management for panel components

Translation and interpretation methodology for multilingual surveys

Researching hard-to-reach populations, including children, the elderly, immigrants, prisoners, and ethnic minorities



Sample Projects

General Social Survey (GSS). The GSS is a biennial survey that started in 1972, and is in the field for the 29th round in 2012. From 90-minute interviews with thousands of respondents, the ideas, beliefs, and opinions of the American people are profiled, monitoring social change and the growing complexity of American society. The GSS is the largest project funded by the Sociology Program of the National Science Foundation and is the most frequently analyzed source of information in the social sciences other than the U.S. Census.

Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF). Sponsored by the Federal Reserve Board, the SCF is conducted every three years to collect information about household financial characteristics and behavior. The survey is widely believed to be the best source of information about family finances in the United States and is used to inform a wide variety of economic policy decisions throughout government as well as serving as a basis for longer-term research on the economic state of the American family.

National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth (NLSY). NORC plays an integral role in conducting two allied longitudinal surveys of America's youth: the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79) and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). Each survey addresses key questions about the economic, social, and academic experiences of respondents and examines a variety of issues surrounding youth entry into the workforce and subsequent transitions in and out of it.

2010 Census Integrated Communications Program Evaluation (CICPE).

The purpose of the 2010 CICPE was to evaluate the success of the U.S. Census Bureau's communication efforts to encourage participation in the 2010 Decennial Census. The evaluation will help stakeholders determine if the significant investment in the 2010 Census Integrated Communication Campaign was justified by such outcomes as increased mail returns, reduced differential undercount, and increased cooperation with enumerators.

NORC Data Enclave. This is a tool that allows closed communities of researchers to share datasets that are too sensitive to share broadly. NORC's activities include archiving, curating, and indexing the data, providing researchers remote and onsite secure access to data, and statistically protecting confidential information. In addition, NORC manages extensive outreach and education programs to foster the use of the data in research leading to conference presentations and journal publications, and to ensure appropriate use and disclosure of the data.



Other Projects

Resident Relocation Survey

Runaway Youth Evaluation

Making Connections Survey

Houston Foreclosure Survey

Paid Sick Days Survey

American Competitiveness Survey

Bank of Spain's Survey of Household Finances

National Crime Victimization Survey Non-Response Bias Study

Chafee Multi-Site Evaluation of Foster Youth

NYC Housing Vacancies

National Congregational Study

Survey of Economic Success of Americans

Assessment of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing Needs

Youth Villages Transitional Living Program Evaluation

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Coordination of Tribal Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Welfare Services

Process Assessment and Impact Evaluation of the Minnesota Reading Corps

SENIOR STAFF

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Large-scale household surveys, project management, survey design, survey research, data dissemination

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Longitudinal data collection, large-scale, multimode data collection, standardized assessment administration, child data collection, administrative data collection

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