

*National Opinion
Research Center*

1155 E. 60th St.
Chicago, IL
60637

773.753.7500



*Annual
Report*

1997

NORC conducts social science research in the public interest. The results of our research affect everyone

...including you.



Many of our studies are used to shape public policy, draft laws, and determine how tax dollars and other resources are allocated. Our studies look at all types of people from all walks of life. From a newborn in Maine to an IV drug user in rural Texas, the people who are part of our studies provide valuable insight into the human condition.

In keeping with our mission, NORC data greatly add to and influence both the general knowledge as well as public policy in a wide range of fields. Whether it's about health care, consumer finances, community policing, student achievement, drug treatment, labor markets, or elder care, the data NORC collects touches lives all across America.

We have had a record volume of work at NORC in 1997. Over the past few years we have grown at a steady pace, and we continue to handle even the most challenging requirements of federal surveys. Our growth has been fueled by new survey projects, extensions of ongoing and recurrent projects, new staff-generated research, and collaborative studies with external researchers.

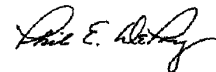
In 1997, our studies covered everything from fiscal policy to gun control policy, access to health care to access to education, public defenders to police administrators, treating AIDS to treating the elderly. The sheer variety and breadth of our work led us to focus this Annual Report on the ways in which our work touches virtually every person in America.

In the pages that follow, you will learn about some exciting new projects such as the Doctorate Data Project, which studies Ph.D. recipients from all U.S. universities to track the flow of Ph.D.s through American universities and into the labor force. We are also very pleased to be conducting the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Project, a new study that explores the challenges faced by unwed parents and their children. In addition to these two new projects, we also added the Alfred P. Sloan Center on Children, Family, and Work to our already productive Research Centers. The new Sloan Center is examining how working families deal with all the intricately-woven influences they experience and the effects these influences have on their lives.

You will also see that our ongoing studies have been both exciting and productive. In last year's Annual Report, we told you how proud we were to have been awarded the Second Longitudinal Study of Aging, and that study is now fully underway and fulfilling its goals of examining the functional status of persons age 70 and older. This past fall, we were pleased to learn that our fruitful work with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, supporting their important mission to react to exposures from hazardous substances in the environment, will continue for another five years. Finally, we have begun conducting the 1998 Survey of Consumer Finances, which is the third time we have conducted this crucial study of the American people's household assets.

Our studies also greatly affect those who conduct them, as you will hear from one of our interviewers on Assessing Attitudes of the Terminally Ill. This interviewer found the experience extremely moving, telling us: "It is sometimes easy to let yourself become mechanical in the process of collecting data. All that it takes for reality to come rushing back is to look in their eyes. . . I have been greatly honored to work with these individuals." Each year our interviewers and project staff report many stories like this one, which reinforces for us why our work is so meaningful.

Although these studies represent only a fraction of NORC's research portfolio, these projects and the new Sloan Research Center will have far-reaching effects, increasing the state of knowledge and influencing public policy. At NORC, we never forget that the work we do touches the people around us.



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Roger F. Kruse

Director of Human Resources

Roger Kruse joined NORC at the end of 1996, and has played a major role in changes NORC has implemented over the last year. Mr. Kruse brings to NORC not only his extensive experience with nonprofit corporations but also a strategic and global perspective on human resources. Prior to joining NORC, Mr. Kruse served as Director of Human Resources, General Conference, MIS, and Administrative Services for the United Methodist Church. In this role, he was responsible for human resources planning for this large, multi-location religious group. Before working for the United Methodist Church, Mr. Kruse spent 20 years as the Executive Director of the Mesa Education Association, where he managed human resources, labor relations, and contract negotiations for a 5,600-member school employees union.

In the short time Mr. Kruse has been at NORC, his accomplishments have had a major impact on NORC's staff and culture. Since his arrival, Mr. Kruse has reinforced NORC's commitment to life-long learning opportunities for our staff, revamping our tuition reimbursement programs and establishing a joint program between NORC and the Keller Graduate School of Management, which allows NORC staff to take management courses and earn credit toward MBAs and other masters degree programs. In addition, NORC is offering quarterly seminars on a wide-range of management topics.

Mr. Kruse is especially interested in diversity awareness, recruitment, and training, and he has already implemented innovative diversity training initiatives throughout the company. One of Mr. Kruse's main goals is to make the human resources function an integral part of NORC's total business operation, so that we can ensure that we attract, hire, and retain the very best personnel in survey research and related areas.

Howard Speizer

Vice President for Survey Production

In November, Howard Speizer joined NORC as Vice President for Survey Production. In this role, Mr. Speizer assumes management responsibility for our telephone data collection, data preparation, and survey mailout services, bringing over 15 years of survey research experience to this position. Most recently, he was a Senior Associate at Abt Associates (1995-1997). Prior to that he served as a Project Director and Senior Information Systems Manager at NORC (1987-1995), and as a Mathematical Statistician at the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1982-1987).

He has an extensive background in information systems, and in applying these technologies to improve survey processes. Mr. Speizer has directed a number of survey process improvement initiatives over the years including: designing and implementing an Intranet application for survey project data dissemination; improving data management and communication technology to accelerate the collection and review of survey data; developing systems and processes for improving the accuracy of computer-assisted data entry and data coding operators; and developing a TQM-based telephone interview monitoring methodology.

Mr. Speizer also has experience in strategic and project management applications. While at NORC, he was the Project Director for the First Follow-up of the Baccalaureate and Beyond survey (B&B:93/94), as well as the analytic component of the Third Follow-up of the National Education Longitudinal Survey of 1988 (NELS:88/94). He was responsible for survey system development, implementation, and support for many other NORC projects including multiple waves of the High School and Beyond (HS&B) survey, the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79), and the Job Training Partnership Act Evaluation (JTPA).

Currently, Mr. Speizer is working with the management team of the Survey Production areas to upgrade technical skills at the supervisor and interviewer levels; provide an improved work environment and incentives to increase retention rates; develop more productive survey systems and processes; and continually improve the quality of the work performed in the data collection and data preparation facilities.



NORC is analyzing the financial health of Americans.

The Survey of Consumer Finances (SCF) is the only national source of information on assets at the household level—family savings, pension plans, consumer debt loads. The SCF is also the only study that examines the wealthiest Americans in a special sample. The data NORC collects (purged of all identifying information) are widely used by Congressional committees and government departments such as Treasury, Justice, Agriculture, and Commerce, to analyze the financial health of Americans, which in turn affects public policy on finances. For example, these data are used to model the distribution of wealth in America, which could influence changes in the tax code in terms of things such as capital gains or even the tax rates themselves. The government also studies these data to examine the stability of consumer debt and how its relative stability will affect monetary policy. We may not see the effects of this information in our everyday lives, but it is behind many of the

decisions the government makes about the financial stability of the country.

We can easily see the importance of these data by looking at some of the results of the 1995 SCF. For example, the 1995 survey found that between 1992 and 1995 the median family net income and net worth rose. In addition, the SCF found that American households had greatly expanded their stock holdings. The survey also found that consumer debt had indeed increased, but did not find that this increase caused debt payment problems for American families (source: Kennickell, Starr-McCluer, & Sunden, 1997). Comparing the results of the SCF studies every three years is crucial to understanding changes and trends in America's finances.

NORC has just concluded the SCF pretest and is gearing up for the main study, which will use computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) technology to collect data from a dual frame sample: a national area probability sample of households and a list sample known to include a high proportion of high-income households (in the top two percent of the American population).

Perhaps no issue galvanizes people's attention as much as money. Money shapes everyone's life.

Interest rates determine whether or not a young couple will be able to afford their first home. Inflation can wreak havoc on international markets or on a family's budget. That makes the Survey of Consumer Finances especially important because it has far-reaching implications for the American public. The Federal Reserve Board commissions this survey, and it is just one of the many factors that ultimately influence the Board's monetary policy decisions. The 1998 Survey will mark the third time that NORC has conducted this critical study.





How do unwed parents cope with pressure?

By the time you finish reading this page, a child will be born to an unwed mother somewhere in America. Nearly a third of American children are born to unmarried parents, and that number increases for African-American and Hispanic children. The effect on American society is profound and immediate because it will impact how we use our tax dollars to educate all children, how we allocate welfare dollars, and how we deal with rising juvenile crime rates.

The name of this study says it all: **Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing**. Sponsored by the Ford Foundation and led by Principal Investigators Sara McLanahan, Irwin Garfinkel, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, this study will provide new information on child wellbeing in these fragile families. The study seeks to gain important data on the economic and social conditions of unwed parents, especially the fathers, as well as to understand the nature of the family relationships. Does the father have a steady job? How well do the parents get along? What factors influence their decisions to live together or marry? Does the father's involvement improve child wellbeing? In addition the study will examine questions such as what factors encourage or discourage the father's involvement in their children's lives? What role do extended families, social networks, community services, and government policies play in promoting the father's involvement, good parenting, or healthy child development? As health care policy, welfare and Medicaid eligibility

change, this exciting study will have important policy implications in the areas of child support enforcement, welfare reform, and health care.

Currently underway, Fragile Families is following a new birth cohort of parents and children in Austin, Oakland, Newark, and Richmond, and other cities may be added. The sample includes African-American, Hispanic, and white children, as well as a control group of married parents. Unlike other studies, NORC interviewers are asking both mothers and fathers about their involvement, community services, and child wellbeing, and NORC will follow the children and parents for four years.

NORC's new Sloan Center is examining the dynamics of today's working families.

In the 1950s, the typical American family was a "nuclear" family: Mom



was a homemaker, Dad worked, and the children went to school. These roles were tightly woven into America's social fabric. Now, more than 40 years later, the weave has loosened and the threads have tangled. Many households have only one parent, and in those with two parents, both are likely to work outside the home.

When American women joined the workforce en masse in the 70s and 80s, they did more than earn a paycheck; they redefined society. These changes have made it crucial to better understand the influences on, as well as the nature of, today's families. Concerns over day care, latchkey kids, and balancing work and family are just a few of the pressing issues for parents. The Center is studying these issues, and is also examining multigenerational families and how having grandparents in the household affects parenting.

These questions about the issues and pressures facing working parents and their children are at the core of the new **Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Center on Parents, Children & Work** at the University of Chicago and NORC. This Center, one of three funded by the Foundation, focuses on how parents who work full-time manage the learning experiences and social development of their children. The Sloan Center involves faculty members and graduate students from economics, human development,

psychology, public policy, and sociology, and supports the work of twelve graduate students and two post-doctoral students.

While only founded last fall, the Center is already highly productive: faculty and graduate students are analyzing data from existing databases, and they are preparing for their own data collection slated for later this year. And the Center's workshop for faculty and graduate students meets monthly to discuss important issues and current work.

Approximately one-third of U.S. Ph.D.s are awarded to foreign-born students, many of whom return to their native countries. In today's global economy, tracking this flow of knowledge through U.S. universities is crucial for evaluating our work force as well as those of other countries. It's also important for our national interests to know where students who have trained at the doctoral level are currently working.

The Doctorate Data Project assesses America's competitive capabilities.



NORC's **Doctorate Data Project**, conducted for the National Science Foundation, is the only national survey that looks at this particular labor market and allows us to assess America's capabilities, especially in science and engineering. Federal agencies, Congress, universities, and professional associations use this data to make policy decisions on such things as educational funding, strategic planning, and labor force projections.

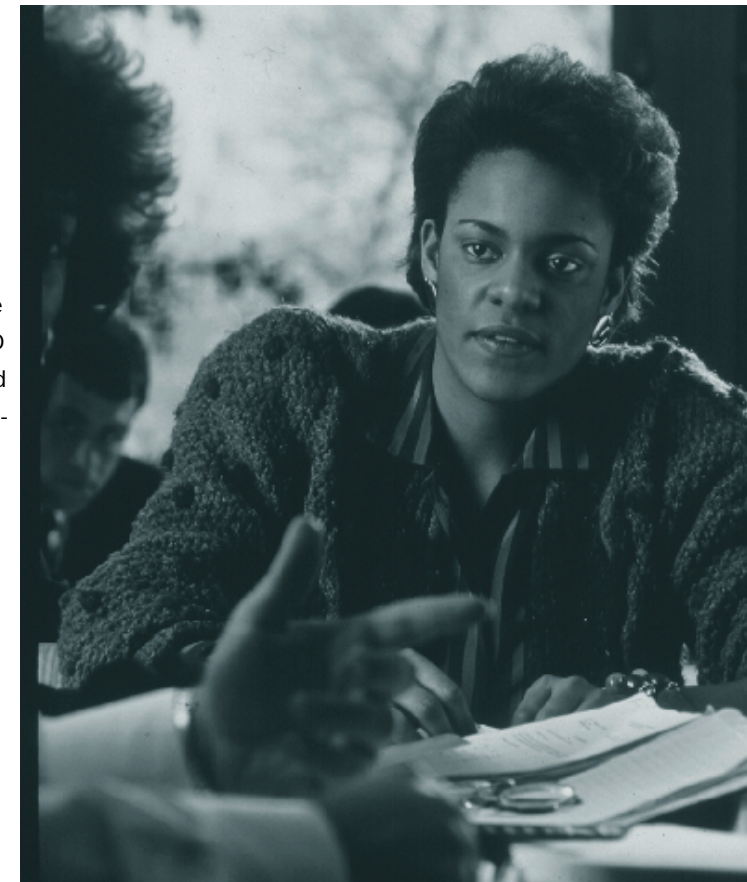
To gain these valuable data actually takes two related but entirely separate studies, the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) and the Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). The SED gathers information about graduates' educational histories, funding sources, and post-doctoral plans from all recipients of research doctorates earned from any degree-granting institution in the United States. Because this information is collected at universities, NORC works very closely with university staffs to ensure that we maintain a high response rate. For example, approximately 45,000 research doctorates

were awarded in fiscal 1997, and we expect to collect SED data from 95 percent of the graduates earning those degrees. Each year the SED data are added to a larger historical record of doctorate degree graduates, the Doctorate Records File (DRF). The data in this file stretch back to 1920 and contain annual information used to track the numbers of graduates in various fields, the educational paths of scientists, engineers, and humanists, and the movement of graduates into the labor market.

The second study, the SDR, tracks the employment history and research productivity of members of the doctoral labor force as they move through their careers in research and practice. Every two years a panel sample of approximately 50,000 Ph.D. scientists and engineers complete a self-administered questionnaire focusing on their career trajectories, labor market movement, and professional productivity. Each SDR cycle includes members of the previous wave panel as well as a new sample of recent doctorate degree recipients. An additional sample of National Science Foundation fellows augments the 1997 survey. The SDR poses

some unique challenges both because of the great mobility of this most highly educated group, and because a large proportion live abroad, especially in the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, India, and Taiwan.

Both surveys contain a large analysis component, and NORC has already begun responding to special analysis requests for previous waves of the SDR. In addition, the historical SED file is used for a host of standard analysis reports as well as individualized special requests.



The Second Longitudinal Study of Aging

addresses  challenges faced by the elderly.

As life expectancy continues to rise for both men and women, understanding our elderly population becomes increasingly important. What

allows older Americans to remain independent? How has managed care affected their access to health care? What role do their families play?



The **Second Longitudinal Study of Aging (LSOA II)** affects us all; whether we're in the midst of our own twilight years or caring for an older loved one, the challenges of aging are something we must all face eventually. And as the huge group of Baby Boomers begins to move into old age, the answer revealed by this study will take on special meaning for a generation that defined the glories (and excesses) of youth. The data collected from this sample of non-institutionalized persons age 70 and older will very likely influence public policy as the government considers changing the eligibility ages for Social Security and Medicare.

This study, sponsored by the National Center for Health Statistics, addresses issues surrounding the living arrangements, functional ability, and financial status of America's elderly population.

Because LSOA II is a second generation study, one of its major objectives is to replicate portions of LSOA I in order to update what we learned about this population and to determine whether the next generation is aging in the same way. LSOA I went a long

way toward showing that elderly people were not necessarily deteriorated people. And while popular belief conjectured that elderly people were isolated, LSOA I showed that although these people may not have had frequent face-to-face contact with their children, they did have frequent telephone contact. In addition, LSOA I showed that the middle age population frequently support their parents as well as their own children. NORC is currently completing data collection with a subsample of 9,663 persons who were aged 70 years or older when first interviewed as part of the 1994 National Health Interview Survey's Second Supplement on Aging. NORC is conducting the interviews via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and self-administered questionnaires (SAQs) for non-telephone households and those who would prefer not to be interviewed by telephone.



What is the impact of hazardous environmental exposures?

Practically every day, local and national news broadcasts carry stories about chemical spills and other accidents that could potentially affect the health of those in the vicinity.

No one ever thinks that an environmental

disaster will affect them. But small town or large city, no place is completely impervious to the forces of these disasters. Tracking these events, as well as keeping the government and public informed, is part of this potentially life-saving project.

The **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)** is one of the government agencies that addresses emergencies such as these, as well as other potentially hazardous environmental exposures that may have a long-term health impact. It is a very complex mission, and that is why we are so proud to have played a role in this vital and rewarding work.

For the last five years, NORC has offered Support Services to ATSDR, conducting complex surveys, extensive locating, medical records abstractions, and public information campaigns. Late in 1997, we were excited to learn that we were awarded a new five-year contract that will enable us to continue this important and challenging work.

While planning for the new contract is still in its preliminary phase, we believe the next year will include a complex study of a release of radioactive toxins in 1950 from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in the Washington area; a national case control study of a pediatric brain tumor; studies of

ammonium releases; and of course studies that respond to emergency, unplanned releases of hazardous substances.

In 1997, NORC's ATSDR studies were widely varied, including a surveillance of hazardous waste workers, interviewing sample members in the National Exposure Registry, examining the association between parental environmental and occupational exposures and their children's risk of developing Wilms' Tumors, investigating releases from the Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island, multiple studies associated with a federal facility in Cape Cod, assessing lead exposure in children, and studying the long-term effects of radioactive releases in the 1940s of Iodine-131 in the Hanford, Washington area. For more information on these ATSDR studies, please see the Epidemiology and Public Health Studies section.

In the following pages, we briefly detail current NORC research studies. For more information about these or other NORC studies, please contact us at:

NORC
1155 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637
(773) 753-7500

norcinfo@norcmail.uchicago.edu
Or visit our web site at:
www.norc.uchicago.edu

Economics isn't just about global issues and trade imbalances—it's local, too. It affects your job, your life, the decisions you make around your kitchen table. Studying the economic forces that shape society is a vital undertaking. Our studies show how economics influence the choices we make.

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 97 (NLSY97). Sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), NLSY97 gathers information about the life and labor market experiences of youth who were age 12 to 16 on January 1, 1997. The survey is expected to be conducted with these same youth each year for many years to come in order to track their experiences from the worlds of schooling and their families of origin to the worlds of work and independent living. The NLSY97 survey involves several components: three separate face-to-face interviews with youths and parents using CAPI and audio computer-assisted self interviewing (audio-CASI) technology, administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and Department of Defense (DOD) Interest Finder, and a school survey. NLSY97 was NORC's second major use of audio-CASI; the Prospective Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health was the first. NLSY97 surpassed the previous effort by using audio-CASI for both the youths and their parents.

During the NLSY97 screening process, a sample of youths 12 to 23 years of age were identified and asked to take the **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** and the **DOD Interest Finder**. The

U.S. Department of Defense developed the ASVAB tests to determine eligibility for military service among young adults, and the Interest Finder is intended to aid youths in career exploration. NORC tested approximately 14,300 youth in Sylvan Prometric Testing Centers.

The NLSY97 School Survey obtained factual information about schools and their programs. BLS, researchers, and federal and state policymakers will use the data from this survey to address the roles of schools, families, individuals, peers, neighborhoods, and employment in influencing today's youth as they move from school to work and, more generally, from adolescence to adulthood. The School Survey instrument captures institutional-level attributes like school policies and management as well as student-level "experience" data. NORC surveyed 5,294 school administrators across the United States as part of NLSY97.

National Survey of Indigent Defense Systems. In partnership with the Spangenberg Group under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), NORC is conducting this study to collect nationwide data on the types of criminal defense systems used in each of the 50 states, including costs and caseload assessment, which will then be compared

with baseline data collected in 1982 and 1986. Of particular interest is the application of the system in the juvenile courts, death penalty cases and other specialty programs, the assignment of counsel, compensation amounts, and indigence screening. NORC will design a sample and collect data from public defenders' offices across the nation to develop estimates of staffing size, expenditures, and methods employed in mounting representation for indigent defendants.

NORC will collect data from secondary data sources including annual reports and statistical reports from public defender agencies and court administrative offices, as well as from self-administered hardcopy instruments from county government officials, indigent defense programs within each county including public defenders, assigned counsels, or contract programs.

Study of Ethnic Business Owners. This study in the city of Chicago is funded through grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the MacArthur Foundation to a faculty member at the University of Michigan, Silvia Pedraza. The study seeks to illuminate differential rates of entrepreneurship across immigrant ethnicities. A sample of 944 business owners was drawn from Chamber of Commerce lists. Six

ethnicities were represented, with groups ranging in size from 98 to 225. Questionnaires were translated into Chinese, Korean, and Spanish. The sample is structured with three matched pairs of ethnicities; each pair includes business owners from two ethnicities, one Hispanic and one East Asian, both of similar rates of self-employment among immigrants to the United States. The questionnaire addresses human capital investment, sources of social support, occupation history prior to immigration, and other typical determinants of self-employment.

The small budget of the study, together with formidable resistance within the target communities has demanded creative, evolutionary data collection. In 1997, effort on the study was focused on completing data collection activities, primarily through in-person interviews and "drive and deliver" fielding techniques. In "drive and deliver," trained NORC field staff drive to a site in which there is a cluster of respondents, attempt to gain respondent cooperation, deliver questionnaires for self-administration, then pick up the questionnaires at a later date. This method exploits gaining cooperation techniques, a key strength of in-person interviewing, but is much less expensive because it combines several respondents into a single locating effort. Budget permitting, additional data editing and retrieval activities may be undertaken as data analysis begins.

Just what is the state of education in the United States? Education affects the nation's future—and your future, too. That's why nearly everyone has an interest in this subject. Our studies look at the many facets of the educational system. Teachers, students, and the schools themselves are all subjects for our in-depth explorations of how children learn, and how teachers teach.

Study of Opportunities for and Barriers to Family Involvement in Education. Sponsored by the Department of Education's Planning and Evaluation Service, this study gathers information about the attitudes and experiences of parents of primary and middle school children. This CATI study uses the sample from the 1996 General Social Survey, which permits it to draw from the breadth of the GSS sample and to gain valuable demographic and behavioral data collected in the GSS interview. The Family Involvement questionnaire focuses on opportunities that schools offer to parents to be involved in their children's learning, parents' assessments of those opportunities, their demand for after-school and summer enrichment programs, and their attitudes toward their level of involvement in their children's schooling.

Parents reported high levels of involvement with their children's schools, but even higher levels of demand for additional involvement. Overall, primary school parents were more involved and more satisfied with their interactions with children's schools than were middle school parents.

Vice President Al Gore presented preliminary results at his Conference on the Family in Nashville, Tennessee in June of 1997.

Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study—Second Follow-up (B&B). Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), B&B is designed to address federal financial aid policy questions concerning the long-term impact of educational debt. B&B is the first study that examines how undergraduate debt affects students' subsequent decisions concerning graduate study, employment, and family formation. In addition, embedded within B&B is a second longitudinal survey of teachers that investigates entry into and exit from the teaching profession among one cohort of beginning teachers.

To address these issues, B&B selected a national sample of over 11,000 students who received baccalaureate degrees in the academic year 1992-1993. The longitudinal design calls for following these sample members for a period of twelve years, and interviewing them at three- or four-year intervals. NORC conducted the first follow-up of B&B in 1994, and is currently in the midst of data collection for the second follow-up.

B&B marked NORC's first combination CATI-CAPI effort, and it was quite successful,

with a nearly 92 percent overall response rate. The CATI data collection began in April 1997, and was completed in July with a response rate of 64 percent. In late May, the first wave of cases from those not interviewed by telephone were sent to the field for CAPI interviews. These initial waves represented some of the more difficult refusal and unlocatable cases that had been worked without success in the telephone center. NORCCMS (Case Management System) facilitated the seamless transition between the CATI and CAPI systems. The interface between these systems also increased efficiency by overlapping field interviewing activities with efforts taking place in the telephone center.

NSF Indicators Project. The National Science Foundation publishes Science and Engineering Indicators every two years, and has contracted with NORC to produce the chapter on elementary and secondary science and mathematics education. This project entailed a comprehensive overview of achievement trends from the National Assessment of Education Progress and from international studies, as well as a synthesis of recent research on curriculum and instruction, and teachers and school organization.

Highlights of the report include:

Student Achievement

- Although the general pattern for mathematics and science achievement test scores for upper-elementary and secondary school students was one of decline or stagnation during the 70s, the pattern of the 80s showed steady increases. The overall scores show gains over the 80s for all age groups in both math and science.
- Gender differences in average mathematics achievement test scores have diminished over the past two decades. Gender differences in average science achievement test scores have also diminished, but males still score significantly higher at each age level.
- Non-Hispanic white youth continue to score much higher than black or Hispanic youth on standardized tests of math and science, but the differences declined from the late 1970s to 1992. Since the average scores of all groups have increased over this period, the convergence is real improvement and not a leveling down of scores toward greater equality.
- While international comparisons of math and science achievement rank U.S. students below most other industrial nations, students in some states are at about the same level as the average students in the higher-achieving nations.

Curriculum and Instruction in High Schools

- High school students are completing substantially more math and science courses than in the early 80s. Enrollments have grown rapidly in more advanced courses like trigonometry, calculus, chemistry, and physics.
- Student achievement scores show greater gains over the high school years among students who take more math and science courses. The pattern of greater gains holds for students who start high school at lower levels of mastery, as well as for students who begin at relatively high levels of mastery.
- Among students who go to college, those who complete higher levels of high school mathematics and science are less likely to drop out of college.

Teachers and Teaching

- Many math and science teachers have very little training in math and science, particularly among elementary and middle-grade teachers. In 1993, less than 4 percent of elementary math and science teachers had majored in mathematics or mathematics education, or science or science education. Only 11 percent of middle school math teachers and 21 percent of science teachers majored in their fields of teaching specialization. In 1993, 63 percent of high school math teachers, and 72 percent of high school science teachers had in-field majors.

Catholic University Analysis Project.

Catholic University of America received a grant in 1996 from the Lily Foundation to conduct a comprehensive study of the history, current status, and future prospects of Catholic education in the United States. As part of this project, they commissioned Tom Hoffer of NORC to review and extend research on the effects of Catholic elementary and secondary schooling on student academic achievement. The report was presented in May at a conference held at Catholic University and is being published in *Catholic Education*.

The report reviews the basic descriptive data on achievement differences between public and Catholic school students, and the main theories that explain Catholic sector effects on student achievement outcomes. The main theories are cast in terms of competitive markets, the communities in which the schools are embedded, and the historical purposes of the schools. The analytical research is then reviewed and extended with some original analyses from recently collected national survey data on high school students. The main points from the review and extension of empirical research are:

- Catholic high schools have positive effects on verbal and mathematics achievement, but no discernable effects on science.

- Catholic school effects are greater for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, especially those from single-parent households.

- The main factor accounting for the Catholic school effects is the greater concentration of academic course-taking among Catholic school students.

The most glaring gap that the report identifies in the research record is the lack of data to assess effects of Catholic elementary school attendance.

Teacher Validation Study. NSF has awarded NORC a grant to identify ways to collect accurate survey data on elementary teachers' classroom practices. Kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers from 12 schools in the midwest will complete detailed daily logs on their curriculum objectives and instructional practices. The project will also collect and code the textbooks, worksheets, tests, and other documentary materials used in the classes. Finally, we will administer standard questionnaires about objectives and practices to the teachers, and the questionnaire data will be compared with the logs and documents. While primarily methodological, this study will also provide interesting material for substantive analyses on the work of elementary teachers and schools.

Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology. On behalf of NSF, the Chicago Academy of Sciences conducts this annual test of the public's science/technology knowledge levels. The 30-minute questionnaire covers a wide range of topics, including levels of interest in current events; use of museums, zoos, etc.; understanding and use of the Internet; knowledge about scientific methods and specific techniques; attitudes towards space exploration and nuclear power; and many other topics. NORC conducted 2,003 interviews with an RDD population representing all 50 states from May through July, obtaining a cooperation rate of 73 percent.

College & Beyond (C&B). NORC completed its work on the College & Beyond grant for the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in January. The final tasks included a study of nonresponse bias and a methodology report, which included a comparison of respondents and nonrespondents on four demographic variables—gender, race/ethnicity, education, and income. We found no significant gender or race/ethnicity differences between respondent and nonrespondent populations; respondents had higher levels of educational attainment and higher incomes than did nonrespondents (the direction of the bias in our control group will help the Mellon Foundation in gauging the importance of undergraduate experiences and achievements for later personal and professional successes).

National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF:93). The 1992-93 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF:93) is the most comprehensive survey ever conducted of higher education instructional and non-instructional full-time and part-time faculty. The study provides a national profile of faculty: their professional backgrounds, responsibilities, workloads, salaries, benefits, and attitudes.

Two NSOPF-93 surveys—one of faculty and one of institutions—were completed by NORC in late 1993 and early 1994. In this final year of the contract, NORC presented NSOPF-93 data on discrepancies, and a report on the reliability of the revised faculty estimates at the final NSOPF-93 National Technical Review Panel meeting. A draft questionnaire was submitted in April. In December, an institution-level descriptive report was completed, and a faculty trends report and other analytic reports for NCES were finalized in June.

Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Cohort, Phase I (ECLS-K). The kindergarten cohort study will provide national data describing children's status at entry into school, transitions into school, and progression through fifth grade. Additionally, ECLS-K will enable researchers to study how a wide range of family, school, community, and individual factors affect early success in school. Phase I of the ECLS-K, included pilot tests and a large-scale field test. NORC and its subcontractors developed a cognitive assessment battery for direct administration to kindergartners and first

graders; direct socioemotional, psychomotor and physical (anthropometric) assessments, and indirect (parent and teacher report) socioemotional and cognitive assessments as well. In addition, questionnaires for school administrators, kindergarten through second grade teachers, special education teachers, and parents of kindergartners, first and second graders, were developed, along with archival records abstraction procedures. Fall and spring measures for kindergarten, and spring first grade measures, were field-tested in 1996 and 1997. The most challenging aspect of the field test was direct CAPI-based assessment of kindergarten and first grade students. NORC's field staff achieved the targeted numbers of observations on schedule and on budget, and item statistics from the field test indicate that the newly-developed assessment batteries meet or exceed their psychometric goals. The field test has conclusively established the feasibility of proceeding with Phase II, the main study, in terms of the measurement instruments; school, parent, and student cooperation; and sampling, data collection and other procedures.

Public health issues are actually very personal. Every disease or illness takes a human toll. The studies we perform are done with the goal of helping people, whether it's looking at the cause and effect of a disease, or tracking its spread. We know that our work can save lives. That's why we never forget that there are people behind the numbers.

Support Services for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). As noted above, NORC has had a very busy and productive year collaborating with ATSDR, and we look forward to continuing our work over the next five years. Below are ATSDR task orders that NORC conducted in 1997.

No. 31 Hazardous Waste Workers Study. This study examines construction workers who have completed a specialized two-week training designed to provide them with the skills necessary to handle hazardous wastes. The 1997-98 data collection round represents our second year of following-up this sample, and we are about to begin our third year. The sample has demonstrated high mobility: 45 percent of the panel per year require extensive locating. Each participant must be interviewed within 30 days of the anniversary of their baseline interview, and 70 percent of the sample have been interviewed within the 30-day window.

We are currently projecting a 70 percent raw completion rate.

No. 36 1997 NER Update. The National Exposure Registry is a long-term effort to collect information concerning the impact of hazardous substances on human health. The Registry, which consists of multiple sub-registries, is a listing of persons exposed to selected hazardous substances. At the time they are enrolled, subregistry members are interviewed to collect baseline health and demographic data. To assess long-term health effects, periodic follow-ups of registrants are conducted to update the baseline information. The panel sample is composed of four chemical subregistries representing people who have been exposed to one of four toxic substances. Exposures were residential in nature, and thus the study systems must accommodate a hierarchical grouping of registrants.

No. 28 Wilms' Tumor. This study is designed to examine the associations between Wilms' tumor (WT) risk and environmental exposures, specifically from hazardous waste sites, as well as parental occupational exposures. NORC identified eligible cases from ATSDR-supplied sample files gained from state-based tumor registries, located and identified eligible participants (the parents of WT cases), purchased a random digit dial (RDD) sample to serve as controls, and administered data collection instruments to participants using CATI technology. We performed real-time case-control matching. NORC completed interviews with 303 case sample members and 575 respondents in a control group.

No. 8.5 Otis Exposure Dose Reconstruction. This study investigates ethylene dibromide (EDB) contamination in Hatchville, Massachusetts, at the Otis Air Force Base. There is reason to suspect that the contamination may have affected groundwater quality in the underlying aquifer and surface water quality in nearby Coonamessett River. Exposure-dose reconstruction activities are to be conducted in order to quantify the potential health risk for humans in the area. These activities will quantify potential exposure patterns, times of exposure, and frequency of exposure.

No. 8.6 Bourne, MA School Survey. Six of the public schools on Cape Cod are located on the Otis Air National Guard Base. Parents have expressed concerns about the exposure risk for children attending these schools. We are currently conducting a mail survey of parents, which contains both closed-and open-ended questions on environmental exposures and health conditions. The survey is being sponsored by the Bourne School Superintendent's Office and the Bourne Parent Teacher Association, with assistance from ATSDR.

No. 16 Hanford Follow-Up. This project covers health study activities associated with the release of radioactive materials from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Washington. The Hanford site was selected in 1943 as the location for facilities used to produce plutonium for atomic bombs during WWII. In 1944 and 1945, three nuclear reactors and two chemical processing plants were

operational at Hanford. The chemical processing plants were used to extract plutonium and uranium. The largest releases of radioactive material were of iodine-131, which occurred following chemical extraction of plutonium from spent uranium through dissolution in acid. The highest releases were between December 1944 and December 1947 when 740,000 curies of iodine-131 were released. In 1948, filters were installed so that releases of iodine-131 from the separation plants were greatly reduced. This project team will locate and contact all people born in a three-county area in preparation for the administration of a baseline questionnaire. Participants will be enrolled in the Iodine-131 subregistry of the NER. This challenging locating task requires us to locate sample members based on 40- to 50-year-old birth certificate information. Using records matching techniques, we have developed sample profiles for each member of the list sample from other regional datasets.

No. 34 Immunotoxicity in Children Exposed to Lead. ATSDR has used an immune biomarker panel to assess the impact of exposure on immune system functioning for many of its community-based health investigations. NORC will trace 158 children who were found to have out-of-range biomarker readings in these

previous studies. A short questionnaire will be administered over the telephone; the laboratory services contractor will then arrange to collect a morning blood sample from the children. The purpose of this study is to remeasure and assess both the predictive value of sensitive markers of immune suppression, as well as the long-term stability of these markers.

No. 37 A Panel Study of Acute Respiratory Outcomes on Staten Island.

The Fresh Kills Municipal Landfill is one of the oldest and largest in the United States. The city of New York established the landfill in 1948 as a means of reclaiming land in a tidal swamp area. Approximately 40,000 people live within 1/2 mile of the landfill, which has long been a source of health concerns and odor complaints within the local community. Local residents and physicians have expressed concern about the impact of landfill emissions on respiratory morbidity, specifically asthma.

In Phase I, NORC conducted a listing and outreach effort for residents surrounding the landfill. Residents were screened to identify those suffering from acute respiratory conditions. In Phase II, NORC administered a baseline questionnaire and a six-week daily diary protocol. Participants in the diary phase also completed two self-administered pulmonary function tests on a daily basis.

No. 17 Hanford Infant Morbidity and Mortality Analysis. This ATSDR study investigates whether rates of infant mortality and fetal death differ according to the iodine-131 exposure classification of residence. Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction (HEDR) estimates of iodine-131 dose exposure to a child will be used to estimate level of exposure for a given geographic area. The study will analyze spatial and temporal trends in infant and fetal death rates as well as cause-specific distribution of deaths. During the course of this study, we abstracted 90,000 certificates (birth and death); performed I/O coding of over 319,000 pairs; and deciphered 4,800 birth defects and causes of death for ICD-9 coding.

1997 Air Force Health Study. For the third time, NORC is part of the team assembled by the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to conduct the 1997 follow-up of the Air Force Health Study, which is sponsored by the United States Air Force. This is the fifth round of this longitudinal study of potential long-term health effects of exposure to Agent Orange during military service. This study, which has been cited as a "textbook" example of an epidemiological cohort investigation, compares the health of Air Force personnel who were involved with aerial dissemination of herbicides in Vietnam from 1962 to 1971 as part of Operation Ranch Hand with that of a group of unexposed people matched on age, race, and military occupation. For each round of the study, respondents participate in a series of physical examinations

and in-depth health interviews. Baseline interviews and examinations were completed with each of the participants in 1982, and follow-up interviews and examinations were completed in 1985, 1987, and 1992. The current study represents a 15-year follow-up, and the final follow-up is planned for 2002.

For this study, NORC conducted the telephone effort to contact and recruit study respondents; developed the 1997 follow-up questionnaire, based on the questionnaires used in previous rounds of the survey; and conducted the in-person health interviews at the examination site in La Jolla, CA. For the first time in this study, in-person health interviews were conducted using CAPI technology. Respondent recruitment began in March of 1997, and will continue through the end of the physical examination and interviewing period at the beginning of April, 1998. To date we have recruited and scheduled 99.5 percent of the anticipated final sample of 2,200 respondents.

National Gun Policy Survey. The National Gun Policy Survey is the first academic survey fully devoted to asking questions about gun issues. This survey used a national RDD sample to conduct telephone interviews with adults living in households with telephones. NORC worked closely with the Joyce Foundation, the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, and a national panel of experts to design the questionnaire, which focused on issues related to the manufacture, sale, use of, and opinions about guns. The questionnaire also included items

about child-proofed and personalized guns, in addition to questions about perceptions of what particular advertising meant to the respondents.

According to this study, in response to the high level of gun violence in America, the public supports a wide range of gun control measures to regulate firearms. Majorities favor such measures as registering all guns, requiring that all new handguns be child-proofed, regulating the safety design of guns, training and licensing handgun owners, and various other policies to make guns safer and less easily available. The public does not, however, favor banning guns. Likewise, the public backs measures to deny guns to criminals by prohibiting those convicted of a wide range of misdemeanors from purchasing guns.

The U.S. spends billions every year on health care services. What are we getting for that? We've examined everything from family access to care to the types of medical treatment that HIV patients receive. But sometime that care no longer offers hope. That's when our studies have tracked attitudes toward death and dying. These intensely personal surveys reveal how patients and doctors deal with healthcare issues and even the end of life.

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). Sponsored by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) and under subcontract to Westat, NORC is conducting MEPS (formerly known as the National Medical Expenditure Study—NMES), which is the latest in a series of national health care expenditure surveys that began in the 1970s. MEPS provides vast detail about the nation's health care system, yielding a large data set with unique links between household, employer, and healthcare provider-reported information. These data can be used to provide national estimates of health care use, medical expenditures, and health insurance; to document major changes in health care delivery, health insurance and the cost of health care; and to analyze health care with respect to these changes.

NORC's participation in MEPS reached peak levels in 1997. This year saw the launching of a second panel (N=6,000 households) on the Household Survey, while successive rounds of data collection continued on the first panel (N=9,500 households). While NORC's and Westat's national field staffs worked hard to achieve high, targeted response rates, our Data Preparation Center supported them by receipting, processing, and mailing out tens of thousands of documents. The Medical Provider Survey (MPS) also got underway this year, beginning with recruiting and training in the spring, then telephone data collection from an anticipated sample of approximately 12,000 office-based providers.

HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study (HCSUS). Sponsored by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, NORC and RAND are collaborating on HCSUS to collect data on what types of medical care HIV patients receive in the United States, and how much that care costs. HCSUS is the first study to collect this vital information from a nationally representative sample of respondents.

During the past year, NORC performed a heavy schedule of field data collection across a variety of HCSUS components. The first attempt ever to complete interviews with such a sample was very successful. Unweighted response rates for the Baseline Survey reached 90.7 percent, combining all types of questionnaires administered. Even better were the rates for the First Follow-up Survey (91.4 percent) and the Mental Health Interview

(96 percent), both of which were concluded this year. NORC also concluded an intensive period of CAPI programming as we prepared to launch the HCSUS Second Follow-up Survey in August. During the summer, NORC conducted a pretest of tasks associated with medical/financial records collection and pharmacy records collection from providers named by respondents in the Baseline Survey. In September, NORC began its telephone survey of formal and informal caregivers. We are currently collecting dental records from oral health providers.

Assessing Attitudes of Terminally Ill Patients. This year, NORC, in collaboration with Harvard Medical School, successfully completed a seminal study of the terminally ill, funded by the Commonwealth Fund and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. The survey is designed to improve the understanding of factors that determine the quality of the dying process for both patients and caregivers, and to develop information for patients, families, health care providers, and policymakers that can improve care at the end of life.

Last year, NORC conducted Time 1 interviews with approximately 1,000 patients and their caregivers in six sites. Time 2 interviews were conducted six months later, ending in mid-1997, attaining an impressive completion rate of 92 percent. Data from this study will be used to improve the way policymakers, healthcare providers, and the public deal with the terminally ill.

NORC survey staff faced many logistical challenges in working with a sample accrued on a flow basis from practicing physicians who identified persons with 12 months or less to live. Rapid turnaround was required along with special sensitivity in interviewing these respondents, their relatives, and caregivers.

Our field interviewers found this difficult study extremely rewarding. The experience was best summed up by one of the interviewers who told us, "It truly has been an enlightening experience to be able to work on this survey. Some of the things that have made it so special are the stories that you listen to. It is sometimes easy to let yourself become mechanical in the process of collecting data. All that it takes for reality to come rushing back is to look in their eyes and you can see the pain or peace as they come to grips with the reality of their death . . . I see their momentos. . . their pets, their favorite easy chair. . . All around them are the things they are losing. And yet, here they are in front of you with such spirit and poise, allowing their experience with dying to be revealed. . . I have interviewed people of all ages from 22 years of age up to people in their 90s. Each one's story and experience has touched my life. . ."

I have been greatly honored to work with these individuals.”

U.S. News & World Report's 1997 Survey on Best Hospitals. From survey data and secondary analyses of data from the American Hospital Association and the Health Care Financing Administration, NORC creates the Index of Hospital Quality (IHQ). Drawing on data designed to represent structure, process, and outcomes, the IHQ represents a summation of a hospital's performance in delivering high-quality care. The results of the 1997 IHQ calculations appeared in the July 28, 1997 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*.

While we believe such information is extremely useful in educating consumers faced with hard choices about where to receive medical care for serious medical problems, care should be taken in interpreting the scores. Indeed, IHQ scores can perhaps be most valuable in delineating the tertiary-level hospitals that are at the very top of their craft. The IHQs are especially good at gross distinctions at the margins: one interpretation of the shape of the curve of transformed IHQ scores suggests that there are a few extremely good hospitals, an overwhelming number of hospitals clustered together in the middle of the curve that are providing at least competent care, and a few

hospitals at the bottom end of the curve, which, it appears, need to devote more attention and resources towards improving the quality of care.

In our estimation, these findings can be of significance to the health care community. If it is true that there is a set of hospitals excelling in the provision of high-quality care, it is important to delineate what these hospitals are doing. What set of characteristics do these very top hospitals have in common? The IHQ scores and the patterns evinced by the array of hospitals across the scores suggest that certain combinations of structural characteristics, procedural choices, and outcomes work together to lay a solid foundation for the delivery of high-quality care. Policymakers can examine these patterns and combinations of characteristics as they attempt to unite high-quality care with cost containment and equal access to care.

The methodological underpinnings of the IHQ are more fully described in an article published in the journal *Inquiry*.

Americans' Report Card on Health. The results of this RDD survey of the general population appeared as the cover story in the March 9, 1998 edition of *U.S. News & World Report*, and then in scholarly publications. Respondents were asked about their attitudes towards managed care, as well as their attitudes about the health care system in general and their perspectives about the rate and scope of change in the health care system. Data were also collected about recent

experiences, and focused special attention on households that contain a family member with a chronic disease (especially cancer). During the analytic phase, NORC will develop attitude and experience thermometers, and we will also construct a typology of American attitudes using factor analysis. The domains identified by factor analysis will form the theme lines of the stories written for *U.S. News & World Report*. We hope that these data will form the baseline benchmarks for a series of annual surveys.

Top HMOs. Using data provided by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), NORC will develop a method for ranking the quality-of-care performance of the majority of the nation's health care plans.

In 1996, NCQA provided only five data elements per plan. With these data, we developed a Preventive Care Index for scoring HMO performance on their demonstrated ability to provide preventive care services to their members. In 1997, we received data that covered a wider array of services and utilization patterns at each health plan. With these data, NORC constructed a scoring mechanism that took into account HMO performance across a much broader scope of quality indicators than just preventive care. The results of last year's study were published in the October 9, 1997 edition of *U.S. News & World Report*.

Survey of Family Health Experiences. The project is funded by the Kaiser Family Foundation; the Principal Investigator (PI) is

Judith Kasper of Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health. This study involves a national panel survey that will examine access to health care and insurance problems of families in the United States. The data will provide important information about the effects of changes in the health care delivery system on families. The first-year data collection was conducted in person in the fall of 1995; follow-up interviews by telephone were conducted in 1996; the third-year interviews took place late in 1997 and will document changes in coverage, access, and income. Early in 1997, the Kaiser Foundation highlighted initial results from the first two years in national press conferences and news releases.

By taking the longitudinal perspective—examining the health access and insurance problems and experiences of sample members over the course of several years—the study hopes to address these issues in greater depth than would be possible with a cross-sectional survey. The longitudinal, household-based design is especially appropriate given that the health care problems people face vary with changing life circumstances, and the perceptions they develop about the health care system are influenced by family experience at least as much as by individual experience.

Survey of End-of-Life Practices.

Sponsored by the Greenwald Foundation with additional funding from the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, this is a national survey of physicians' attitudes and behavior concerning physician-assisted suicide and voluntary active euthanasia, which began in 1995 and will conclude this year. The study has two major goals: (1) to estimate prevalence rates of physician-assisted suicide and voluntary active euthanasia in a national probability sample of physicians, and (2) to describe the characteristics of physicians and patients involved in acts of physician-assisted dying.

To guarantee the anonymity of respondents, the study was designed as a self-administered mail survey. After completing a series of three mailings, and two telephone prompts, NORC achieved a completion rate of 1,902 out of 3,021 or 62.8 percent. NORC developed weights to account for the differences in selection probabilities from stratum to stratum, and the final weights also included adjustments for (1) differences in self-reported specialty to selected specialty, (2) nonresponse, and (3) differences in age and gender between the completed questionnaires and the population of physicians.

Analyses of the results continue, but preliminary analyses show that 18 percent of the doctors surveyed said they had been asked by a patient for a prescription to end life; 11 percent had been asked for a lethal dose of medication. In addition, 3.2 percent of the physicians have written a prescription for a patient to use with the intention of ending life, and 4.6 percent have given a patient a lethal injection. Slightly over 35 percent of the responding physicians would write lethal prescriptions if it were legal in contrast to almost 10 percent who would actually administer a lethal injection if that were legal.

Assessing the Effect of Stress and Violence on Physicians' Practices and Their Personal and Home Lifestyles.

The purpose of this project, conducted for the American Medical Association, is to develop a questionnaire to assess the effects of stress and violence on physicians' practices, personal lives, and home lives. This is a developmental study that may lead to a national survey of physicians and their experiences with family violence. The study consists of six tasks: (1) recruiting a panel of mental health professionals, (2) conducting a literature review relevant to occupational stress, family violence, and physician pathology, (3) developing a draft questionnaire, (4) conducting a focus group, (5) piloting the questionnaire to a national sample of physicians, and (6) preparing a final report and developing the final questionnaire.

People are part of every study we conduct. But people aren't perfect; they forget details, or they aren't forthcoming, or they don't meet the requirements of the sample. That's why we're always working on ways to improve sampling and methodology. At NORC, we're developing and researching procedures to ensure the accuracy of surveys.

The Current Employment Statistics (CES).

This program of monthly estimates of employment and production statistics are among the country's leading economic indicators. Produced through a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the states, the CES survey of business establishments has experienced some disturbing revisions in the estimates in the last few years. An independent panel of experts from the American Statistical Association recommended a number of changes to the decades-old program to bring it up to current statistical standards. NORC, as a subcontractor to the state of Illinois, is part of BLS's team working to implement these changes. The team is designing a probability sample, a method for incorporating new business establishments more quickly, and improved estimation processes.

NORC has concluded much of the preliminary research, and BLS has selected a new probability sample and is recruiting the sample in the wholesale trade industry. This new sample will be maintained in parallel with the existing sample for a period of time as a production test. NORC will help monitor the estimates

produced by the new sample and suggest methodological fine-tuning as necessary. The data obtained through the production test will support the team's further research into sample rotation, seasonal adjustment, benchmarking, and variance estimation. In addition, NORC will continue to help Illinois develop estimators for smaller geographies than those required through the CES program. NORC will also extend the research using unemployment insurance databases as auxiliary data in CES estimation.

The NLSY79 16 Recall Experiment.

This experiment was conducted as part of Round 16 of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79). The NLSY79 survey was originally fielded with a sample of persons who were 14 to 21 years old at that time. Through the first 15 rounds of data collection, interviews were conducted every year and the questions generally covered the period since the last interview. The questions concern a range of topics, including labor force and educational experiences, health and disability, marital status, income, and program participation. With Round 17, the survey became biennial, doubling the length of the period covered by many of the questions. The Round 16 experiment tested the effects of this change in the data collection schedule.

The analysis examined several labor force and reciprocity variables—the number of jobs the respondents reported, the number of gaps between jobs, and whether they reported receiving unemployment, food stamps, or AFDC payments. The two-year recall period had little discernible effect on means and proportions for the sample as a whole. There was some decrease in the number of jobs respondents reported for the most recent year, but none of the other analyses showed much overall impact of the two-year recall period.

However, a closer examination of the results found substantial errors in the reports covering the two-year period. The two-year period covered by the Round 16 interviews included the one-year period the respondent had already reported in Round 15. The Round 16 reports sometimes failed to reproduce the information the respondent had provided in the earlier interview. The discrepancies in reports concerning this overlapping period were especially marked among respondents who had complicated job and reciprocity histories. On the average, such respondents reported fewer jobs and less reciprocity in their Round 16 interview than they had in Round 15. The limited overall impact of the two-year recall period thus appears to reflect the stable circumstances of

most of the respondents. It is easy for respondents to remember their jobs if they have not changed jobs in many years; it is far more difficult for them to remember their jobs if they change jobs frequently.

Sample Design For a Statistically Valid Evaluation of Accuracy and Completeness of an Establishment's OSHA Mandated Employer Records. This project reviews previous pilot work evaluating the accuracy of OSHA record keeping and will recommend a statistically valid and cost-effective evaluation scheme and sampling strategy to be carried out by OSHA field staff in the course of their regular cycle of audits.

The specifications for the sampling of establishments to be audited and for sampling employee records within establishments is to be based on a series of power analyses and frame list specifications provided by the client. A cost benefit analysis evaluating alternative solutions at each stage of the sampling plan will also be provided.

Sampling for an Evaluation of the Illinois Guardianship Waiver Demonstration. This project is developing and implementing a sampling plan to provide a sample of children and guardians for the evaluation of a new subsidized guardianship program in the state of Illinois. Respondents are selected randomly within strata defined by geographic location (relative care or foster care), with probability of selection adjusted by the reciprocal of the age of the eldest child to limit the selection of older children and maximize the time the children

will remain in the study (children "age out" at 18). The sample will also fill an experimental design in which selected guardian/child combinations are randomly assigned to an experimental group, a control group, or an administrative follow-up group (which is to be evaluated only for a federally-required assessment of cost factors related to the guardianship program).

Research on Response Errors in Survey Questions of Children's Immunization. Sponsored by the National Center for Health Statistics, several surveys were conducted to monitor 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 a child has not received all of the right shots. The project sought to pinpoint the sources of error in parents' reports about their children's vaccinations and to explore methods for improving the accuracy of those reports.

NORC staff designed and conducted a series of laboratory and field experiments to examine the cognitive processes associated with parents' answering survey questions on immunization.

NORC began by conducting cognitive interviews with a convenience sample of 24 parents. Two studies conducted at a pediatric clinic in Oakland, CA, examined the information parents had encoded immediately

after the child was vaccinated (encoding). In these studies parents either had to name all the vaccinations their child received (recall) or give a yes/no response when the vaccine names were read to them (recognition). A comparison between recall and recognition performance indicates whether encoding problems or retrieval failure may account for parents' difficulty in reporting on their child's vaccinations. Two studies conducted at a pediatric clinic in the Chicago area tested different methods of asking parents questions about immunizations (the memory-aid and proxy measures studies). In the memory-aid study, some respondents viewed a show card listing the vaccines or filled out a medical history calendar before answering the survey questions. In the proxy measures study, respondents were asked indirect questions about events that may be related to the child's vaccination status (doctor's visits) and were given either a self- or interviewer-administered questionnaire. In all the studies, the survey data were matched to vaccination records to assess the accuracy of the parents' reports.

The results indicated that many parents are unclear about which vaccinations their children received, even when questioned immediately after leaving the doctor's office. Parents' accuracy in reporting is directly related

to the number of vaccines the child received. Reporting accuracy on the recognition test was no better than for recall, which suggests that parents have difficulty reporting not because of retrieval difficulties but because they never encoded the information. The memory-aid and proxy measures studies showed that the use of calendars, show cards, and different types of questions and survey administration did not significantly improve reporting. However, parents who know more about vaccines do seem to report more accurately. Our findings suggest that when parents have difficulty reporting their child's vaccination history there is little that can be done to help them remember the information. The lack of improvement in reporting accuracy even with self-administered versions of the questionnaire suggests that parents are not manipulating their reports simply to hide embarrassment from an interviewer. Rather, they are simply guessing when they do not know the answers. The finding that more knowledgeable parents reported more accurately suggests that the key to collecting better data on the vaccination status of children is educating parents about vaccines.

Comparative Study of Cognitive Laboratory Interviewing Techniques. The National Center for Health Statistics is sponsoring this study to examine the reliability of results from cognitive interviews conducted by different interviewers and at different organizations. NORC conducted a set of cognitive interviews on a questionnaire already tested by NCHS cognitive interviewers. Four NORC interviewers each completed ten taped interviews with paid volunteers. During the interviews, they recorded problems by checking a "problem" box and recording notes on unfamiliar terminology, the logic of the questions, response categories, etc.

To code the interviews, each interviewer paired up with another interviewer. The interviewers reviewed their own ten interviews and the ten completed by their partner. For both their own and their partner's, they reviewed five interviews by consulting only the notes taken on the questionnaires and the other five by listening to the tapes and not viewing the notes. The second interviewer also coded the problems that arose during the same interviews by coding the same five interviews from notes only and the other five interviews from tapes only.

The study's design allows for testing of both inter-organization and inter-coder reliability. Since the same questionnaire has been cognitively tested by both NCHS and NORC, it will be possible to examine whether interviewers trained by different organizations arrive at the same findings. Similarly, since the same

interview session was coded by both the interviewer and another trained observer, it will be possible to test whether interviewers within an organization agree on their findings.

Task Orders for the Department of Transportation. NORC has a task order to prepare two reports, one on *Reducing Non-response in Travel Surveys* and the other a *Primer for Panel Surveys* in the transportation field. NORC staff worked with a review panel comprised of Project Officers from the Federal Highway Administration, Metropolitan Planning Officers in Chicago and Washington, and researchers and experts in the transportation survey research field.

Reducing Nonresponse in Transportation Surveys was written for designers, analysts, and sponsors of household travel surveys, and others who collect, report on, or interpret travel survey data. This report provides a set of guidelines for measuring and reporting nonresponse in household travel surveys and for reducing the level and impact of nonresponse. The report first focuses on measuring and reporting nonresponse, and then moves on to describe the potential consequences of nonresponse in household travel surveys and recommend methods for reducing the level of nonresponse. Finally, the report describes statistical methods for reducing the impact of nonresponse on survey estimates.

The Primer for Panel Surveys introduces the use of panel designs in surveys of travel behavior. The report (1) highlights the differences between cross-sectional and panel

approaches to the study of travel behavior, (2) discusses the limitations of cross-sectional and panel data, (3) identifies situations where panel data are preferable, and (4) provides guidelines for designing and maintaining a panel survey. The report contains a number of recommendations for conducting and using panel designs in travel surveys.

Longitudinal Study of American Youth.

Sponsored by the Chicago Academy of Sciences, the objective of the project was to perform an item response theoretic (IRT) analysis of achievement data from the Longitudinal Study of American Youth (LSAY) to obtain scale score estimates of science and mathematics attainment. The achievement data consisted of item responses from repeated administrations of a multiple-form assessment instrument to two nationally representative samples of middle and high school students. Previous IRT analyses of the data were conducted at a time when methods for obtaining comparable estimates of ability across test forms and repeated administrations were not completely understood, even by specialists in the field. Since that time, the issue has received considerable attention in the literature, and new methods for equating test forms across multiple groups have emerged. This project

applied those methods to the data from the LSAY survey.

A multiple-group IRT model for equating nonequivalent groups (Bock and Zimowski, 1997) was fit to the item response data using the BILOG-MG program of Zimowski, Muraki, Mislevy, and Bock (1996). The procedure places the items from all forms on a common scale by jointly estimating the item parameters and the latent ability distributions of the non-equivalent groups, which, in this case, correspond to the groups of students completing each form within each year and cohort of the survey. The item parameter estimates obtained in that calibration were used to produce scale score estimates of individual achievement for all measurement periods in the survey. The scores will be added to the LSAY public-use database.

ANSPACK. NORC staff spent a great deal of time this year developing a working prototype of NORCSUITE Sampling Tools, which are a combination of a relational database and software tools to select and maintain NORC's sampling frames and project samples. Initially designed for area probability samples, particularly NORC's exclusive national frame, the system will eventually be able to handle most types of samples that NORC manages. The tools

automate many of the sample selection and maintenance functions, enabling NORC to maintain the highest quality sampling standards with greater efficiency.

A working prototype of the system was developed with the basic functions for selecting a sample of housing units from a list frame of addresses. We are beginning to migrate the data to a larger, more powerful relational database system that can handle the complete set of our sampling frames.

Why do some people become easily addicted to alcohol and drugs, and others don't? What role does mental health play in how an individual makes life choices? The issues of substance abuse and mental health profoundly affect society. NORC is conducting many studies in this area that will eventually help determine public policy and how tax dollars are spent.

National Study of Health and Life Experiences of Women. In a recent *USA Today* article, Mary Dufour, deputy director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), called this, "A landmark study—the best and only one of its kind." This study is being conducted for the University of North Dakota, for PIs Sharon and Richard Wilsnack, under a grant from the NIAAA. Because information is scarce about the patterns, antecedents, and consequences of drinking among women in the general population, this four-wave study, begun in 1981, is investigating alcohol use and alcohol-linked behaviors, focusing on alcohol consumption, drinking context, sexual behavior, and problems related to alcohol consumption and alcohol dependency among women. NORC has now conducted three follow-ups with these women or subsamples of them in order to describe patterns and predictors of changes in women's drinking and drinking problems over time; to clarify and extend important findings from the baseline survey; and to gain information and experience useful for future longitudinal follow-ups.

For the 1996 follow-up, NORC located and interviewed nearly 700 women who were interviewed in the 1991 survey, along with over 500 of their spouses and partners.

Some important findings from this study include:

- Sexual abuse during childhood raises the risk for alcohol dependency in adult women. Of women with alcohol dependency, 24 percent experienced abuse in their childhood.
- Women who play multiple roles such as wife, mother, and worker are less likely to have drinking problems.
- After five years, 44 percent of women with drinking problems who remain in marriages continue to have alcohol dependency problems, while of those who get divorced only 31 percent continue to have alcohol problems.
- Women who are alcohol dependent during their early adult years are likely to "mature out" of this dependency. While 29 percent of 21 to 34 year old women report having had six or more drinks in a single day during the past year, the number falls to only 14 percent for those 54 to 60 years old.

Services Research Outcomes Study (SROS). SROS is the first nationally representative study of individuals discharged from drug treatment. Data collection for this Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) study was completed in February 1995 and the final data released for analysis in June. Based on a five-year follow-up of 3,000 discharges from a national probability sample of 99 treatment facilities, SROS results covered 1,799 interviewed respondents and 273 known decedents from the sample. NORC analysis of the data was completed in August 1997, and some of the principal conclusions include:

- Illicit drug and alcohol use went down in the five years after the treatment episode, compared to the five years before.
- An exception to these decreases was found for clients who were under age 18 at the time of discharge from treatment. Among those under age 18, there were increases in alcohol use and crack use. However, these same clients showed no increases in marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or any other illicit drug use.
- Criminal activity declined after the index treatment episode. Overall, there were before/after decreases in selling drugs,

theft or larceny, breaking and entering, driving under the influence (DUI), driving while intoxicated (DWI), causing public disorder, engaging in prostitution or procurement, stealing a vehicle, or committing fraud or forgery. Clients discharged when they were less than 18 years old were again the exception.

- After treatment there were significant decreases in homelessness, receipt of physical abuse, drug injection, and suicide attempts.
- The death rate of clients discharged from treatment was more than seven times higher than expected given the age, sex, and race distribution of the client group. The death rate was particularly high for white females, who died at 18 times the rate of their counterparts in the general population.
- Length-of-stay in treatment was a consistent predictor of alcohol and illicit drug use after treatment. Longer treatment stays correlated with the lower likelihood of post-treatment use.

Reports on Drug Use from the 1994-96 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. We are now entering the fourth and final year of this study sponsored by SAMHSA's Office of Applied Studies. This study, including the completed contract for the same tasks with the 1992-93 (and earlier) surveys, has been a central one for the division. Virtually every staff member has been involved in both the all-hands effort to produce the annual Main Findings report and in one or more of the various small groups that have authored seven analytical

monographs since 1995, with another handful in process and scheduled for publication by the end of the contract. NORC is also producing and distributing the NHSDA Public Use Files (approximately 100 copies are requested each year), and we produce quick-turnaround data analyses, specialized files, and related data services for SAMHSA, which number about 50 discrete projects per year.

Analytic monographs completed during 1997 include:

- *The Prevalence and Correlates of Treatment for Drug Problems* (Gerstein, Foote, and Ghadialy) (complete citations for these monographs are included in the bibliography at the end of this Annual Report)
- *Substance Abuse Among Women in the United States* (Su, Larison, Ghadialy, Johnson, and Rohde)
- *Drug Use in the Workplace* (Hoffmann, Larison, and Brittingham)
- *Reports on Smoking in a National Survey: Self and Proxy Reports in Self- and Interviewer-Administered Questionnaires* (Tourangeau, Brittingham, and Kay)

NORC analytic projects currently underway using the NHSDA include: drug use among Hispanics; substance abuse and other problem behavior among adolescents; adolescent cigarette use; drinking and driving behaviors; and drug use and unemployment.

National Archive and Analytic Center (NAAC) for Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Data.

This project is an indefinite-quantity (task order) contract with SAMHSA, which to date has produced six task orders: (1) General Management and Task Order Preparation; (2) Quick Turnaround Studies; (3) Statistical Sourcebook Preparation; (4) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive: Initial Development; (5) Analytic Papers; and (6) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive: Implementation.

Task Orders 4 and 6 refer to an activity to be housed at the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), with a major point of access through the World Wide Web at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu>. The most important data sets pertaining to substance abuse and mental health, from national data collections such as NHSDA, TEDS, and the Drug Abuse Warning Network, will be made available from ICPSR's currently more restricted archive (for consortium members) as well as being newly prepared by NORC for dissemination as public use files.

Task Order 5 commissions seven analytical papers to be developed by NORC with assistance on several of the papers from three subcontractors: Columbia University (Denise Kandel),

Alcohol Research Group (Laura Schmidt), and the Lewin Group (Henrick Harwood). Provisional plans for these papers are as follows:

Explaining trends in adolescent drug use. To the extent permitted by available data, this paper will estimate the principal reasons behind changes in national prevalence rates of adolescent drug use, particularly the use of marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens, alcohol, and tobacco. The focus of the analysis will be changes during the past 25 years—the period covered by national and regional epidemiologic sample data such as the NHSDA, Monitoring the Future, National Alcohol Survey, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, NLSY79, NELS:88, and more localized studies by principal investigators such as D. Kandel, S. Su, C. Perry, B. Flay, J. Brook, R. Donovan, M. Wolfgang, R. Clayton, and others.

Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM). HLM comprises a family of statistical methods for the analysis of data that reflect distinctive levels of aggregation, clustering of cases (which are generally a product of sample efficiency considerations), and presumptively different causal processes, such as those that occur at the neighborhood, family, and individual level. HLM seems especially suitable for the analysis of multi-level causal models using multi-stage

probability survey data. This paper will be based on preliminary work with NHSDA and other data sets involving drug-using behavior, including published results from CALDATA and the Study of Vulnerability to Drug Abuse Among High-Risk Youth.

Substance abuse and mental health service providers: organization of the service delivery system and implication for services. This paper will provide the first comprehensive comparison of data on the provider networks that offer substance abuse and mental health services in the United States. This analysis will explore duplication, overlap, and consistency between the NDATUS/NFR/UFDS, IMHO, and AHA databases. All three surveys include data on substance abuse and mental health units within general and psychiatric hospitals as well as certain federal institutions, and both NDATUS and IMHO overlap somewhat on community-based providers. The analysis will define the extent of overlap nationally and regionally in the provider databases, taking advantage of particular local studies of service delivery system differentiation and integration in the provision of mental health and substance abuse services. National data on regional variations in the prevalence of substance abuse and mental syndromes and disorders, such as the NHSDA and National Comorbidity Survey, will also be used to consider questions of the relative coverage of dually diagnosed problems by system providers.

Synthesis of drug abuse treatment effectiveness research. Large cross-site studies of drug abuse treatment effectiveness have been conducted during the 1990s by NIDA, SAMHSA, and other agencies, including NTIES, SROS, the Drug Abuse Treatment Outcomes Study, Adolescent Drug Abuse Treatment Outcomes Study, and CALDATA. These studies comprise retrospective and prospective designs, and have varying sampling approaches, but all share substantial commonalities in their domains of coverage and instrumentation strategies. This paper will attempt to draw the data from all of these studies together for a common assessment of results.

Lagged trend analysis of drug incidence, prevalence, and problems: predicting the future burden of “drug epidemics.” This paper will estimate lagged relationships between trends in drug incidence and prevalence as measured in NHSDA, and drug problems as measured in NHSDA, DAWN, TEDS, NDATUS, and criminal justice data series such as the FBI's UCR, the BJS Survey of Inmates, and the NIJ's DUF. Each of these series extends back a minimum of 15 years and provides time series of trends in the relative as well as absolute rates for different substances. With appropriate modeling of time lags and causal relationships, we might therefore be able to estimate time-contingent, cohort-specific relations between major trends in drug use and consequences, for example, in cocaine incidence, heavy cocaine use, cocaine-related hospital emergency

room visits, mortality rates, arrests for cocaine trafficking and possession. These analyses could also explore the relationship of health, welfare, and criminal justice system outlays on drug-related problems to early cohort drug experience, periods of market-led “outbreaks,” and related periodic phenomena such as cyclical variations in unemployment rates.

Estimation of hard-core drug use. Although the concept of “hard-core use” originates outside the epidemiologic tradition of scientific study of drug use, it has clear correlates with the definition of drug dependence as a chronic, relapsing disorder. Since hard-core use comprises a relatively small fraction of overall drug prevalence and involves jeopardy levels that make the typical household or conventional institutional frame relatively inefficient at achieving full coverage of the target population, it is more difficult to estimate the level of this type of use than more common “casual” and total use levels, and the estimates are subject to greater margins of error. In previous research, techniques such as ratio estimation and synthetic cohort estimation have been employed. The plan for this paper is to replicate earlier methods using the most recent NHSDA and other data series, and to explore a variety of alternative statistical methods

that may aid in correcting estimates of hard-core use for undercoverage and underreporting, and to improve the precision of estimates such that time trends in hard-core use might be more readily discriminated. The analysis will focus on the adult population and on major demographic subgroups.

Substance abuse and health insurance, health status, and health care use. The purpose of this paper is to better determine the status of drug users and nonusers in the general population with respect to health status, health care utilization, and public and private health plan coverage. This analysis should help illuminate issues of financial access to treatment for substance abuse, mental health, and physical health problems. The NHSDA dataset will be the touchstone of the analysis, and will be compared with other data that may be made accessible, including federal data collection such as the National Health Interview Survey and private-sector databases being used for actuarial, research, and managed care development purposes.

National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study (NTIES). In February, NORC delivered to the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) the NTIES main final report, five more specialized reports (on women, adolescents and young adults, cocaine, and

marijuana), and the final data CD-ROM including the electronic codebook. The results of this study were released in preliminary form by the Secretary of DHHS and the White House drug policy director in 1996, and additional summary information was released at a press conference in September 1997.

Process Evaluation of Title I of the 1994 Crime Act (Community Oriented Policing Services [COPS]). This study is being conducted under a subcontract with the Urban Institute with PI Jeffrey Roth and is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Justice. This project involves a multi-wave national telephone survey of police administrators (chiefs or their designees)—sample lists supplied by the client—who either receive COPS funding or who chose not to apply for it. The non-grantees are being asked why they did not apply; the grantees assess their progress toward the goals they established earlier when they were seeking COPS funding.

Follow-Up of Drug-Addicted and Alcoholic (DA&A) Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients After Program Termination (Seattle Study). This one-year, two-wave study is being performed for the Washington State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Department of Social and Health Services, with funding from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The SSI/SSDI programs that provided benefits to individuals because they were suffering from drug addiction or alcoholism as a disabling condition ended on December 31, 1996. CSAT organized a multi-state study to examine the effects of

the program's termination on former recipients. As part of this effort the state of Washington asked NORC to collect data from 400 respondents fitting this description, residing in King County, Washington. Round 1, the baseline survey, collected data during the month of December 1996, from respondents currently receiving SSI on the current state of their addiction, their medical needs, where they were living, and the overall circumstances of their lives. Round 2 collected data during the months of June and July 1997. The Round 2 data collection focused on how the loss of benefits has impacted the former recipients—for example, what kind of medical coverage do they have now? Have they reapplied to SSI? Have they been picked up by other agencies? Are they currently without any benefits? Are they able to function? The sponsor has tentative plans to extend the data collection to include two more rounds. NORC is currently conducting Round 3 of this study.

Drug Use and Problem Behaviors in Minority Youth. Conducted for PI Judith Brook at Mt. Sinai Medical Center, this was the second wave of a longitudinal study. The project assesses stages of involvement with drug use in an inner-city sample, and examines the interrelationships of acculturation, family, personality, peers, and drug context domains. Data were collected for the second time from a sample of African-American and Puerto Rican adolescents who attended schools primarily in the East Harlem area of New York City when the data were first

collected in 1990. In this second wave of the study, NORC also collected data from a sample of the adolescents' mothers. With a response rate goal of 85 percent, NORC achieved a response rate of 92 percent.

A Prospective Study of the Mental Health of Black Women (Woodlawn Mothers).

An extension of a 30-year study, this subcontract with the Johns Hopkins University, PI Margaret Ensminger, is sponsored by the National Institute of Health/National Institute of Mental Health Office of Research on Minority Health and Office of Research on Women's Health. From 1965-68, NORC conducted the Woodlawn Mental Health Study, a longitudinal study of first graders enrolled in elementary schools in an inner-city, predominantly African-American Chicago neighborhood. In-person interviews were conducted with mothers or mother surrogates of the children. In order to identify the epidemiology of mental disorders among the survey group, data from these interviews were combined with information from teachers, who rated children on classroom adaptation; from mental health professionals' observations of the children; and from self-ratings by the children. Then, from 1992-93, NORC conducted a follow-up study, reinterviewing the original respondents, who were now

approximately 30 years old. In this current study, NORC is interviewing a subsample of mothers (biological and foster) of the original Woodlawn Mental Health Study sample. The questions focus on family background and history—including receipt of welfare assistance, household composition, work, income, and health—and on intergenerational relationships and spirituality. Interviews are in-person, except for respondents outside the Chicago metropolitan area, who are interviewed by telephone.

Treatment Outcomes of Adolescents in Therapeutic Communities. This study is being conducted for PI Nancy Jainchill at the National Development and Research Institute, Inc., and is supported by a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. NORC will follow approximately 800 adolescents treated since 1990 in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Florida to determine their post-treatment experience and behavior.

NORC received two grants that were favorably reviewed in mid-1996 but not awarded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse until June 1997. One is a five-year renewal of the **Vulnerability to Drug Abuse in High-Risk Youth Study**, which will enable us to extend this study of 600 families and nearly 2,000 index children (probands),

siblings, and parents until the probands, who were 11 years old initially, reach their late teens. The second is a four-year grant, **Drug Injectors' Risk Networks and HIV Transmission**, which is based on a pilot study done at NORC from 1995-96 using innovative combinations of ethnographic and survey methods to assess a Resource Access theory of the distribution of transmitting or receiving the AIDS virus through needle sharing or unprotected sex. In addition, we received a NIDA grant for three years to study the **Community and Family Context of Adolescent Drug Use**, which will enable us to extend our analyses of NHSDA and NELS:88 data to better understand the effects of neighborhoods, schools, and family structure on adolescent drug use and delinquency. We also received two grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; one for a study of **Drug Use Among U.S. Workers, Workplace Safety, and Drug Testing Policies**, and a second for a study of **Determinants of Public Support for Drug Treatment Spending: 1972-1996**.

The Research Centers at NORC represent an integral part of NORC's focus on efforts to integrate three elements of survey research: rigorous studies that yield valid and valuable data; ongoing testing and development of state-of-the-art survey methodology in sampling, collection, and analysis; and supporting and training fresh minds capable of distinguished careers in social science research and methodology regardless of their core discipline. To that end, NORC houses four Research Centers with different styles, missions, and degrees of involvement in the day-to-day performance of survey research projects, which share a commitment to these survey research goals.

The newest addition to the NORC roster of Research Centers is the **Alfred P. Sloan Center on Parents, Children, & Work**, which focuses on the nature of families and the influences and pressures that affect them. The Sloan Center's work is presented at the beginning of this Annual Report.

The Population Research Center (PRC) serves the research and training needs of the University of Chicago faculty who have interests in the field of demography. The PRC supports population research by integrating and coordinating research, funding, and training, and by disseminating and administering grant and program opportunities. We continue to replenish our portfolio of support from federal agencies and private foundations, especially with NIH R03 or "small" grants that support smaller projects of shorter duration. We also maintain

an active demographic training program of pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows while actively disseminating the resulting research through expansion of the PRC home page (<http://www.spc.uchicago.edu/prc>) and the publication of *Working Papers*, monographs, journal articles, and books.

The Committee on Demographic Training (CDT) has completed its 13th year of training students to become future leaders in the field of demography. We received T32 grants in 1997 from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA), each supporting two new fellows.

As further evidence of our successful pursuit of the development of future leaders for demography, six of our fifteen pre-doctoral trainees are new to demographic training. Their funding includes two federal training grants, each of which supports four pre-doctoral trainees; Hewlett Foundation funding of students from developing countries, providing a final year of support for five traineeships; and Mellon Foundation funding for training and travel that supports two trainees conducting field research in developing countries.

The PRC actively disseminates research results through the Demography Workshop, now beginning its 14th year. The

Workshop, co-sponsored by the Center on Demography and Economics of Aging (profiled below), brings a variety of outside speakers to its weekly seminar, presenting papers from Research Associates, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students on issues related to their research inquiries. Workshops have covered subjects ranging from how many people the earth can support, to keeping data confidential, to measures of race and ethnicity.

The PRC is using the Web with ever-increasing facility and response to disseminate information about itself, Research Associates, activities, conferences, and research results. A limited number of PRC Working Papers are available on our Web site, but the complete catalog of Workshop presentations is available there.

Once again, this year we have a large variety of ongoing research. The NSF project, **Risk, Robustness and Volatility (RRV)**, is building models of dynamic stochastic economies in which consumer/investors can make small but sophisticated mistakes. RRV is also studying alternative ways of integrating estimates from micro data sets into dynamic stochastic general equilibrium models and justifying flexible estimation methods for nonlinear Markov diffusion models.

Another ongoing NSF project is **Data Markets**, which focuses on modeling incentives for data production to facilitate identification and estimation of population parameters of economic interest. The research uses a labor-economic approach to data production, developing wage discrimination schemes that may be used on the sample to identify population parameters to be estimated. These schemes allow for correcting estimates for production biases due to poor quantity or quality of data.

Sponsored by NICHD, **What Determines Family Size? A Study of the Very Rich** is using samples of the very rich to isolate the effect on fertility of income from the effect of education or the value of time. By constructing a new data set using who's who data, the study will learn about the social and economic factors affecting fertility and improve the ability of social scientists to forecast fertility changes.

Another NICHD study, **Chinese Health and Family Behavior** will employ survey methods and biomarkers in a national sample of 9,000 adults to examine the social construction of sexuality and distribution of sexually transmitted diseases in China. Its objectives are: (1) to produce a baseline study describing the social organization of human sexuality in China; (2) to elaborate and document a social constructionist model of sexual behavior, exploring the social scripts from which people understand sexual behavior, personal values, and cultural expectations; and (3) to produce a social constructionist model of the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Also funded by NICHD is **Welfare Reform and the Wellbeing of Children**. This project, funded in part by a Ford Foundation grant, is conducting an investigation in Chicago, Boston, and Baltimore to assess the effects of welfare reform on the well-being of low-income families and to follow them over the evolution of welfare reform. Using longitudinal surveys and ethnographic studies, the researchers will investigate the strategies developed to respond to changes in employment, school, training, residential mobility, and fertility.

The Center on Demography and Economics of Aging (CoA) has completed the third year of its five-year funding as an "exploratory" center devoted to increasing demography and economics research done in Chicago on our aging populations. It provides support to faculty and affiliated research associates by integrating and coordinating research, data archives, funding, and training. Our director, Linda Waite, has received an academic career leadership award that will be used to further interdisciplinary research into the demography, biodemography, and economics of aging, as well as to improve the curriculum in aging, to provide increased time to the director and staff to build research partnerships, and to establish contacts and relationships with private foundations. It will also be used to hire a data programmer to facilitate the use of several new longitudinal datasets.

Two visiting scholar associates have become associated with the Center on Aging after NORC helped to facilitate their immigration

to the United States. Drs. Leonid and Natalia Gavrilov, internationally recognized scientists from Moscow State University, will be conducting their research on aging in Chicago for the next year. They are best known for "The Biology of Life Span: A Quantitative Approach," and their work regarding predictors of human longevity and mortality based on the analysis of genealogical data.

Research Associates actively pursued NIH and NSF grants, encouraged by pilot project awards providing support for new research initiatives. Eight pilot projects are expected to lead to larger proposals, demonstrating the value of this "seed" money. Topics include the development of methods to conduct a cohort study of the determinants of hospice use in elderly patients, an investigation of dynamic insurance markets, and a recent project on familial determinants of human longevity and the inheritance of human life span.

Training activities are integral to the Center on Aging. With a third year of support from a University-administered NIA training grant (T32), we recruited two new post-doctoral fellows. They, along with NIA pre-doctoral fellows, participate in the demography workshop held during the fall, winter, and spring quarters. The workshop serves a training

function but also provides Research Associates with an opportunity to read papers, thereby serving the Center's desire to disseminate information. Research Associates, for example, presented papers on the biodemography of aging, and one guest speaker read a paper on union army pensions and elderly living arrangements. These exchanges also provided an opportunity to share information about research projects, review ideas from colleagues from different disciplines, develop new relationships and recruit new faculty. A complete catalog of presentations is available on the Center on Aging web page (<http://www.spc.uchicago.edu/coa>). The Internet has become a more important and immediate means of communicating within the demography of aging community each year and is an efficient vehicle for distributing internal information.

This year has also seen considerable additions to our data archive of surveys of interest to Center on Aging researchers. In addition, data archive staff have worked extensively with associates preparing grant proposals on aging. They have identified data collections for research project use, developed budgets for data acquisition, and consulted on numerous statistical and technical issues.

We are quite pleased with the quality and quantity of research generated from the

Center on Aging. We expect to see the vitality and leadership continue to enhance the growing reputation within NORC and on campus.

A primary source of projects has been the NIA from whom we currently have four ongoing projects. **Information on Old Age Insurance** is studying several predictions of competitive insurance to assess how the private mortality information of consumers and their experience mortality covaries with the prices and quantities of life insurance held. The project uses data from the health and retirement survey (HRS) and asset and health dynamics among the oldest old (AHEAD) to understand the relevance of information barriers to trade in old-age insurance that have explained why the elderly, especially widows, lack old-age insurance.

The second NIA project is **Functioning, Community and Living Arrangements of Elders**. By examining residential mobility and changes in living arrangements as responses to declines in physical, cognitive, emotional, and social functions, the research illustrates the social processes that create or prevent disability, developing measures of functioning, housing characteristics, and kin availability as well as analyzing the impact of dwelling and local-area characteristics on changes in residence and living arrangements.

The third, **Mortality Among Asian-American Elderly** is determining the death rates for specific elderly Asian-American populations, how death rates differ for Asian-Americans who are U.S. born rather than foreign born,

and the reliability of birth information for foreign born Asian-Americans. These data allow assessment of the implications of Asian-American population growth for theoretical work on maximum longevity.

The fourth is **Biodemographic Study of Parental Age Effects on Lifespan**, an effort to use cross-generational data on European royal and noble families. The objective is to assess the association between paternal and maternal age at conception and longevity of offspring. It also will explore the relationship between the father's age and offspring longevity to support the hypotheses that offspring born to older fathers have higher age-specific death rates and lower life expectancy than offspring born to younger fathers.

The Ogburn-Stouffer Center (OSC) has enjoyed unprecedented success in pursuit of its 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 Department of Sociology. This was accomplished through the concerted efforts of 12 faculty members from several departments who serve as Center Research Associates; more than 40 graduate student research assistants, including students from Sociology, Human Development, Education, Anthropology, Public Policy, the Divinity School, and the Business School; and several upper-level college students also served as research assistants.

The Sloan Study on Youth and Social Development finished its fifth year of field work. This multidisciplinary study continues to attract students from different disciplines in the University who are interested in studying 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. A new book, *Images of Adolescent Work*, by Charles Bidwell, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Larry V. Hedges, and Barbara Schneider, is completed and the plan is for the book to be published by Cambridge University Press.

Much of our research has focused on issues in education, especially social inequality, family formation, and the long-term consequences of schooling for individuals and their families. This has resulted in publications that concern the joint effects of schooling and English fluency on men's earnings, the effects of attitudes on school continuation beyond college, and the determinants of religious participation in young adulthood.

The **Chicago Health and Social Life Survey (CHSLS)** focused on a single metropolitan area, Chicago, and included qualitative interviews with local community leaders and service providers as well as

representative surveys of adults ages 18-59 residing throughout Cook County (including Chicago) and in each of four selected neighborhood areas within the city. The data promise to shed light on important social problems such as the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, adult outcomes of early sexual abuse, domestic violence, and sexual dysfunction. More positively, the study also measures sexual satisfaction and sexual health. Innovative network information from the population survey and rich textual data from the key informant interviews will permit analysts of the CHSLS to amplify and refine the findings from the National Health and Social Life Survey (NHSLS). Interviewing on the second and final round of the CHSLS ended in August 1997. Response rates for this difficult and sensitive study averaged 70 percent.

Substantial progress was made in completing a book draft, consisting of 12 empirical chapters devoted to additional analyses of the NHSLS. The book, entitled *The Social Organization of Sexuality: Further Studies*, will be published by the University of Chicago Press. Substantive topics include teenage sex and the Sexual Revolution, modes of sexual expression in the American adult population, abortion, adult/child sexual contact and its adult consequences, the epidemiology of sexually

transmitted infection, sexual dysfunction, and the prevalence of circumcision among American adult men and its consequences for sexual practices and spread of disease.

Ongoing project work has resulted in a number of presentations, publications, and student theses. Fourteen graduate students worked on CHSLS during 1996-97, along with two recent Ph.D. recipients from the Sociology Department. Two dissertations are currently being written based on the data, and two masters theses and a qualifying paper have already been completed. A paper co-authored by Christopher Browning and Edward Laumann titled "Sexual Contact between Children and Adults: A Life Course Perspective" is forthcoming in *American Sociological Review*. Two other papers are currently under review: "Teenage Sex and the Sexual Revolution" by Kara Joyner, Edward Laumann, and Robert Michael; and "Circumcision in the U.S.: Prevalence, Prophylactic Effects, and Sexual Practice" by Edward Laumann, Christopher Masi, and Ezra Zuckerman.

During the upcoming year, the focus will be on analysis of the new CHSLS data. As final revisions of the new book based on the NHSLS are completed and data cleaning on the CHSLS comes to a close, analysis of the Chicago data will move into full swing.

The **Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods** (PHDCN) is studying the influence of community, family, and peers on individual development in a

neighborhood setting, with particular attention to violent and criminal behaviors.

Numerous other research projects are ongoing under the auspices of the OSC at NORC: **Studying Career Choice**, funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, **Social Demography of Interpersonal Relations**, funded by the National Institute for Child Development, Ford Foundation, and Office of AIDS Research (NIH and Ford Foundation), and **Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods**, Harvard University School of Public Health. Three others are funded by the NSF: **Mover-Stayer Models for the Analysis of Event-History Data in Social Sciences Research**, **Secondary School Curricular Reform and Postsecondary Education Success**, and **Improving Science and Mathematics Learning: A School and Classroom Approach**.

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