



Annual Report 2019



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER

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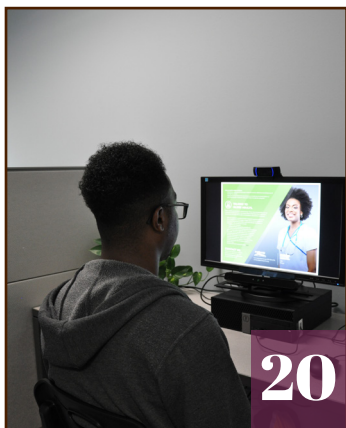
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Written and Designed by
Emile Creel

Letter from the Director



The Social Science Research Center has a long and proud tradition as a location for meaningful social science research for scholars on our campus and beyond. Its origins can be traced to the Social Science Round Table, a faculty group that began meeting shortly after World War II. This body's goal was to promote research in sociology, history, economics, political science, and other related disciplines. Its signal contribution was to advocate for the creation of a research organization to facilitate social science research on campus. From their vision and efforts grew the Social Science Research Center, which was formally recognized in 1950 as the University's first campus-wide research enterprise. Following this vision of a campus wide organization, the Center reports to the Vice President of Research and Economic Development and the Vice President for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine.

The Center, from its origin, has emphasized interdisciplinary research and the application of social science knowledge to the most critical problems facing the state, region, and nation. In addition to scholars on campus, the Social Science Research Center has become a place for scientists from other institutions to come and conduct research, study, and participate in the special environment of the Center. Collaboration across disciplines, across institutions, and even across nations is an essential feature of the Center's strategy of development.

Over the last 5 years, the Center's research programs have received over \$43 million dollars in financial support. Grants and contracts were awarded to Center scientists from over 80 extramural sources of funding, including many of the most prestigious research organizations in the nation. For example, our research is currently being supported by the National Science Foundation, National Institute of

Health, National Institute of Justice, USAID, and the Centers for Disease Control, as well as numerous other federal and state agencies. Foundation support is also important with substantial investments in the Center by the Kellogg Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and others. The amount of extramural support is among the largest for such social science enterprises nationwide.

Strong collaboration with academic departments has led to the establishment of several social science laboratories that greatly enhance the University's capabilities to carryout cutting edge research projects. The Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory was established as a joint effort between the Department of Sociology and the Department of Political Science and Public Administration in 1981. It is operating continuously as a facility for conducting rigorous academic social surveys and is responsible for hundreds of studies for projects housed at the University and beyond.

The Social Relations CollABortative is a joint venture between the Department of Psychology and the Social Science Research Center that focuses on experimentation and social relations. It is currently the home of the "The reasons for retaliation research project" that is funded by the National Institute of Justice. The Message Laboratory was recently initiated between the Department of Communications and the SSRC to lead in research on the science of science communication.

The Social, Therapeutic & Robotics Systems Laboratory (STaRS) is a joint venture between the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and the Social Science Research Center. STaRS conducts interdisciplinary research on the interaction between robots and humans and is currently funded by grants from the National Science Foundation.

The Civic Life Laboratory, our newest lab, is jointly sponsored by the Department of Communications, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, and the SSRC. It is utilizing experimentation of simulation games to study civic engagement and political polarization.

My colleagues and I are most appreciative of the fine support we receive from the leadership of Mississippi State University and are thankful for the opportunities that this fine institution has provided us.

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Cosby
William L. Giles Distinguished Professor and Director

About the SSRC

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) was established at Mississippi State University (MSU) in 1950 to promote, enhance and facilitate social science research and related scholarly activities. The Center is organized with university-wide responsibilities and reports to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and the Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. The Center offers a superior research environment with an impressive array of research opportunities and options, state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories and support units that enhance and expand both the scope and quality of social science research. The SSRC fosters a rigorous and independent research environment to ensure objective, relevant and unbiased analyses.

The success of the SSRC relies primarily on the expertise, talents and entrepreneurial skills of its scientists. Individual scientists, or self-organized teams of researchers, provide the impetus and direction of funded research projects. They determine their research agendas and benefit from the SSRC facilities as they so choose. Research fellows and research associates, supported by an administrative staff and graduate and undergraduate research assistants, conduct both sponsored and unsponsored research projects. Funding for projects comes from a variety of sources including federal and state agencies, foundations, MSU units and other public

and private entities. The SSRC research portfolio usually exceeds \$10 million a year.

Research issues that social scientists face are now so profoundly complex that their solutions demand the combined resources of multiple disciplines, multiple professions and multiple institutions. From its origin, the SSRC has had a strong interdisciplinary emphasis. Scientists from a number of disciplines, both on campus and off, come together in the SSRC to work on common research problems. It is the norm to find various combinations of such diverse disciplines as psychologists, business professors, sociologists, social workers, geographers, historians, economists and political scientists joining together to bring to bear their expertise on various research problems.

The range of interdisciplinary involvement goes beyond the social sciences. The Center often becomes a place where social scientists team with colleagues from agriculture, engineering and other disciplines. The SSRC also forms partnerships, strategic alliances and collaborative agreements with entities such as state agencies, off-campus national-level research organizations and professional groups. These various interdisciplinary research enterprises provide a steady stream of innovative projects and creative investigations.

The organizational structure of the Social Science Research Center (SSRC) is purposely flat, with several internal research units, normally led by coordinators, reporting to the Director. Project directors operate with a great deal of autonomy and take full responsibility for the conduct of their projects.

Over the years, the SSRC has developed strong working relationships with faculty members and administrators in the College of Arts & Sciences, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, the College of Business and the College of Education. In addition, it has established strong linkages with outside funding sources, including federal and state agencies, research entities and foundations.

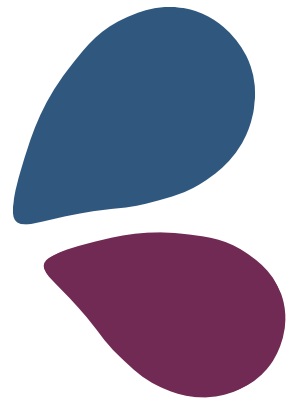
The research faculty members in the SSRC are the driving force for the Center's activities. Together, they define the Center's goals, develop research agendas, prepare and submit proposals and conduct research. The SSRC maintains a small staff of full-time research faculty to support ongoing research activities. These individuals are normally affiliated with an academic department. Other faculty members hold joint appointments on a continual basis between academic departments and the SSRC. A third category of faculty members works in the Center on a periodic basis, depending upon funding of a particular grant or contract, or is supported via summer appointments while developing research proposals. In order to facilitate the efforts of the research faculty, the SSRC seeks to maintain collegial, cooperative relationships with academic departments and other campus entities.

The Center maintains a core staff of experts to assist in the financial and personnel aspects of preparing, submitting and administering research grants and contracts, as well as individuals who manage specific Center programs, such as the Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program (MASEP). Research associates and graduate and undergraduate assistants support research and administrative activities. In addition, the Center employs many individuals on an intermittent basis to serve the needs of the individual projects.

The continued success of the SSRC is clearly dependent upon the personnel who participate in its activities. Attracting bright, capable, energetic and entrepreneurial individuals and then encouraging their continued intellectual and professional growth is a key element in the SSRC organizational philosophy. By keeping bureaucratic requirements to a minimum, the SSRC seeks to create an environment that fosters, facilitates and enables innovative and creative research efforts.

Mission Statement

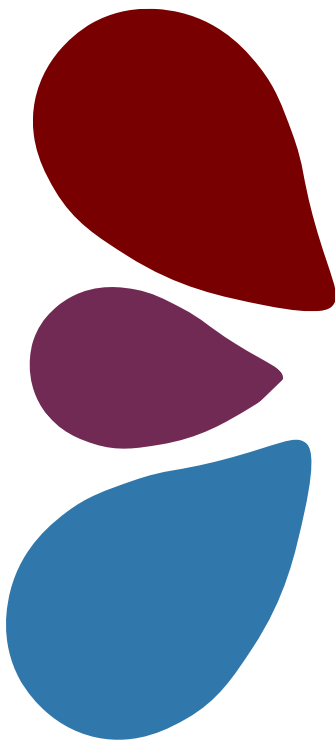
The SSRC conducts research to explore social, economic, political, human resource and social-environmental problems facing the state, nation and world. Scientists strive to present findings to a variety of constituents in a meaningful way to improve the health, safety and well-being of all people.



Statement of Goals

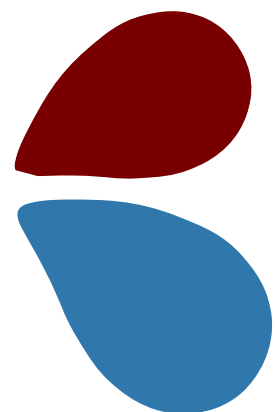
The Social Science Research Center strives to be a center of excellence for social science research that serves the entire university community. This collective ambition is reflected in our institutional goals:

- To contribute to the University's graduate and undergraduate programs by involving students in research projects through assistantships and other work arrangements.
- To conduct rigorous, objective and unbiased research on relevant social, economic, political, human resource and social-environmental problems facing the state, nation and world.
- To provide a vehicle for unique social research and public service programs that do not fit more traditional academic structures.
- To provide a support system for the University to plan, develop, secure funding for and conduct social research on problems of interest to the scientific community and to consumers of research findings.
- To provide a mechanism whereby existing social science research capabilities in the University can be matched with funding sources.



SSRC Facilities

The SSRC is currently located in the Mississippi Technology Center, in the Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park. The Mississippi Health Policy Research Center (MHPRC) is located at the CAVS E building in Canton. In addition to the core space at CAVS E, the SSRC has access to state-of-the-art conference and meeting facilities.



Special Collaborative Partnerships

In recent years, the productivity of the SSRC Scientists remains high and the support from extramural organizations is quite varied. Our research benefits from awards and partnerships from the following:

American Academy of Pediatrics
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Bezos Family Foundation
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
E Q Health Solutions
Education Services Foundation
Federal Motor Carriers
Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute
Harvard Law School
Harvard School of Public Health
MIT Election Data Science Laboratory
National Cancer Institute
National Institute of Justice
National Institute on Drug Abuse
National Institutes of Health
National Science Foundation
New York Sea Grant
Northern Gulf Institute
Rice Research and Extension Center at the University of Arkansas
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Southeastern Universities Research Association

Tec de Monterrey, Mexico
Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration
University of Applied Sciences VERN', Zagreb
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Split, Croatia
University of Tennessee, Health Science Center
University of Zagreb, Croatia
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Walton Family Foundation
Prevention Research Center at Washington University in St. Louis

Within Mississippi, the SSRC has partnerships with and/or funding from the following:

Blue Cross & Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi
The Bower Foundation
Center for Mississippi Health Policy
Center for Population Studies at University of Mississippi
College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University
Health Care Foundation of North Mississippi
Healthy Mississippi
Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program
Mississippi Area Health Education Center
Mississippi Attorney General's Office
Mississippi Association of Grantmakers
Mississippi Center for Education
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Department of Education
Mississippi Department of Human Services
Mississippi Department of Medicaid
Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Mississippi Department of Public Safety
Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

Mississippi Department of Transportation
Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning
Mississippi First
Mississippi Health and Advocacy Program
Mississippi Health Care Association
Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Mississippi Non-profits
Mississippi Office of Highway Safety
Mississippi Public Health Institute
Mississippi State Department of Health
North Mississippi Medical Center
Office of Research and Economic Development
Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control
Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi
Preusser Research Group, Inc.
Public Health Program at Jackson State University
Tougaloo College
University of Mississippi Medical Center
William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation
Women's Foundation of Mississippi

SSRC Annual Impact

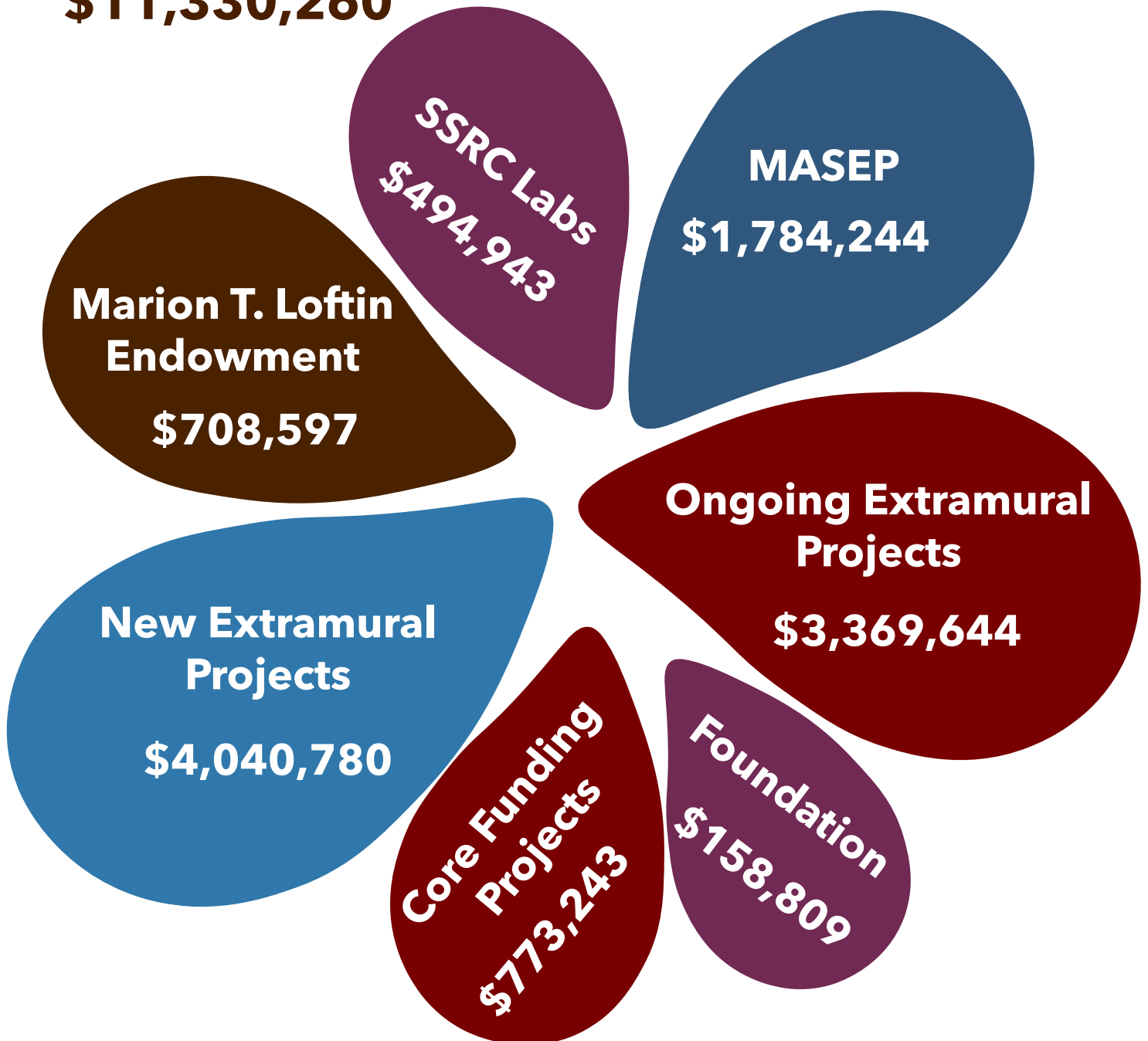
Publications 35

New Projects 25

Ongoing Projects 14

Presentations 96

**Total Funding:
\$11,330,260**



Research Fellows



Left to right: David Wanik, Allen Parrish, Melanie Loehwing, and Michelle Zhou

Melanie Loehwing

Dr. Melanie Loehwing is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at Mississippi State University. She co-founded the Civic Life Lab in 2018 as a home for her publicly engaged collaborative work on civic rhetoric and democratic culture. She is the author of *Homeless Advocacy and the Rhetorical Construction of the Civic Home* (Penn State University Press, 2018), which was recently awarded the National Communication Association's Diamond Anniversary Book Award. Her research has also been recognized with the Stephen E. Lucas Debut Publication Award from the National Communication Association and the Review of Politics Award from the Midwest Political Science Association.

Dr. Loehwing's research examines how the health of a democracy is tied to the quality of its rhetoric. She examines civic rhetorical practices such as advocacy, deliberation, and protest in order to investigate the power of communicative acts to address problems of injustice, exclusion, and polarization. With her colleagues in the Civic Life Lab, she conducts research that tests innovative communication tools designed to improve the quality of community deliberation. Her work has appeared in a variety of journals and edited volumes, including the *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Philosophy & Rhetoric*, and *Enculturation*.

Allen Parrish

Dr. Allen S. Parrish is Associate Vice President for Research and Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Mississippi State University (MSU). He works with internal and external university constituencies to facilitate research collaboration and to enhance MSU's research portfolio.

Dr. Parrish was previously Professor of Cyber Science and Founding Chair of the Department of Cyber Science at The United States Naval Academy, where he helped to start the cyber operations program. During his tenure there, the program became one of the first four ABET accredited cybersecurity programs in the country and grew to be one of the largest programs at the academy.

Prior to his time at Navy, Dr. Parrish served for 26 years on the faculty at The University of Alabama in a variety of roles, including Professor of Computer Science, Associate Vice President for Research, and Founding Director of the Center for Advanced Public Safety. Throughout his career, he has obtained approximately well over 200 funded projects totaling over \$100M from a variety of state and federal sponsors. He has published in refereed journals and conferences in areas as diverse as data science, software engineering, transportation safety and technology education. Dr. Parrish received a Ph.D. in computer and information science from The Ohio State University.

David Wanik

Dr. David Wanik recently joined the Operations and Information Management (OPIM) Department as an assistant professor-in-residence, based in Stamford, CT. He is an active researcher on risk analysis, remote sensing and smart cities. He is the former manager of the Eversource Energy Center at the University of Connecticut (UConn), where he managed research teams from UConn's Schools of Business, Engineering, and Agriculture/Health and Natural Resources. As a lecturer, he has developed two graduate classes on predictive analytics and deep learning. He has previously served as an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at UConn, as an adjunct professor of business analytics, and as a data scientist at Hartford Steam Boiler/Munich Re.

Michelle Zhou

Dr. Michelle Zhou is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Mississippi State University (MSU). Her current research interests are mainly in the area of model diagnosis, model selection, survival analysis, and longitudinal data analysis. Prior to joining MSU, she was an Assistant professor at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC, Canada. Prior to that, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard School of Public Health working with Dr. Tianxi Cai and Dr. Xihong Lin. She obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Waterloo, Canada, in 2009 under the supervision of Dr. Mary Thompson and Dr. Peter Song. Previously, she completed a Master of Math at the University of Waterloo, Canada, under the supervision of Dr. Mu Zhu.

Since joining MSU, Dr. Zhou has been working with Dr. Angela Roberson on developing gender-specific prediction model of recidivism among DUI offenders, and with Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale and Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi to investigate the effect of receiving a Soybean Success Kit on soybean yield and soybean income using Soybean Uptake & Network Survey data.



NEW UNIT FORMALIZES EVALUATION WORK

“This opens the door for collaboration, and lets others know we exist, and we are here to provide these services,” said Connie Baird-Thomas of the newly formed Evaluation and Research Group at the SSRC.

Conversations about the evaluation services they were already providing and could expand on lead Baird-Thomas, the associate director of the Social Science Center for Policy Studies and director of the Mississippi Health Policy Research Center; Sheena Gardner, an assistant research professor; and Angela Robertson, a research professor and associate director to begin discussions about the need for formalizing their evaluation efforts in a unit. Over the process of a year, they have begun working out the details of how to structure current work and build the capacity for future growth.

“We saw several needs and benefits, but specifically because of the way evaluations are funded, there’s normally a small amount of funding set aside to devote to evaluation research, and the issue we come across with short term work is we have to rearrange how our time is designated which can cause issues for several of

the projects we are working with. With this idea, we are hoping to have a better balance of how researchers’ time and the funders’ money are used. We want this to be more efficient and productive for both groups,” Gardner said.

Although the team is just now beginning as an official group under the SSRC’s umbrella, they have a long history of completing evaluations. The team has worked on evaluations for state agencies, federal and private grants, and other groups for decades. Their recent or current work includes the Mississippi Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, and the Mississippi Department of Corrections. They collectively have about 40 years’ experience with evaluations and research and each has education and training in relevant fields. Robertson has additional experience from her time working for a grant-funded program and learning the importance of evaluation as the administrator of a youth substance abuse treatment center.

“We have already built strong connections with agencies, and we want to continue to solidify that,” explained Gardner.

“Additionally, being a part of the SSRC we have a lot of support here to ask questions whether that’s on research design or the best way to do something. We also have access to other resources like the survey or message lab if the group required those services.”

In addition to this history in the work, they also note that the need for evaluations is only growing. Robertson explained that federal funding now requires an evaluation and as agencies must go to further lengths to show the usefulness of their programs and the results of those programs, skilled evaluators are needed even more.

“Many times people consider evaluation after they’ve completed a proposal. If we are brought in early, we can be proactive. We want people when they hear evaluation to turn to us,” Baird-Thomas said.

They emphasize the need to bring in the evaluator early in the process because it allows the materials to be used throughout the process. If included when the grantees are applying for the proposal, they can give a better estimate of the time it will take to complete the evaluation and the

measurement tools needed.

“We can help you think about evaluation upfront. When you’re working on your application, develop a research design. With this design, you’ll know exactly what data to collect, how to collect, the outcomes you’re looking for, and how to measure those things,” said Baird-Thomas.

Additionally, as the evaluation process continues throughout the life of the grant, an evaluator that is included in the work and regularly updated can assist the project manager in changes or modification to data collection or measurement tools, so that the organization is collecting appropriate and relevant data. Those modifications might include looking for new measurement tools or helping develop tools that can be more easily accessed.

“We are using the same skills that you would in a research project. Our backgrounds include work in quantitative and qualitative research. We bring strong expertise in the methods,” Robertson said.

“We can provide and help with certain services and then help the organizations build capacity so they can continue collecting what they need. They might not be able to afford a full-service survey from the survey lab, but we could help them develop something in-house that they can distribute themselves,” Baird-Thomas said.

Finally, the evaluators will

provide a final report of the project and its results. They use all of the data that has been collected throughout the life of the project whether that is surveys, focus groups, interviews, or additional methods. With this, they will show the effectiveness of each of the objectives of the program. This report will, of course, be sent to the funder, but additionally, it could be used in other methods like showing the public the final work or showing the sustainability of the efforts.

The team has now solidified their offerings with a website listing the services they offer, references for previous work, and contact information.

“There’s been a steady demand and increase for these services. We’ve had more and more people asking us to do work. We hope this mechanism will help better distribute the work and assist these groups,” Robertson said. ■



Contact the ERG!
evaluation.ssrc.msstate.edu
(662) 325-7127 STARKVILLE
(601) 407-2742 JACKSON

MARKING THE MILESTONES:

How the MISSISSIPPI THRIVE! project is encouraging young children's development

Families, childcare staff, and children's health care providers have important roles in early childhood development. In Mississippi, where only 30% of children under the age of five are receiving developmental screening, researchers at the SSRC are endeavoring to improve the lives of young children by reaching each of the adult groups that impact children.

"This work is important because of the poor developmental health outcomes observed among children in the state. Children should display certain skills and attributes at certain ages, called developmental milestones. Sometimes they can become delayed due to adverse childhood experiences, such as trauma or toxic levels of stress," said Heather Hanna, an assistant researcher professor at the SSRC. "A 2014 SSRC study used Ages and Stages Questionnaires to conduct developmental screenings on 1,350 (of the 1,800 total)

Mississippi four year olds attending state-funded Pre-K collaborative programs. Of the children screened, 52% had scores showing they were developmentally on track for their age group; however, 24% required monitoring, and scores of another 24% necessitated immediate referrals for a potential delay."

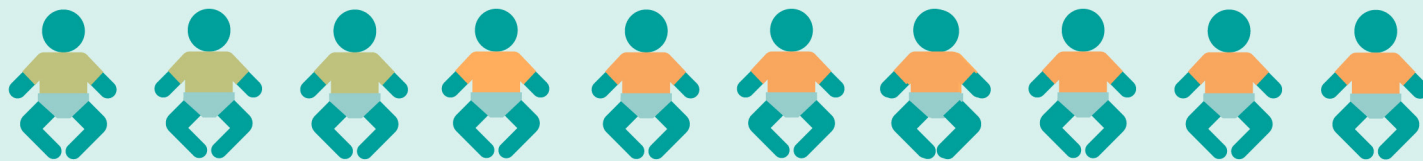
Almost three years ago the SSRC Family and Children's Research Unit, under the direction of Linda Southward, was awarded a grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and began formulating a plan for addressing the needs of children. The funding came through at 10.5 million dollars for three years to be used by the SSRC and a team at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Southward retired earlier this year after a long and impactful career, setting up the Mississippi Thrive! Child Health Development Project to continue its work by influencing policies, improving children's health through a network of



support, and raising the number of children receiving early childhood developmental health screenings.

"This project is working to improve the early childhood developmental health system in Mississippi. For so many years in Mississippi, we have used grant dollars to conduct interventions," explained Hanna, the project's current principle investigator at the SSRC, along with co-principle investigator Connie Baird-Thomas. "While temporarily improving problems, this type of work has not been sustainable. Our goal is to embed a stronger emphasis on early childhood developmental health within existing structures

Findings from the 2018 Mississippi Child Health and Development Survey indicate that only



3 out of every **10** children under 6 years of age have received a developmental health screening

and to form connections across institutions to better serve children and families.”

Digital Development

As the researchers looked into ways to sustainably meet the major goals, they connected with many state agencies and VROOM. VROOM is an initiative of the Bezos Family Foundation and has created an app that is a free download for anyone. It shares detailed tips, how to's, and examples for working with children and marking developmental milestones. Mississippi's VROOM ambassador is Heather Martin. Martin travels the state sharing about the benefits of VROOM and encouraging parents and guardians to use the app to track their child's progress through different developmental stages.

VROOM differs from other resources because it has specific tips to help parents engage with their child in small ways like asking them to take turns singing with their child while waiting for an appointment. The app then shares what skills this tip is developing in the child. These tips are available for children from birth to age five.

Brain Building

In addition to working directly with VROOM to influence parents and healthcare workers, the team is also reaching out through training and materials to work with childcare center staff. The Childcare Practice Transformation team has developed a training that is incorporated into the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Director's Orientation training for childcare workers around the state to either retain or gain certification to work in the field.

“We were charged with supporting children's growth and achievement of early developmental milestones by working through childcare centers and the teachers who are engaging with young children each day,” said Lisa Long, a research associate with the project. “When we thought through how to best reach as many child care center teachers as possible, our HRSA colleagues linked us with Dr. Chad Allgood at MSDH, who oversees the Childcare Licensure Division. Through conversations with Chad, we were invited to work with his regionally-based staff

who train and support childcare centers across the state.”

These MSDH trainers travel the state of Mississippi providing continuing education training to childcare center teachers and staff. The Childcare Practice Transformation team incorporated their material into MSDH's Director's Orientation because it is a required training for any new childcare center director or their appointee and is also a popular training for childcare center staff who are seeking to build up their required number of annual professional contact hours. The material is completed in a three-hour training session.

“We worked with both MSDH's team and Dr. Alicia Westbrook, the director of the Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center at the University of Southern Mississippi when putting together the training session draft. MSDH gave great feedback on what would complement their current training content, and the Early Childhood Inclusion Center helped us with different ways of looking at inclusion and content on how childcare centers may actively participate in monitoring

and enhancing young children’s developmental progress,” Long said.

A draft was completed and reviewed in April of 2019, and the main components centered on the structure and importance of early development. Some of the materials included PowerPoint presentation slides, but other aspects were also included to provide hands-on learning about early brain development such as the “Brain Architecture Game.”

“We hadn’t originally planned to use the game. Instead, we had slides and statistics on the science behind brain development. Then we met with the Frameworks Institute, an organization that is an amazing crafter of messages out of Washington, DC. They work with lots of different content areas, but within the early childhood field, they’ve made a huge difference in the way early childhood professionals effectively convey the meaning and importance of our work with young children and their families. Frameworks suggested using the Brain Architecture game as a way to heighten participant engagement,” Long said.

The game gives participants different scenarios that a child may encounter in their early years and depending on whether those are toxic, tolerable, or positive the participant uses different props to construct a brain. A good card like having responsive, supportive caregivers would allow the brain to be built with a sturdier

straw. A toxic card like experiencing severe neglect or caregiver substance abuse would build the brain with flimsier pipe cleaners. The game continues as participants see how each experience builds on another for the child resulting in a strong or unstable foundation for further learning and development.

“Frameworks puts it like this: Use the image of a house being built. A young child’s brain is like a house with many rooms being built and wired up. It is the foundation for the child’s future health, cognition, and behavior, so the foundation needs to be strong for future skills that will be built on top of it,” Long said.

After finishing the game, participants will discuss what they learned and observed during the activity, and then they may think about the card scenarios and consider how they would advise the parent if the child was experiencing that situation. Trainers also share resources from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early” guild for developmental milestones children typically reach between two months and five years.



Above: Director’s Orientation participants work together during the “Brain Architecture Game.”



Above: Training participants display their completed structure from the “Brain Architecture Game.”

The training has evolved after discussions with the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) and their trainers. Through this process, they have added further information on how to have conversations with families around early development and better detailed certain aspects of brain development. So far, the researchers have worked

During the past 12 months, have you received advice from a health care provider around...	Yes
...Daily interactions or relationship with your child?	51%
...Daily reading, talking, or singing to your child?	43%
...Community resources to meet your families' needs?	43%
...Helpful community resources to support your child's learning and development?	41%
...Screening your child for any development, communication, or behavioral concerns?	34%

Source: Mississippi Child Health and Development Survey, 2018

Above: Selected questions from the 2018 Mississippi Child Health and Development Survey asked to parents on the types of developmental health information they received.

with all of the regional trainers in the state, attending and assisting with MDH trainings in Hattiesburg, Pascagoula, Vicksburg, Brookhaven, and Columbus.

“This fall we are rolling out the second version of the training with some tweaks that we made over the summer,” said Long. “Hopefully, this will be the final version that we will hand over to the trainers to use for years to come.”

Providers Practices

In addition to working with childcare providers, the SSRC team is also reaching out to healthcare providers, like doctors and nurse practitioners, through its partnership with the University of Mississippi Medical Center. The Healthcare Practice Transformation team, with SSRC leads Connie Baird-Thomas and Sheena Gardner, is looking at ways to support best practices related to developmental screening in pediatric clinics.

“The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a set

schedule for developmental screening. If they are conducted at the appropriate times, then providers can assess children to see if they are progressing as expected. If they aren't and intervention is needed, a referral can be made to address the issue,” Baird-Thomas said.

The Health Care Practice Transformation team is also working with practices to introduce more messaging on developmental milestones into their current processes. The team is introducing health promotion messaging utilizing Learn the Signs, Act Early (CDC), Reach Out and Read and VROOM into waiting rooms and during well-child visits. Once the materials are available, they are working with the doctors to ensure that they are using standardized guidelines and using best practices when discussing them with parents.

“The goal of our team is to work with healthcare providers in their practices to get them to implement or improve their practices for developmental screenings, assessment, and

linkage to care. We go into the clinics and talk to them about their regular work flow, the points at which they conduct screenings, and the outcomes as they are related to referral and linkage to services. We let them determine how they would like to improve this process,” Baird-Thomas said.

Literacy Links

As a support component to each of these other teams and the team directly responsible for parent outreach, the Health Literacy group compiles and creates resources to be used in trainings, meetings, and other settings.

“Our Health Literacy team focuses on community outreach by speaking directly to individuals and filling in the gaps of where our other teams are working with professionals. We support the Health Care Practice Transformation team and Childcare Practice Transformation team in providing messaging to those professionals. We also look at the sustainability of who

in the state is already sharing our message and how can we support them and share our resources,” said Callie Poole, a research associate on the project.

This team works to identify sources like the Center for Disease Control’s developmental sheets and VROOM tip sheets to have ready for distribution. They also make sure that the different resources are appropriate and useful for the group. Poole explains that may mean providing information for early childhood professionals working on how to talk to parents if a child is showing a delay in reaching a milestone or sharing developmental milestone trackers directly with parents at

a community event. The team must know the audience they are working with and not look for a one-size-fits-all solution.

Additionally, this team has developed new documents and presentations to align with the goals of the program. They take these and the existing resources to outreach events across the state to encourage parents and community members to note developmental milestones and engage more with young children.

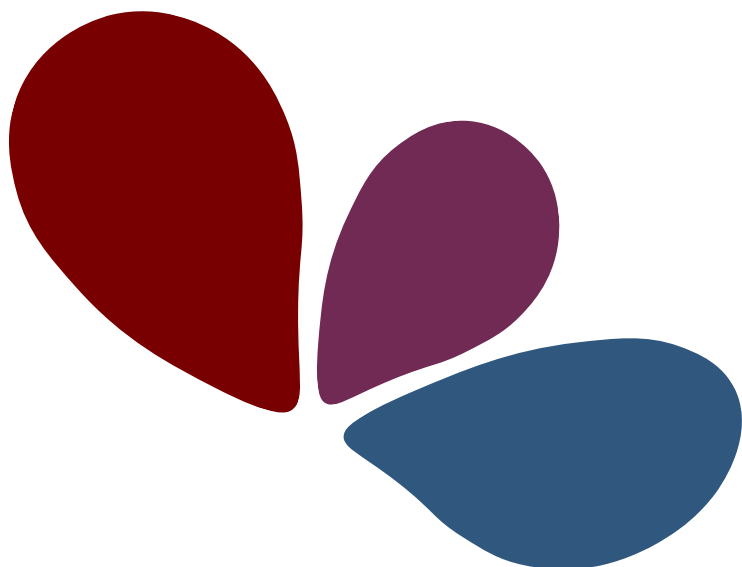
All of these efforts combine to enhance the early childhood developmental health knowledge and actions of families, childcare staff, and health care providers, thereby strengthening the

developmental health system in Mississippi.

“If we reach all of these groups, we have a better chance of identifying developmental delays and prompting intervention for children,” said Baird-Thomas. “If we have all of these groups working together, then we will have better outcomes.” ■

Visit mississippithrive.com for more information on this project.

Graphics provided by Mississippi Thrive! designer Lauren Ingram from the 2018 Mississippi Thrive! policy brief.



New Publication Considers the Intersection of Google Searches and Crime Prevention

How many times a day do you turn to Google for a question? With 98% of American adults using the Internet daily, Google has also become a common part of our searches for information. So, how does this turn to Google affect our lives and communities?

SSRC scientists with the Innovative Data laboratory are asking this same question concerning searches about crime in the recent paper “Searching for Safety: Crime Prevention in the Era of Google.” Megan Stubbs-Richardson, assistant research professor, Karissa Bergene, research associate; Austin Cosby, undergraduate research assistant, and Art Cosby, SSRC

director all worked on the project after discussion of how they could use Google Correlate in research.

“Studying public policy, I have an interest in how the Internet can shape or influence interactions between citizens and government. And anytime we can do a methodology that is innovative and different it’s neat for me,” said Bergene, a doctoral student in the Department of Public Policy and Administration.

Stubbs-Richardson, whose research has focused on crime, considered the theories in relation to how Google Correlate could be used, and after discussions with Bergene and Arthur Cosby saw an opening to look into crime prevention.

“People use Google for something as simple as how to zest a lemon while cooking to more serious matters like what is the best security system. We knew this data could help in many factors if we narrowed our questions,” Richardson said.

The team determined that for

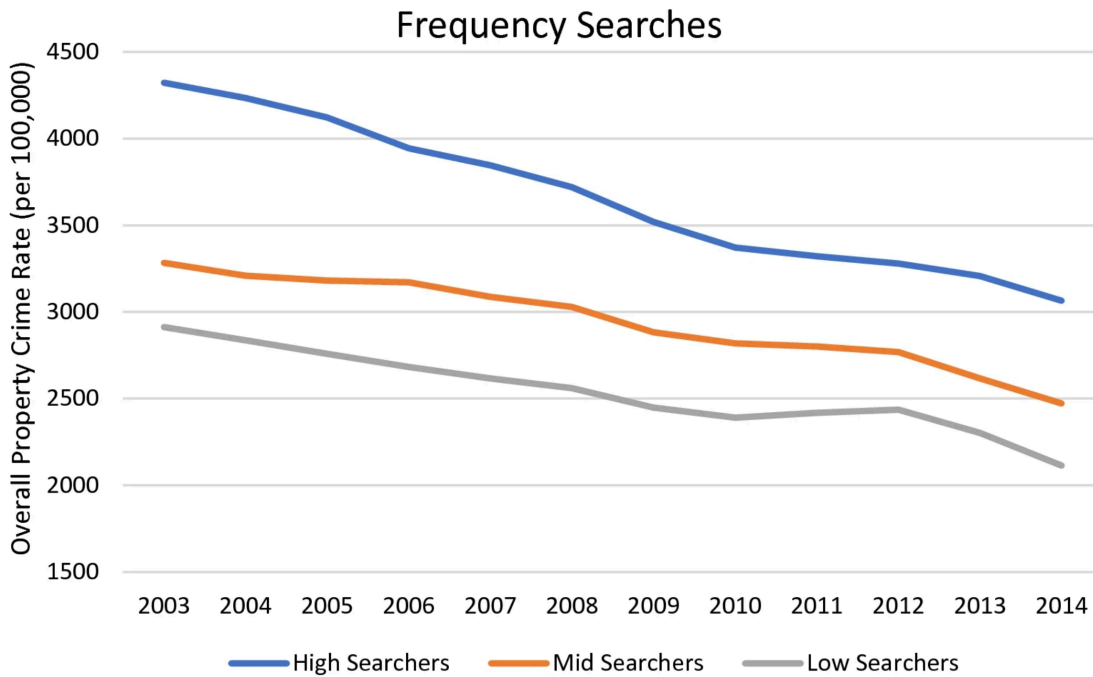
the first branch of this study, which was published in *Crime Science* in December 2018, they would look at property crime alone, although their first conversations had considered violent crime as well.

“The motivations and driving factors behind property and violent crime can vary. We knew to get the best understanding we needed to focus separately on each one at a time,” Stubbs-Richardson said.

The scientists began by looking at previous research using Internet crime searches. Other research has concentrated on violent crimes, police violence, and drug use. They then also considered the previous findings showing that property crime tends to decline in industrialized nations due to technological advances and other research that shows that “property crimes are driven by offenders’ perception of criminal opportunity” as they state in the paper.

In addition to pulling the data from Google, the scientists





Overall crime rate for high, mid, and low frequency searches

needed a data set that gave understanding to the amount and types of crime occurring in an area. The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is where they found that source. The UCR has been published yearly by the FBI since 1930. It includes data from nearly 18,000 cities, colleges, and state, and federal law enforcement agencies. From this report, the researchers were able to define specific crimes and links within property crime.

With a background understanding, they used statistical software to aggregate the data on a date range from 2003-2014. With this data range, the researchers considered three main questions: Are higher rates for property crime associated with searches for crime prevention information?; Are increased levels of crime prevention searches associated

with reductions in property crime?; and If there is a reduction, what is the magnitude of that reduction?.

These questions required the researchers to decide on what exact phrases they would consider for search inquiries. For this study, two lines of thought on crime prevention strategies were considered to hone in on the phrases that they would study. Those two are situational crime prevention and community crime prevention.

“These emphasize the context of the place or situations in which crime is more likely to occur, and we selected certain search terms because these crime prevention approaches are known to reduce criminal opportunities and crime,” explained Stubbs-Richardson.

From these crime prevention

methods, they utilized common and accepted phrases. These included terms like deadbolt, security door, alarm system, streetlights, report crime, and neighborhood crime. The next step was to merge the terms with the UCR data to look at the date ranges.

The researchers first looked at a general take on property crime by examining the average rate of property crime and its association with the selected crime prevention keywords. Then the team looked at the reduction



in property crime as associated with keywords.

“Crime has been declining since the 1990s and criminologists have looked at several factors as to why that’s occurring, but there isn’t one clear answer,” said Stubbs-Richardson. “Our study included the impact of the Internet and what part that has possibly played in the reduction”

The first analysis did in-fact show a correlation between higher rates of Google searches on crime prevention and higher property crime rates. Seventy-six Pearson correlations were reported with 66 being statistically significant. Furthermore, the analysis found connections like a higher search for “car alarm system” being correlated with motor-vehicle theft or burglary rates having a strong correlation with “home alarm system” searches.

Next, the research team wanted to know if Google searches were related to a reduction in crime rates. As they stated in the article, “The correlational analysis indicated that 57.8% of crime prevention queries were significantly correlated with crime reduction.” The more searches a state had for crime preventive queries, the higher

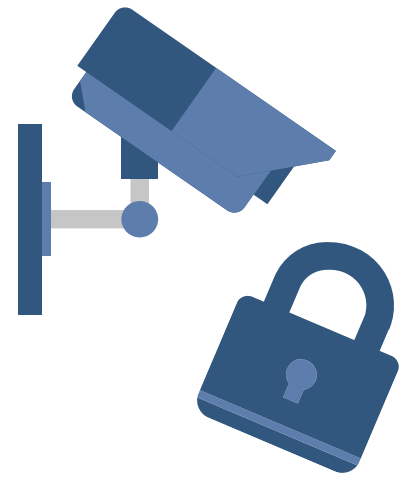


the rate of crime; however, those states experienced a higher drop in property crime over time. The team also ran ANOVAs to compare states with high, medium, and low frequency search groups. From this, Arizona showed the highest total crime reduction and the full results from that are also displayed in the publication.

“It shows that a correlation exists. Over time those areas with high crime prevention searches are exhibiting reduced crime rates. What Google data does not show us is whether an individual’s search for crime prevention items such as deadbolt or home alarm system actually lead to a purchase. The intent of the search remains unclear. However, I think additional research in this area is needed because it may shed light on the impact Internet use can have on a community,” Bergene said.

With the first phase of the research published the team is looking forward to a second study where they will concentrate on violent crime.

“I believe the research can open new considerations for the way we look at the Internet and its effects on crime and crime trends. I hope it also shows the public what a networked resource the Internet is, whether looking at serves in our daily lives, including its impact on property or violent crime reduction,” Stubbs-Richardson said.



Stubbs-Richardson continues that when an individual searches for a product like a security system or locks, marketing systems are activated. Those searches then alert retailers who direct more online advertisements toward the individual and even their neighbors.

“The power of networks, including your neighbors, co-workers, peers, family, and access to technological resources, such as the unlimited access to information that the Internet provides, all work together to create a cumulative effect in crime reduction,” Stubbs-Richardson said. “Thus, while you may not buy that security system you’ve been window shopping for online, your next-door neighbor just might.” ■

The journal article is cited below:

Stubbs-Richardson, M. S., Cosby, A. K., Bergene, K. D., & Cosby, A. G. (2018). Searching for safety: crime prevention in the era of Google. *Crime Science*, 7(1). doi: 10.1186/s40163-018-0095-3

Connecting across Communities and Organizations

SSRC scientists working with groups across campus and the country to make an impact

Scientists calculate the populations in cities, countries, and regions. They assign areas to be rural and metropolitan, but what do we know about the population living on the coasts of our planet? This question is guiding a group of researchers from the Southeastern Universities Research Association—a group that includes SSRC Director Art Cosby.

The study came about through the work of the United States' Army's Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Southeastern Universities Research Association. Cosby is working with researchers from multiple southern schools, who may have interest in the project, looking at data gathered through a technology called Land Scan.

The technology was developed and started in use about 10 years ago and each day the system scans the earth's surface and calculates the earth's population. The scans can accurately predict the Earth's population within one

kilometer. Using this information, the team is proposing several research questions and hope to build for future research after they understand the breakdown of populations across coastal areas.

“Over the years as I have completed more research like this, I've become more interested in change. I want to look at how things have changed instead of only how they differ now from a certain point in time,” Cosby said.

The researchers are currently using computer programs to breakdown and categorize what is considered a coastal region. They are interested in mapping from certain distances and then making observations from the Land Scan data at those distances.

“The heavy work has been done by Oak Ridge. Countries around the world estimate their population by geographic regions like counties, but Oak Ridge developed an application that makes assumptions like people don't live on water or

steep elevations and applied to the model,” he said.

Cosby believes this research could go on to impact multiple areas not limited to coastal erosion research and coastal economics, further continuing it's interdisciplinary impact.

As the team works with researchers from around the Southern United States, another SSRC scientist is crafting the messages for a project centered around the state of Mississippi.

Crafting a Prevention Message for Mississippi

“The language we use matters. Standardizing our messages gives a comfort to the [extension] agents because this is so different from what our agriculture agents, especially, routinely do,” said David Buys, assistant professor in Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion and State Health Specialist with Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension.

The importance of the messaging is why MSU Extension researchers and practitioners brought together expertise from across Mississippi State’s campus to implement the Preventing Opioid Misuse In the SouthEast—or PROMISE—Initiative including SSRC researcher and research fellow Holli Seitz. PROMISE is led by a dedicated team of interdisciplinary researchers, scholars, and scientists working to aid in the prevention of opioid misuse across the state of Mississippi with a special focus on those working in or around agriculture. Seitz is working with the team as the communications specialist utilizing the software and resources from the SSRC Message Laboratory she directs.

The PROMISE Initiative began two years ago when Buys and the MSU Extension office were awarded the first round of funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The project is continuing with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Buys said that for reporting purposes, they refer to PROMISE 1.0 and 2.0, but the team operates the Initiative as a single effort.

Other departments represented on the team include Animal and Dairy Science and Human Development and Family Sciences.

Early work included community engagement, extension agent education, a social media campaign, and the placement



Above: A test participant views PROMISE Initiative messaging in the Message Laboratory using eye-tracking software.



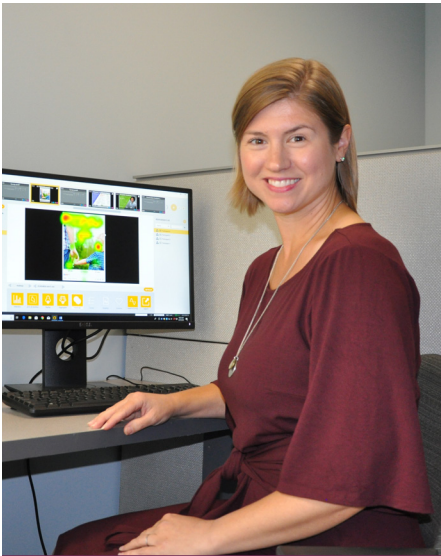
Above Left: The heat map aggregates eye-tracking data from all participants to show where they looked and for how long. Red signifies the areas that received the most attention and green the least. Above right: The gaze plot shows the order in which a participant looked at a location on the image (signified by the number in the circle at that location) and how much time was spent looking at that location (indicated by the diameter of the circle). (Images provided by Holli Seitz.)

of prescription drug take-back boxes.

“Through all of this work, we realized there is a great need in the agriculture community because they are sometimes at a higher risk of injury or under a greater stress level. Our focus is looking to rural communities and sharing prevention messages with them, and Dr. Seitz is

instrumental in developing that messaging,” said Mary Nelson Robertson, PROMISE project coordinator.

Seitz came on board as part of the team to develop and hone the messages that would be used to reach extension agents and the community. The team developed six key objectives that guide the initiative. Seitz worked to design messages for



Holli Seitz analyzes PROMISE Initiative messaging in the lab she directs at the SSRC.

bookmarks, mailers, and online graphics that are distributed to extension agents and the public.

She has also participated with the team in Mental Health First Aid training and can now serve as a facilitator of the training, which teaches participants how to notice the signs of mental health distress and how to recommend first steps like listening and suggesting the individual consider professional assistance or self-care practices.

“This training has made me more aware of the importance of the language we use. I’m aware of mental health in a more holistic way, and that definitely factors into the way we craft our messages for the campaign. It’s been more beneficial than I first realized in shaping my philosophy as we do message development,” Seitz said.

An additional area of the project that has seen input from Seitz

is the connection with Stand Up, Mississippi, an organization that is also working to fight opioid misuse in Mississippi. One of the main goals of the group is dealing with treatment and overcoming an addiction, whereas the PROMISE Initiative strives to proactively prevent misuse. The groups have used cohesive language, and Seitz has crafted messaging that will be used on Stand Up, Mississippi’s website and social media.

“In addition to building collaborations across campus, we quickly realized that to be as effective as possible, we also needed to work outside of the academic realm,” explained Buys. “These state agencies like the Department of Mental Health and Stand Up, Mississippi are doing some aspects the implementation work as we do the background research.”

In the Message Laboratory, Seitz conducted formative research to understand the wording and images that key audiences responded to best. The messages have been placed in the field by extension agents across the state, and they will additionally be highlighted in key counties where project staff will spend time on the other key component of the initiative: take-back boxes.

Prescription take-back boxes are found in law enforcement agencies or some pharmacies and they are a safe, free way for community members to dispose unused medications. The initiative has spent time

and messaging on encouraging communities to utilize take-back boxes for medications that they no longer need.

“Essentially with these take-back boxes, that look like large mailboxes inside the pharmacy, individuals can drop off medications they no longer need. We’ve designed a mailer to go out to multiple counties in the state to help people learn about their local locations and encourage the use of the boxes,” said Robertson. “Our formative research showed that people aren’t sure where to return medicine, so we want to increase that knowledge and the number of people using the boxes.”

Seitz will begin a second round of research on her messaging this year, and this time she will utilize eye-tracking software in the laboratory to identify where participants’ eyes are drawn in the message or graphic to better shape the final messages.

“In this phase, we have completed an online survey of Mississippi residents, and now with the eye-tracking software, we will be testing our drafted messages to see which of those will be used for social media, websites, and other outlets,” Seitz said.

Seitz’s work is only one piece of the greater project that Extension hopes is making an impact across the state in the agriculture community and to many others that they contact.

“My skills really complemented their skills. I could bring in the communications piece and add to the work they were already doing,” Seitz said.

“Bringing all of these experts together amplifies who we can reach. Not only are we touching individuals, but the communities and families. It makes a stronger project to have the different backgrounds coming together,” Robertson said.

Collaborating with a Center for Excellence

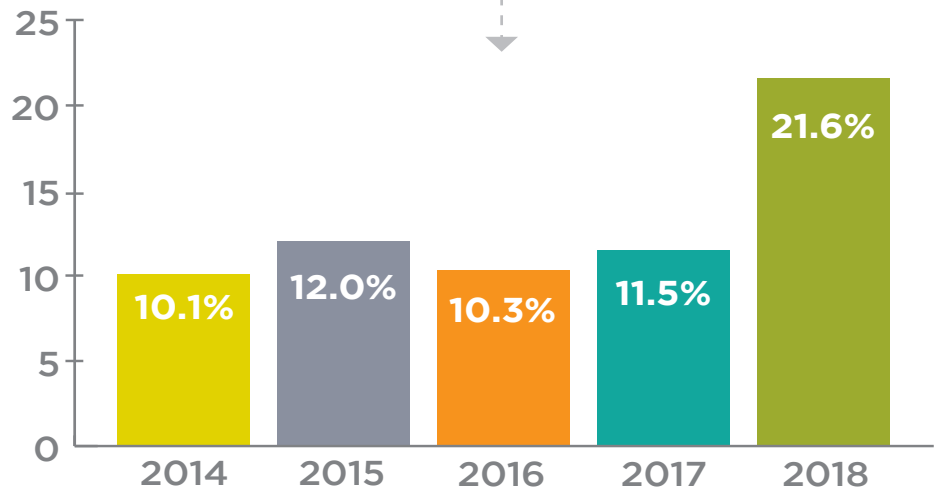
Another scientist from the SSRC has a long history in the work of a greater consortium. Robert McMillen, a professor and lead researcher on several projects, is an active member of the Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence, a group of researchers from across the country that convene through funding from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The group studies differing effects of tobacco use and smoking near children. McMillen specifically contributes to the group by collecting research on the social reaction to tobacco use that the Tobacco Control Unit at the SSRC has studied and surveyed for years and working with other survey data to answer the group’s research questions.

“We work directly with pediatricians and also advocate and lobby at multiple levels. At the federal level, members of the group have testified to

2018 Mississippi Youth Tobacco Survey Data

Past 30-Day E-Cigarette Use among High School Students >> **Almost Doubled** << Over the Past Year



the FDA and congress. Then at the local level, if there’s a pediatrician that advocates for a smoke-free ordinance, there’s a good chance the alderman and officials of that town have children who see that doctor, so the message resonates. We publish and advocate for system changes in clinics and policy changes, but we also generate a lot of academic research,” said McMillen of the group that was formed in 2006.

McMillen cites one the strengths of the group being the diverse backgrounds that they come from. Practitioners from Johns Hopkins University, scholars from Ohio State

University and Dartmouth, with backgrounds in the biology and social aspects have allowed the group to be recognized by congressional and judicial leaders as well as prominent academic circles.

“Almost all of the group are pediatricians except for a few like myself and a couple of lawyers and clinical psychologists, but we all have academic appointments, so we are expected to produce research. We found that smoking parents actually expect or want to be counseled by their child’s pediatrician. We published some of the first articles on the use of e-cigarettes

particularly the overwhelming use of e-cigarettes by minors,” McMillen said.

The group has continued to keep up with the trends in the field submitting new research questions for study each year to the Academy of Pediatrics and is recognized across government and media as being the experts of their study.

“It’s been a very productive group with regard to having an

impact on public conciseness and policy. It’s been a fun group to be a part of because of that impact and being a part of the discussion for change,” McMillen said.

An underlying theme of the research at the SSRC is its connection to other institutions, and each these researchers as well as the multiple others emphasis the strength and depth added to their research by working with colleagues outside

of their organizations.

“One of the strengths of the SSRC is that interdisciplinary and interinstitutional work really is an asset. It’s good to get out of your own department and that brings exposure for our work to be connected to national organizations,” McMillen said. ■

For more information on PROMISE, visit extension.msstate.edu/the-promise-initiative.

Visit www.mstobacodata.org/ to learn more on tobacco usage in Mississippi.

MTD graphics provided by MTD designer Miranda Robertson.

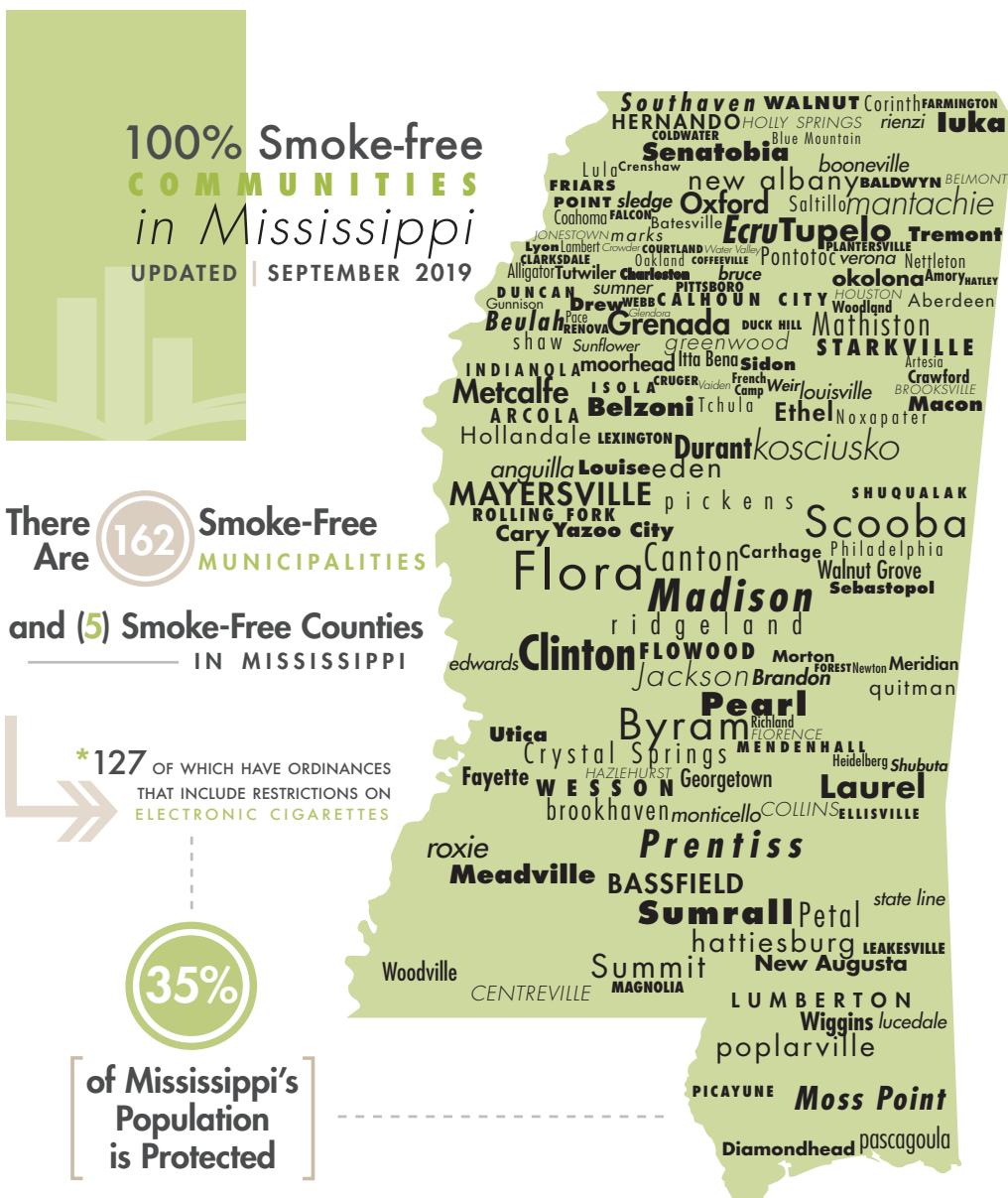


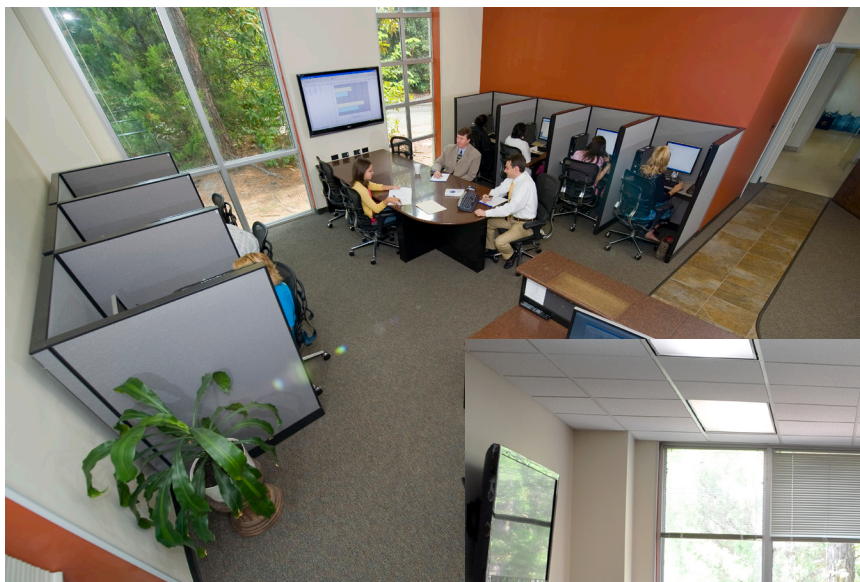


Photo by Alan Burns

Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory

In the past year, the Wolfgang Frese Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) collected data for eleven significant research projects covering a broad range of topics. The SRL gauged the physical activity levels of hundreds of individuals living in rural southeast Missouri; measured the opinions of more than 10,000 public school teachers across the state of Mississippi regarding current student testing practices; evaluated the levels of diversity, inclusion, and perceived quality of life in Northwest Arkansas; explored the attitudes of Mississippians toward charter schools; investigated reasons why some MSU Freshmen leave school after their first semester; polled members of the MSU community regarding their preferences for a variety of soft-drink products; and measured the degree to which Mississippians live in smoke free homes, work in smoke free environments, and understand the health risks of using tobacco. Additionally, the SRL continued its work in collecting client satisfaction data for two state agencies that provide critical services to Mississippians in need. This year, the SRL completed its 17th annual client satisfaction survey for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and its 4th annual client satisfaction survey for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

The SRL has experienced another successful year in contributing to the overall productivity of the Social Science Research Center. Dr. John F. Edwards began his twelfth year of directing the SRL, with the continued assistance of Laura Grandfield as laboratory manager, Izzy Pellegrine as SSRC project manager, and Amanda Gochanour as SSRC research associate. With the increased volume of survey related research, the SRL has welcomed Laura Jean Kerr and Erin King as graduate level research assistants. In the past year, the SRL has also maintained a staff of more than 40 telephone interviewers. Additionally, Dr. Wolfgang Frese has continued to lend his expertise in survey methodology as an Emeritus Research Professor.



Multilevel Approaches for Promoting Physical Activity in Rural Communities

The SRL partnered with the Prevention Research Center at Washington University in St. Louis to collect data for a large-scale research project funded by the National Institutes of Health. The purpose of this research is to better understand the physical activity practices of people living in rural southeast Missouri. The SRL has recruited hundreds of survey respondents for participation in a telephone-based survey that tracks the respondents' levels of physical activity over a three year period. This data collection effort has established a baseline for the respondents' physical activity and will continue to track related constructs during and following intervention methods designed to increase the physical activity practices of residents in rural communities.

MSU Survey of Freshmen Students: Reasons for Not Reenrolling for the Spring 2019 Semester

On behalf of Provost at Mississippi State University, the SRL worked with the University's Pathfinder Program to better understand why some first-time freshmen did not re-enroll at MSU for the second semester of their freshmen year. The results of this telephone-based survey provided valuable information regarding a variety of reasons some first-time freshmen do not successfully complete their freshmen year at MSU.

2019 Mississippi State University Soft Drink Vendor Preference Survey

As part of the selection process for a local vendor to supply MSU with soft drink products, the Department of Procurement and Contracts worked with the SRL to measure the opinions of MSU students, employees, and alumni regarding their preferences for products produced by two major soft drink companies: Coca-Cola and Pepsi. Respondents' opinions for 12 competing products from each company were examined via a telephone-based survey of 1,500 individuals (500 students, 500 employees, and 500 alumni). Results from this survey aided the Department of Procurement and Contracts in its decision-making process.

Mississippi State Medical Association Statewide Survey

On behalf of the Mississippi State Medical Association, the SRL conducted a telephone-based survey with a representative sample of 500 Mississippians to better understand the general public's knowledge and opinions regarding medical treatment by physicians and nurse practitioners.

Teachers Survey of Public School Testing and Assessment

In 2018, the Mississippi Department of Education established the Mississippi Student Testing Task Force to examine current student testing on the state and local school district levels and to determine best practices for monitoring student progress in meeting grade-level and subject-area learning goals. On behalf of the task force, the SRL conducted a web-based survey more than 10,000 public school teachers to measure their opinions regarding the current process of student testing as it relates to monitoring student progress.

(Continued on the next page.)

2018 Mississippi Vocational Rehabilitation Client Satisfaction Survey

On a quarterly basis, the SRL conducted telephone-based interviews with approximately 250 individuals who received vocational rehabilitation services from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) during the prior 12 months. This client satisfaction data assists the MDRS in program evaluation and development.

2018 MDMH Client Satisfaction Survey

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (MDMH), the SRL conducted an online, tablet-based survey of client satisfaction. For a three-week period, all clients receiving mental health services throughout the state of Mississippi were provided with an opportunity to share their opinions about the quality of services they received from MDMH. The results of this survey are used to improve the quality of MDMH services.

Survey of Diversity and Inclusion Initiative in Northwest Arkansas

On behalf of Converge, an NGO headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, the SRL conducted a telephone based survey with a representative sample of 600 residents of Northwest Arkansas. The purpose of this research is to measure the level of diversity and inclusion in Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas and better understand public attitudes toward these constructs.

2018 Mississippi Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control

On behalf of the Tobacco Control Unit at the Social Science Research Center, the SRL administered the Mississippi Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control. Results from this survey assist researchers in better understanding the degree to which people in Mississippi live in smoke free homes, work in smoke free environments, understand the health risks using tobacco, and talk to their children about tobacco use. Funding for this research was provided by the Mississippi State Department of Health. This telephone-based survey of the general public included a representative sample of 1,500 adults residing in the state of Mississippi.

2018 Northwest Arkansas Quality of Life Survey

On behalf of The Walton Family Foundation, the SRL conducted a survey of perceived quality of life in Northwest Arkansas. This included measures related to health, safety, education, community activities, and the quality of local services. This telephone-based survey was administered to a representative sample of 1,000 adults residing in Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas.

Mississippi Charter School Survey

On behalf of the Mississippi Charter Schools Authorization Board and Mississippi First, the SRL conducted a survey of parents in Hinds and Coahoma Counties, Mississippi. The survey respondents included 500 parents who have a child attending a charter school and 500 parents who have a child eligible to attend a charter school, but not enrolled in one. The purpose of this project was to provide Authorization Board members with a better understanding of parents' attitudes and opinions regarding charter schools.



Photo by Alan Burns

Grants & Contracts

New Projects

Baird-Thomas, C. & Southward, L. (2019, April). "Vroom Outreach Project," Bezos Family Foundation.

Cossman, R. E. (2018, September). "Mississippi HPV Vaccination Promotion, Year 5," National AHEC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gardner, S. (2019, January). "2018 Division of Youth Services Report," Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Gardner, S. (2019, January). "Fannie Lou Hamer's America Evaluation," Fannie Lou Hamer's America Team, W.K. Kellogg Foundation/Tougaloo College.

Gardner, S. (2019, January). "Disproportionate Minority Contact 2018 Report," Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

Gardner, S. (2019, March). "Rankin County Youth Court Drug Court Evaluation," Rankin County Youth Court, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency.

Hanna, H. & Baird-Thomas, C. (2018, September). "HRSA Early Childhood Development Health System: Implementation in a High Need State," University of Mississippi Medical Center, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Hanna, H. & Southward, L. H. (2019, January). "Mississippi KIDS COUNT 2018," Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Hanna, H. (2018, July). "The Mississippi YOU COUNT! Collaborative," Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Ragsdale, K. (2018, September). "Innovate 4 Fish Feed the Future Fish Innovation Lab," US Agency on International Development.

Loehwing, M. (2018, October). "Testing Mindfulness Interventions on Group Deliberation Practices," Mississippi State University, Office of Research and Economic Development.

McMillen, D.L. (2018, July). "Pathfinder, Year 20," Mississippi State University, Office of the Provost.

McMillen, R. & Valentine, N. (2018, July). "Surveillance and Evaluation Services for the Mississippi Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program," Mississippi State Department of Health.

McMillen, R. (2018, July). "Data Sets," American Academy of Pediatrics, Flight Attendant Medical Research Center.

McMillen, R. (2018, August). "Smoke-free Policy Disparities and Outcomes in Rural communities in Southern States," University of Kentucky College of Nursing, National Institutes of Health.

Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M. (2018, September). "Focus 4 Teens Evaluation, Year 4," Mississippi First, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M. (2018, November). "USAID Soy Project, Year 6," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US Agency on International Development.

Ragsdale, K. & Read-Wahidi, M. (2019, March). "Fish 4 Zambia," US Agency on International Development.

Robertson, A. A., Fountain, B., & Baird-Thomas, C. (2018, September). "Advancing, Inspiring, Motivation for Community Health through Extension (AIM for CHANGE)," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Robertson, A. A. (2018, July). "Mississippi State Department of Health Asthma Control Program Evaluation," Mississippi State Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Robertson, A. A. (2019, April). "Evaluation of the Second Chance Act Re-Entry Program for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders," Mississippi Department of Mental

Health, United States Department of Justice.

Seitz, H. H. (2018, October). "Advancing Undergraduate Research in Communication Science," Mississippi State University Office of Research and Economic Development.

Walker, B. (2018, October). "Child Care Pandemic Influenza Analysis," American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control Prevention.

Walker, B. (2019, January). "Philanthropic Giving in Mississippi," Mississippi Association of Grantmakers.

Walker, B. (2019, March). "Mississippi School Health Council Technical Assistance Project, Year 5," Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Ongoing Projects

Bell, L. & Southward, L. H. (2017, October). "Children's Foundation of Mississippi Planning," W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Baird-Thomas, C. & Southward, L. H., (2018, March). "Mississippi Interactive Data Project," W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Cossmann, R. E. (2017, May). "Mississippi HPV Vaccination Promotion, Year 4," National AHEC, Centers for Disease Control.

Gardner, S. (2016, February). "2017 Division of Youth Services Report," Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Gardner, S. (2018, March). "Disproportionate Minority Contact Report," Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

Gardner, S. (2018, June). "MAG Evaluation," Community Foundation for Mississippi- W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Hanna, H. & Southward, L. H., (2018, January). "Mississippi KIDS COUNT," Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Parrish, D. (2017, August). "Observational Seat Belt Survey Site Re-Selection," Mississippi Governor's Office of Highway Safety, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Ragsdale, K. (2017, September). "Focus4Teens Evaluation, Year 3," Mississippi First, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ragsdale, K. (2017, October). "USAID Soy Project, Year 5," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US Agency on International Development.

Ragsdale, K. (2017, October). "Feed the Future Analytic Literature Review: Harnessing the Potential for Rural Youth-Inclusive Agri-Food Systems Livelihoods—A Landscape Analysis," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US Agency on International Development.

Sinclair, H. C., Goldberg, R., May, D., & Stubbs-Richardson, M. (2018, January). "When does rejection trigger aggression? A multi-method examination of a multi-motive model," National Institute of Justice.

Southward, L. H., Hanna, H., Baird-Thomas, C. (2017, September). "HRSA Early Childhood Development Health System: Implementation in a High Need State," University of Mississippi Medical Center, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Walker, B. (2018, March). "Mississippi School Health Council Technical Assistance Project, Year 4," Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Publications

Peer Reviewed & Book Chapters

Bowser, D., Henry, B. F., Wasserman, G. A., Knight, D., Gardner, S., Krupka, K., Grossi, B., Cawood, M., Wiley, T. & Robertson, A. (2018). Comparison of the Overlap between Juvenile Justice Case Processing and Screening & Referral to Behavioral Health Services. *Journal of Applied Juvenile Justice Services*, 5(1): 96-125.

Cosby, A.G., McDoom-Echebiri, M., James, W., Khandekar, H., Brown, W., & Hanna, H. (2018). Growth and Persistence of Place-Based Mortality in the United States: The Rural Mortality Penalty. *American Journal of Public Health*.

Cosby, A. G., Mendez, G. R., & Khandekar, H. (2018). Data-Intensive Alternatives for Human Adaptation to Coastal Change. *Tomorrows Coasts: Complex and Impermanent Coastal Research Library*, 319–340. doi: [10.1007/978-3-319-75453-6_20](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-75453-6_20).

Dennis, M.L., Smith, C.N., Belenko, S., Knight, D, McReynolds, L., Rowan, G., Dembo, R., DiClemente, R., Robertson, A., & Wiley, T. (In Press). Operationalizing a behavioral health services cascade of care model: Lessons learned from a 33-site implementation in juvenile justice community supervision. *Federal Probation Journal*.

Felmlee, D. & Sinclair, H. C. (2018). Social networks and personal relationships. Invited chapter for A. Vangelisti & D. Perlman (Eds.) *The Cambridge Handbook of Personal Relationships*. London, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 467-480.

Gardner, S. K., Elkington, K. S., Knight, D. K., Huang, S., DiClemente, R. J., Spaulding, A. C., Oser, C. B., Robertson, A. A., & Baird-Thomas, C. (2019). Juvenile Justice Staff Attitudes about HIV/STI Prevention, Testing, and Treatment Linkage. *Health & Justice*, 7(15), 1-8. doi.org/10.1186/s40352-019-0096-7.

Groner, J., Rule, A., McGrath-Morrow, S., Collaco, J., Moss, A., Tanski, S., McMillen, R., Whitmore, R., Klein, J. D., Winickoff, J. P., & Wilson, K. (2018). Assessing pediatric tobacco exposure using parent report: comparison with hair nicotine. *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*. doi.org/10.1038/s41370-018-0051-z.

Kelly, K. & Gochanour, A.A. (2018). Racial Reconciliation or Spiritual Smokescreens?: Blackwashing the Crisis Pregnancy Center Movement. *Qualitative Sociology*, 41(3):1-21.

Kelly, K. & Gochanour, A.A. (2019). Men and 'Post Abortion Syndrome': Claims Versus Evidence. *European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Healthcare*. 24(1): 13-17.

Loehwing, M. (2018). *Homeless advocacy and the rhetorical construction of the civic home*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press.

McClelland, E., Valentine, N., Gorzkowski, J., Winter, A., & McMillen, R. (2019). JUUL Awareness, Trial, and Continued Use among Undergraduate Students in Mississippi. *Journal of the Mississippi Medical Association*, 60 (2), 44-50.

McMillen R, Klein JD, Wilson K, Winickoff JP, & Tanski S. (2019). E-Cigarette Use and Future Cigarette Initiation Among Never Smokers and Relapse Among Former Smokers in the PATH Study. *Public Health Reports*, 134, 528-536.

McMillen, R., McClelland, E., & Winter, A. (2018). Smoke-Free Ordinances in Mississippi Predict Lower Hospital Admission Rates for Acute Cardiovascular, Stroke, and Pulmonary Events. *Journal of the Mississippi Medical Association*, 59, 285-288. https://www.msmaonline.com/M/Public/Journal_MSMA/Current%20issue/Public/Journal/JMSMA.aspx?hkey=06a011a7-2233-41a8-9c02-0ab814ae9e12.

McMillen, R., Tanski, S., Wilson, K., Klein, J. D., & Winickoff, J. P. (2018). Adolescent use of different e-cigarette products. *Pediatrics*, 142. doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-0260.

McMillen, R., Winickoff, J. P., Gottlieb, M., Tanski, S., Wilson, K., & Klein, J. D. (2019). Public Support for Smoke-Free Section 8 Public Housing. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*. doi.org/10.1177/0193945919826238.

Nichols, C. R., Wright, L. D., Bainbridge, S. J., Cosby, A., Hénaff, A., Loftis, J. D., ... Zarillo, G. (2019). Collaborative Science to Enhance Coastal Resilience and Adaptation. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00404.

Pourebahim, N., Sultana, S., Edwards, J., Gochanour, A., & Mohanty, S. (2019). Understanding Communication Dynamics on Twitter During Natural Disasters: A Case Study of Hurricane Sandy. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 37: 1-19.

Radican-Wald, A., Edwards, J., Parrish, D. R., and Gochanour, A. (2019). Policies on Hand-Held Mobile Device Use While Driving: Considerations for Mississippi. *Journal of Public Health in the Deep South*, 1(1).

Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Wei, T., Martey, E., & Goldsmith, P. (2018). Using the WEAL+ to explore gender equity and agricultural empowerment: Baseline evidence among men and women smallholder farmers in Ghana's Northern Region. *Journal of Rural Studies*. doi: 10.1016/j.jrurstud.2018.09.013.

Schapira, M. M., Hubbard, R., Seitz, H. H., Conant, E., Schnall, M., Cappella, J. N., Harrington, T., Inge, C., & Armstrong, K. (2019). The impact of a breast cancer screening decision aid on initiation of screening among younger women: Report of a randomized trial. *MDM Policy & Practice*. doi: [10.1177/2381468318812889](https://doi.org/10.1177/2381468318812889).

Stubbs-Richardson, M., Cosby, A. K., Bergene, K. D., & Cosby, A. G. (2018). Searching for Safety: Crime Prevention in the Era of Google. *Crime Science*, 7(21). doi.org/10.1186/s40163-018-0095-3.

Robertson, A. A., Zhou, Q. M., Tatch, A., & Walsh, M. (In Press). Gender-Specific Predictors of Recidivism among DUI Offenders. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

Robertson, A. A., Hiller, M., Dembo, R., Dennis, M., Scott, C., Henry, B., & Elkington, K. (2019). National Survey of Juvenile Community Supervision Agency Practices and Caregiver Involvement in Behavioral Health Treatment. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 1-11. doi.org/10.1007/s10826-019-01488-4. NIMHMS#1531953

Robertson, M. N., Williams, D., Seitz, H., Downey, L., Hardman, A., & Buys, D. (2019). The PROMISE Initiative: Who should give patients information on opioids? *Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association*, 60(2).

Tatch, A., Yigit, I. H., Brown, D., & Robertson, A. A. (2019). Examining the Role of Race and Gender as Moderators of the Relationship between Depressive Symptoms and Hazardous Alcohol Consumption among DUI Offenders. Forthcoming, *Sociological Spectrum*.

Valentine, N., McClelland, E., & McMillen, R. (2019). Smoke-free local ordinances and household policies protect youth from combustible tobacco, but ordinances appear to have little impact on non-combustible tobacco use. *Children*, 4, doi:10.3390/children6030044.

Yoon, S., Quinn, C. R., McCarthy, K. S., & Robertson, A. A. (2019). The effects of child protective services and juvenile justice system involvement on academic outcomes: Gender and racial differences. *Youth & Society*, 1-22.

Project & Policy Publications

Burns, M. A. (2018). 2018 SSRC Annual Report. Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University. <https://ssrc.msstate.edu/2018-annual-report>.

Hanna, H. (2019). Will children in your state get the support they need? It depends on the 2020 census. *The Conversation*. [https://theconversation.com/will-children-in-](https://theconversation.com/will-children-in-your-state-get-the-support-they-need-it-depends-on-the-2020-census-116245)

[your-state-get-the-support-they-need-it-depends-on-the-2020-census-116245](https://theconversation.com/will-children-in-your-state-get-the-support-they-need-it-depends-on-the-2020-census-116245).

Hanna, H. (2019). KIDS COUNT 2019 Annual Fact Book Release. Press interviews: Mississippi Public Broadcasting Mississippi Edition June 14; WCBI June 20; Mississippi Today June 17.

McMillen, R. (2018). A vaccine to stop lung cancer? It's made from tobacco taxes and legislation. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/a-vaccine-to-stop-lung-cancer-its-made-from-tobacco-taxes-and-legislation-10>.

Read-Wahidi, M.R., Ragsdale, K., Lower, K., & Yarbrough, T. (2018). WEAI+ Wave II Preliminary Results: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index & Smallholder Soybean Farmers in Ghana. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University. 30 pages. doi: [10.13140/RG.2.2.10206.08009](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.10206.08009).

Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Lower, K., Yarbrough, T. (2019). Focus4Teens Evaluation: Results from the YR3 Parent Focus Group Discussions and YR3 Parent Surveys. Teen Health Mississippi and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University. 35 pages.

Stubbs-Richardson, M. (2019). Has the power of the Internet been a factor in crime reduction? *BMC Blog: Biomedcentral.com*. <http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/on-society/2019/02/01/power-internet-factor-crime-reduction/>.

Yigit, I. H. (2018). Review of the Mass Religious Ritual and Intergroup Tolerance: The Muslim Pilgrims' Paradox, by Mikhail A. Alexseev and Sufian N. Zhemukhov. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Studies*, 5(2): 196-200. <http://www.ejecs.org/index.php/JECS/article/view/141/pdf>.

Presentations

- Abernathy, T. (2018, August). *Pathfinders Program Overview*. Invited presentation at the Mississippi State University Department of Housing and Residence Life.
- Abernathy, T. & McMillen, D. (2018, August). *Pathfinders Program Overview*. Invited presentation at the Mississippi State University Department of English.
- Bergene, K. D. (2019, June). *Innovative Data Sources for Crime and Public Policy*. Presented at Civil Discourse and High Threats: Croatia Overcoming Socio-Political Challenges, Split, Croatia.
- Bergene, K. D. (2019, June). *The Current State of Cybersecurity in American Public Administration: Vulnerabilities, Policies, and Perspectives*. Presented at Civil Discourse and High Threats: Croatia Overcoming Socio-Political Challenges, Split, Croatia.
- Bergene, K. D. & Cosby, A. G. (2019, February). *Innovative Data Sources for Sociological Research: A Student-oriented Introduction to using Google Ngram, Google Data, Google Street View, and Twitter Data*. Presented at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Annual Conference, Starkville, MS.
- Buffington, A., Long, L., Walker, B.H. (2018, August). *Disciplinary procedures in Mississippi's public schools: a look at what educators have to say*. Presented at Mississippi Department of Education Conference on Chronic Absenteeism, Jackson, MS.
- Buffington, A & Stouffer, C. (2019, March). *Updates on the deployment of numerous new features on TRAPS 2.0. as well as presenting a three-hour training session at the quarterly training for the Office of Tobacco Control Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition directors and their Fiscal Agents*. Sports Hall of Fame, Jackson, MS.
- Calderon, W. (2019, March). *Rebuilding main street: Board games and civic engagement*. Presented at the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in Memphis, TN.
- Cossman, R. E. (2018, November). *Data Documentation, Findings Replication & Data Archiving*. Presented at MSU Office of Research and Economic Development Seminar Series. Starkville, MS.
- Dedeaux, F. & Seitz, H. (2019, April). *Anti-vaccine persuasion strategies on YouTube: A comparison of HPV and MMR vaccine videos*. Presented at Mississippi State University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State, MS.
- Desai, K., & Swan, G. (2019, April). *Rebuilding main street: Civic gaming and deliberation in our communities*. Presented at the Mississippi State University Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State, MS.
- Elkington, K. S., Robertson, A., Gardner, S., Knight, D., DiClemente, R., Wiley, T., & Belenko, S. (2018, November). *Practices and approaches to moving high risk youth through the HIV care cascade: findings from a national survey of community supervision agencies*. Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Ellithorpe, C. (2018, July). *Symposium Chair, Findings from the Reasons for Retaliation Project: Individual, Dyadic, and Contextual Factors that Contribute to Responses toward Bullying*. Symposium presented at the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) in Fort Collins, CO.
- Ellithorpe, C. (2018, July). *Intergroup Dynamics of Bullying: When does perceived groupness lead to aggressive retaliation?* Paper presented as part of Findings from the Reasons for Retaliation Project: Individual, Dyadic, and Contextual Factors that Contribute to Responses toward Bullying symposium at the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) in Fort Collins, CO.
- Gardner, S. (2018, November). *Using interagency workgroups to increase HIV/STI testing among youth on community supervision: Successes and challenges*. Presented at the American Public Health Association conference, San Diego, CA.
- Gardner, S., Elkington, K., Becan, J., Knight, D., Belenko, S., DiClemente, R. J., Fisher, J., & Robertson, A. (2018, November). *Using Interagency Workgroups to increase HIV/STI testing among youth on community supervision: Successes and challenges*. Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Goldberg, R. (2018, July). *Gender Differences in Experiences with and Responses to High School Bullying*. Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Presentations

Paper presented as part of Findings from the Reasons for Retaliation Project: Individual, Dyadic, and Contextual Factors that Contribute to Responses toward Bullying symposium at the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) in Fort Collins, CO. Guttman, K. DeMauro, S., Seitz, H., & Flibotte, J. (2019, April). Moral distress in a level IV NICU. Poster presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies, Baltimore, MD.

Guttman, K., DeMauro, S., Flibotte, J., & Seitz, H. (2019, April). *A content analysis of parental perspectives on diagnosis and prognosis of NICU graduates with cerebral palsy*. Presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies, Baltimore, MD.

Guttman, K., DeMauro, S., Flibotte, J., & Seitz, H. (2019, May). *Success of goals-of-care conversations in the NICU: A work-in-progress*. Presented at the "Difficult Conversations in Healthcare" Preconference, International Communication Association 69th Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Hanna, H. (2018, July). Presentation at the Office of Child Nutrition Child Care Update Training for the HRSA Child Health Development: MS THRIVE! Project. Gulfport, Mississippi.

Hanna, H. L. (2018, November). *Mississippi KIDS COUNT and the 2020 Census*. Presented at the Mississippi Urban League Census Solutions Workshop, Jackson, MS.

Hanna, H. & Stouffer, C. (2018, July). *Population Health, Development, and Entrepreneurial Problem*

Solving. Mississippi KIDS Count. Presented at the Delta Regional Forum, Coahoma County Higher Education Center, Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Hanna, H., Green, J., Buffington, A., Woo, L. (2019, January). *Mississippi YOU COUNT! Collaboration Community Meetings*. Held in Tunica, Port Gibson, and Jackson, MS.

Hanna, H. L. & Green, J. (2019, February). *The Mississippi YOU COUNT! Collaborative*. Presented at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference, Mississippi State University.

Hanna, H. L. & Haggard, R. (2019, February). *State Efforts to Count All Kids*. Webinar presentation for the Partnership for America's Children and Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Ingouf L, Ragsdale K, Read-Wahidi MR. (2019, April). *Using the Household Hunger Scale to Explore 'Hunger Periods' among Farming Families in Rural Ghana: Results from Three Large-Scale Annual Surveys*. Poster presented at 2019 Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, Mississippi State University.

Keith, S., Cossman, R., & James, W. (2018, September). *How Do Crime Rates Affect Mortality Rates? An Application of General Strain Theory*. Paper presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association annual meeting, Pensacola Beach, FL.

Knight, D., Belenko, S., Robertson, A., & Dennis, M. (2018, October). *A structured Implementation*

Intervention to Improve Substance Use Services for Justice-involved Youth: Preliminary findings from a Multisite Cluster Randomized Trial. Presented at the Addiction Health Services and Research Conference, Savannah, GA.

Loehwing, M., and Colley, S. (2018, November). *Teaching public deliberation through role-playing games*. Short course presented at the National Communication Association Conference in Salt Lake City, UT.

Loehwing, M., Shoup, B., Calderon, W., Desai, K., and Swan, G. (2019, April). *Playing mind games: How mindfulness practices in gaming impact group deliberation quality*. Presented at the Popular Culture Association in Washington, DC.

Loehwing, M., and Shoup, B. (2019, April). *A house divided: What would we have to give up to get the political system we want*. Forum moderated as part of the national Public Voice dialogue initiative and hosted at Mississippi State University in Mississippi State, MS.

Lower, K., Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Rico Mendez, G., Yarbrough, T., Asigbee, M., Atiim, P., Kolbila, R. (2019, March). *Exploring Gender and Women's Land Tenure: Focus Groups with Men and Women Farmers in Ghana's Northern Region*. Presented at 79th Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.

Mauldin, W., Sinclair, H.C., & Utley, J. W. (2019). *Replicating Replication Rates: An archival approach to estimating reproducibility*. Paper accepted to the Society for

Presentations

Personality and Social Psychology Conference in Portland, OR. Symposium title: Replication Science.

May, D., Wells, M., Nelson, S., Cresswell, M. & Stubbs-Richardson, M. (2019, February). *The Impact of a Caring Adult on Fear and Avoidance Behaviors at School*. Presented at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference, Mississippi State University.

McClelland, Emily (December 2018). *E-Cigarettes and Other Emerging Products*. Presented at the Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalitions' Quarterly Training, Flowood, MS. McClelland, Emily (December 2018). *E-Cigarettes and Other Emerging Products*. Presented at the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline, Ridgeland, MS.

McMillen, R. (2018). *Opioids & Mississippi*. Presented at the Mississippi Tobacco Control Advisory Council Meeting, Jackson, MS.

McMillen R, Valentine N. (2018). *Adult non-compliance with tobacco-free schools: A risk factor for youth smokeless tobacco use?* Presented at the 2018 National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention.

McMillen R, Winter A, McClelland E. (2018). *Smoke-Free Ordinances in Mississippi Predict Lower Hospital Admission Rates for Acute Cardiovascular, Stroke, and Pulmonary Events*. Poster accepted to the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association.

McMillen R, Tanski S, Wilson K,

Klein JD, Winickoff JP. (2018). *Adolescent Use of Different E-cigarette Products*. Presented at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition, Section on Tobacco Control.

McMillen, R., McClelland, E., & Gorzkowski, J. (2019). *JUUL Trial and Use among Mississippi Undergraduate Students*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, San Francisco, CA.

McMillen, R., Gorzkowski, J., Wilson, K., Tanski, S., Klein, J. D., & Winickoff, J. P. (2019). *Who uses pod-based e-cigarettes? Adult smokers trying to quit or nonsmoking young adults?* Poster presented at the 2019 Pediatric Academic Societies Conference, Baltimore, MD.

McMillen R. (2019, April). *Vaping Update*. Invited presentation at the 2019 Mississippi Thrive! Child Health and Development Summit.

McMillen R. (2019). *The Mississippi Experience, 1998 to 2018*. Poster presented at the 2019 National Conference on Tobacco OR Health, Minneapolis, MN.

McMillen R, Valentine N, McClelland E, Gorzkowski J. (2019). *Smoke-Free Ordinances and Policies Protect Youth, but Ordinances Appear to Have Little Impact on Non-Combustible Tobacco Use*. Poster presented at the 2019 AAP National Conference and Exhibition, Section on Tobacco Control. New Orleans, LA.

Miller, S., Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M. R., Lower, K., Yarbrough, T., Feher, E., Williams, P., Mueller, T., Tevendale, H., Brittain, A., & Koumans, E. (2018, November). *Revitalizing Title X in Mississippi: Partnership Building with Focus4Teens, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Center*. Presented at 2018 APHA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Mims, R. (2019). *Culture of Honor: Not just for boys anymore*. Poster presented at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference, Mississippi State University.

Nelson, S., Stubbs-Richardson, M., Cresswell, M., & May, D. C. (2018, September). *A test of General Strain Theory: Which types of bullying result in the highest risk for self-harm related behavior among youth?* Presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Pensacola, FL.

Pankow, J., Robertson, A., Joe, G., Gardner, S., Morse, D., Arrigona, N., Johansson, P., & Knight, D. (2018, October). *Service Receipt as a Mediator of Treatment Needs and Recidivism*. Presented at the Addiction Health Services and Research Conference, Savannah, GA.

Payne, M. G. (2019). *Dear Diary: A Daily Diary Study of Experiences with Bullying in High School*. Poster presented at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference, Mississippi State University.

Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Asigbee, M., Atiim, P., Kolbila, R.

Presentations

Lower, K. & Yarbrough, T. (2018, July). *Feed the Future Lab Soybean Innovation Lab: Ghana Soybean Uptake & Network Survey (SUNS)-Wave II: Enumerator Training Workshop II (Saboba District/ Chereponi District)*. USAID Feed the Future Lab Soybean Innovation Lab, Yendi, Ghana.

Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Asigbee, M., Atiim, P., Kolbila, R., Lower, K. & Yarbrough, T. (2018, July). *Feed the Future Lab Soybean Innovation Lab: Ghana Soybean Uptake & Network Survey (SUNS)-Wave II: Enumerator Training Workshop II (Tolon District/Karaga District)*. USAID Feed the Future Lab Soybean Innovation Lab, Tamale, Ghana.

Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M. R., Asigbee, M., Atiim, P., Kolbila, R., Lower, K., & Yarbrough, T. (2018, November). *Exploring Household-Level Hunger among Smallholder Farmers in Rural Ghana: Comparing Household Hunger Scale Results across Two Large-Scale Surveys*. Presented at 2018 APHA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M. R., Lower, K., Yarbrough, T., Feher, E., Crenshaw, H., Miller, S., Hines, M. S., Coleman, M., Mueller, T., Tevendale, H., Brittain, A., & Koumans, E. (2018, November). *“What to Expect at Your Teen’s Healthcare Visit”: Health Communication Tools to Increase Multilevel Buy-In for Youth-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Rural Mississippi*. Presented at 2018 APHA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Ragsdale, K., & Read-Wahidi, M.R. (2018, December). *Why Gender*

Equity Matters for Soybean Farmers in Rural Ghana: Closing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Research for Development. Invited speaker at Fifth Annual Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab Researcher Retreat, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.

Ragsdale, K., & Read-Wahidi, M.R. (2019, June). *Can a Low-Cost Soybean Intervention Improve the Gender Gap in Productivity? Evidence from Smallholder Farmers in Northern Ghana*. Presented at Gender and the Innovation Labs Workshop, USAID & Horticulture Innovation Lab, Washington, DC.

Read-Wahidi, M.R., Ragsdale, K., Lower, K., Yarbrough, T., Feher, E., Crenshaw, H., Miller, S., Coleman, M., Williams, P., Mueller, T., Tevendale, H., Brittain, A., Koumans, E. (2018, July). *The Teen Health MS and CDC Focus4Teens Initiative to Reduce Pregnancy among Mississippi Delta Teens: Results from YR1 Youth Focus Groups*. Presented at 2018 Delta Directions Regional Forum, Clarksdale, MS.

Reid, A., Ragsdale, K., Read-Wahidi, M. R., Lower, K., Yarbrough, T., Feher, E., Crenshaw, H., Miller, S., Coleman, M., Middleton, D., Mueller, T., Tevendale, H., Brittain, A., & Koumans, E. (2018, November). *Multi-level Factors Associated with Teen Pregnancy in the Mississippi Delta: Insights from Social/ Behavioral Support Providers Serving Local Youth*. Presented at 2018 APHA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Rico Méndez, G., Ragsdale, K., Lower, K., Read-Wahidi, M.R. (2019, March). *Customary Land Tenure*

Systems and Gendered Land Rights in Ghana’s Northern Region: Results from Phase II Gender Equity and Land Tenure Focus Groups. Presented at the World Bank 20th Land & Poverty Conference, Washington, DC.

Rico Méndez, G., Read-Wahidi, M.R., Ragsdale, K. (2019, March). *Harnessing the Potential for Rural Youth-Inclusive Agri-Food Systems Livelihoods: A Landscape Analysis*. Accepted Presented at the World Bank 20th Land & Poverty Conference, Washington, DC.

Robertson, A. A. (2018, October). *Enhancing Substance Use Treatment Needs and Service Delivery for Justice Involved Youths: Findings from JJ-TRIALS*. Presented at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Savannah, GA.

Robertson, A. A., Gardner, S., Knight, D., DiClemente, R., Belenko, S., Becan, J., Piper, K., Spaulding, A., Oser, C., & Elkington, K. (2018, November). *Is there a place for HIV and STI services in juvenile justice? Staff attitudes towards HIV and STI testing, prevention and treatment*. Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Robertson, A. A., Dembo, R., Scott, C. K., & Dennis, M. (2018, October 17-19). *Community Supervision Agency Practices for Engaging Caregivers in Behavioral Health Services: Findings from a National Survey*. Presented at the Addiction Health Services and Research Conference, Savannah, GA.

Presentations

Robertson, A.A., Dembo, R., Scott, C. K., & Dennis, M. (2018, October 17-19). *Community Supervision Agency Practices for Engaging Caregivers in Behavioral Health Services: Findings from a National Survey*. Presented at the XXXVIth International Congress on Law and Mental Health, Rome, Italy.

Robertson, A. A., Zhou, M., Tatch, A., & Walsh, M. (2019, August). *Gender-specific predictors of recidivism among DUI offenders*. Presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, New York City, NY.

Robertson, M. N., Buys, D. R., Downey, L. H., Seitz, H. H., & Hardman, A. (2018, October). *Prescription opioid use and misuse: Perceptions among the sandwich generation of Mississippi*. Poster presented at Mississippi Public Health Association 81st Conference and Annual Meeting.

Robertson, M. N., Downey, L. H., Buys, D. R., Hardman, A., & Seitz, H. H. (2018, October). *Perceptions of prescription opioid use: Findings from focus groups with rural Mississippians*. Poster presented at Delta Society for Public Health Education Annual Conference.

Robertson, M. N., Williams, D., Seitz, H., Downey, L., Hardman, A., Stone, A., Steen, J., Buys, D., (2019, May). *Physicians or media: Who gives patients opioid-related information?* Poster presented at the National Rural Health Association Annual Rural Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Robertson, M. N., Downey, L. H., Hardman, A. M., Seitz, H. H.,

Steen, J., & Buys, D. R. (2019, May). *Promoting prescription opioid misuse prevention strategies in rural America: Findings from focus groups*. Presented at the National Health Outreach Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

Seitz, H. H. & Khandekar, H. (2018, November). *Prevalence and typology of vaccine misinformation in social media*. Extended abstract presented at the National Communication Association 104th Annual Convention, Salt Lake City, UT.

Shumate, C. (2019). *Identifiable Impact: Consequences of identity-based bullying in high school*. Poster presented at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference, Starkville, Mississippi.

Shoup, B., & Loehwing, M. (2019, March). *Advancing inclusion through civility*. Presented at the Mississippi State University Collegiate Leadership Conference in Mississippi State, MS.

Shoup, B., & Loehwing, M. (2019, June). *Advancing inclusion through civility*. Presented at the Mississippi State University Student Affairs Staff Development Symposium in Mississippi State, MS.

Shoup, B., & Loehwing, M. (2019, January). *Advancing inclusion through civility*. Presented at the Mississippi State University Diversity Conference in Mississippi State, MS.

Sinclair, H. C. (2018, July). *Outcasts Don't Just Lash Out nor Is It Just Outcasts Who Lash Out*. Paper presented as part of Findings

from the Reasons for Retaliation Project: Individual, Dyadic, and Contextual Factors that Contribute to Responses toward Bullying symposium at the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR), Fort Collins, CO.

Smith, C. & Seitz, H. (2019, May). *Correcting Misinformation about Neuroscience through Facebook's "Related Articles" Feature*. Presented at the International Communication Association 69th Annual Conference, Washington, DC (Presented by H. Seitz).

Southward, L. H., & Walker, B. H. (2018, October). *Using Integrated Data to Answer Critical Policy Questions: Lessons Learned in Three States*. Workshop conducted with Carlise King (Child Trends) at the 2018 KIDS COUNT Institute, Atlanta, GA.

Southward, L. H. (2018, October). *Child Health and Development Project: Mississippi Thrive! An Overview and Call to Action*. Presented at the 2018 Mississippi Public Health Association Annual Conference, Jackson, MS.

Stives, K., Cooper, W., May, D. C., Bethel, C., & Pilkinton, M. (2018, September). *Talking about Bullying: Parental Responses to Bullying in School*. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Pensacola, FL.

Stives, K., May, D., Guess, M. Bethel, C., Eakin, D. & Pilkinton, M. (2019, February). *Who Do Children Like to Be Interviewed By? Robots or Humans*. Presented at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association

Presentations

Conference, Mississippi State University.

Stouffer, Colleen (2019, June). Presented a three-hour training on TRAPS 101 (Tobacco Reporting and Surveillance) for the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition's Fiscal Agents. Held at the Mississippi Department of Health, Ridgeland, MS in the computer atrium. Funded by the Tobacco Surveillance project.

Stouffer, Colleen (2019, June). *Collaborated training on TRAPS (Tobacco Reporting and Surveillance) for FY20 Scope of Work to the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition's Fiscal Agents.* Presented at Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Jackson, MS.

Stubbs-Richardson, M., Cosby, A., Bergene, K., & Cosby, A. G. (2018, September). *Searching for Safety: Crime Prevention in the Era of Google.* Presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Pensacola, FL.

Stubbs-Richardson, M., May, D. C., Nelson, S., & Cresswell, M. (October, 2018). *Bullying, Powerless, and Fear: Examining responses to bullying through the lens of the Shadow of Powerlessness.* Presented at the Mid-South Sociological Association, Birmingham, AL.

Stubbs-Richardson, M., May, D. C., Sinclair, H. C., Abney, A., Goldberg, R. M. & McCleon, T. (November, 2018). *The Reasons for Retaliation: A full test of the Multi-Motive Model across types of bullying victimization.* Presented at the

American Society for Criminology, Atlanta, GA

Stubbs-Richardson, M., Nelson, S., Harris, C., Haynes, S., Richardson, J., & Cosby, A. (January 2018). *A Spatial Analysis of Rape Culture News Events on Twitter.* Presented at the Sociologists for Women, Society in Atlanta, GA

Utley, J. (2018, July). *"Frenemies": Friendship and Bullying among High School Students.* Paper presented as part of Findings from the Reasons for Retaliation Project: Individual, Dyadic, and Contextual Factors that Contribute to Responses toward Bullying symposium at the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR), Fort Collins, CO.

Valentine, N., McMillen, R. (2018, October). *Adult non-compliance with tobacco-free schools: A risk factor for youth smokeless tobacco use?* Presented at the 2018 National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention, Sacramento, CA.

Valentine N, McClelland E, McMillen R. (2019). *Changing Tobacco Trends in Mississippi.* Poster presented at the 2019 National Conference on Tobacco OR Health, Minneapolis, MN.

Walker, B. & Stouffer, C. (2018, July). Live webinar for the Mississippi Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Conference using Mississippi KIDS Count website and datacenter.

Walker, B. H. (2018, November). *Using Integrated Data to Answer*

Critical Policy Questions: Lessons Learned in Three States. Panelist on webinar sponsored by the Child Trends Early Childhood Data Collaborative.

Walker, B. H., & Brown, D. C. (2019, April). *The Shifting Importance of Physical and Mental Health on Self Evaluations of Health across the Life Course.* Paper presented at the meeting of the Population Association of America, Austin, TX.

Yigit, I. H. (2019, April). *Emotional Burden of Social Intolerance.* Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Yigit, I. H. (2019, August) *Does Social Tolerance matter for Well-being?* Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) 2019 Annual Meeting, New York City, NY.

Xue, Y., Nelson, S., May, D., Sinclair, H. C. & Stubbs-Richardson, M. (2019, February). *Examining Racial Differences in Cyberbullying among Youth.* Presented at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association conference at Mississippi State University.

Awards & Recognitions

Anne Buffington was appointed to the Mississippi Department of Education's Task Force on Chronic Absenteeism. The task force will meet periodically to develop strategies to bring awareness to the issue and to provide assistance to schools in decreasing the rate of chronic absence across the K-12 landscape.

Rachel Booth, a graduating senior and an undergraduate research assistant with the SSRC's Mississippi Tobacco Data, represented MSU and the United States while spending 10 months studying cognitive psychology and conducting research at Germany's Universität Ulm.

Dr. Ronald Cossman's Op-Ed "Why Primary Care Access is Wildly Overstated," which originally appeared in *Medical Economics*, was reprinted in the *Population Association of America's* (PAA) Applied Demography September newsletter.

Dr. Ronald E. Cossman completed a two-semester sabbatical at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He collaborated with the director of the Center for Health System Improvement, analyzing the demographics of a multi-state diabetes outreach and coaching program. He also co-taught a graduate class in Health Systems for medical students.

Susana Cervantes was featured in an MSU article on the Delta Scholars Program: <https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2018/07/high-achieving-students-convening-msu-s-delta-scholars-program/>.

Dr. Heather Hanna and **Dr. Holli Seitz** were selected to attend the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science workshop on science communication, held on the MSU campus August 28-30.

Laura Herring and **Krishna Desai**, traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in the Andi Leadership Institute for Young Women.

Lisa Long was awarded a certification as a Zero to Three Provisional Trainer on the Growing Brain by the Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families. Long recently attended their regional course entitled "The Growing Brain: From Birth to Five Years Old Training-of-Trainers" in New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Robert McMillen's paper "Adolescent Use of Different E-cigarette Products" was featured in an article on Healio.

<https://www.healio.com/pediatrics/adolescent-medicine/news/online/%7B06eeac42-89b4-4608-8e10-79bad508e9c6%7D/adolescents-prefer-open-system-e-cigarettes>

Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale, Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi, and their team members have been interviewed and/or featured five times for their work on the USAID-funded Feed the Future Soybean Innovation Lab's (SIL) Socioeconomic and Gender Equity Research (SGER) team. The posts include:

- Keane, R. (2018, September 13). SIL SoyBytes: Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale and Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi on gender equity and agricultural development [SoundCloud podcast]. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <https://soundcloud.com/user-948098783/sil-soybytes-dr-kathleen-ragsdale-and-dr-mary-read-wahidi>.
- CGIAR / A4NH. (2018, September 5). Gender-Nutrition Idea Exchange: SIL research identifies challenges, constraints experienced by women smallholder farmers [Web log post]. CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). <http://a4nh.cgiar.org/2018/09/05/identifying-challenges-and-constraints-experienced-by-women-smallholder-farmers-in-northern-ghana/>.
- Keane, R. (2018, July). SIL Newsletter: Notes from the field: SIL students conduct on-site focus groups in Ghana [Online newsletter post]. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <https://mailchi.mp/illinois/check-out-sils-july-news>.
- Keane, R. (2018, July 25). Student reflections as researchers return home [Web log post]. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <http://soybeaninnovationlab.illinois.edu/student-reflections-researchers-return-home>.
- Keane, R. (2018, July 17). Students gain insight into gender equity and land tenure during fieldwork in Tolon and Karaga [Web log post]. Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Soybean Value Chain Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. <http://soybeaninnovationlab.illinois.edu/students-gain-insight-gender-equity-and-land-tenure-during-fieldwork-tolon-and-karaga>.

Dr. Kathleen Ragsdale was invited to serve as an abstract reviewer for three programs for the 147th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, which was held in Philadelphia on November 2-6, 2019. The three APHA programs include:

- International Health Program
- Maternal and Child Health Program
- Public Health Education and Health Promotion Program

Dr. Angela Robertson was a member of the National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Drug Abuse

Awards & Recognitions

review panel for the Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative, a trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to the nation's opioid public health crisis. NIH devoted \$1.1 billion in funding for this initiative. Dr. Robertson reviewed applications for funding and participated in site visits of finalist.

Mary Grace Payne, an undergraduate research assistant in the Social Relations Collaborative, won first place in the student poster competition at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association meeting at the Hunter Henry Center at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Holli Seitz was named a member of the Cancer Control, Epidemiology and Cancer Disparities Research Program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Holli Seitz was certified as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor by the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Dr. Holli Seitz was certified as a Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor by the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Dr. Colleen Sinclair was nominated for Most Admired Scholar by this year's Diversity Awards graduate student recipient.

Ciarra Smith, an undergraduate research assistant, was awarded a prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. This award will help fund her doctoral studies at northwestern University, where she will pursue a PhD in the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program.

The Civic Life Laboratory, led by **Dr. Brian Shoup** and **Dr. Melanie Loehwing**, was awarded an Undergraduate Research Program grant from the Office of Research and Economic Development.

Andrew Tatch was one of twenty individuals selected from a competitive admission process to attend a short workshop 'Exploring and Analyzing Monitoring the Future Data: A Primer' hosted by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan. The Monitoring the Future Project is a long-term epidemiologic and etiologic study of substance use among the nation's youth and adults and also includes questions on subjects such as attitudes toward government, social institutions, race relations, changing gender roles, educational aspirations, occupational aims, and marital plans.

Dr. Mary Read-Wahidi served as an abstract reviewer for a program for the 147th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, which was held in Philadelphia on November 2-6, 2019.

Ismail Yigit was named the Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) of the Year Award – Doctoral Level by the Graduate Student Association and The Graduate School of Mississippi State University.

Ismail Yigit was a nominee for the Dr. Harold Grier Doctoral Scholar's Program—Institutional SREB Fellowships by the Sociology Department of the Mississippi State University.

Ismail Yigit was awarded a Travel Award from the Marion T. Loftin fund to attend the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting and the Society for the Study of Social problems Annual Meeting in New York City, NY.

Mississippi Tobacco Data was featured in multiple news stories regarding their joining of Attorney General Jim Hood, the Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, and The Partnership for Healthy Mississippi. Find the article below, as well as video of Emily McClelland addressing the media in a press conference with MTD's 2017 Youth Tobacco Data:

- <https://www.wlox.com/2018/09/28/state-officials-address-epidemic-among-teens-mississippi/>
- <https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/politics/2018/09/28/state-officials-want-regulations-sale-e-cigarettes-state/1454632002/>
- <https://www.wjtv.com/news/metro/attorney-general-hood-calls-e-cigarettes-dangerous-and-epidemic-among-teens/1482578328>
- <http://www.mpbonline.org/blogs/mississippiedition/mississippi-edition-monday-october-1st/>

The AIM for CHangE project was featured in multiple news stories.

- <http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2018/sep/21/senate-debate-millsaps-aim-change-msu-and-belhaven/>
- <https://www.gulflive.com/news/2019/02/center-for-disease-control-prevention-provides-34-million-grant-to-coast-counties.html>
- <https://www.sunherald.com/news/health/article226283405.html>



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