



## Happening in SRO

You can find this "Happening in SRO" and all similar newsletters on the SRO Intranet Home Page, located at: <http://isr-wp.isr.umich.edu/srointranet/> under Recent News.

### Save the Date: SRO Spring Cleaning Day! (Kelly Chatain)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SRO Records Day is happening on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. This year we are focusing on digital records and cleaning up our local, shared, and cloud-based work spaces. This is a great opportunity to take an hour or two and organize project records, delete old file versions, identify relevant materials for the archive, and make some headway on that email inbox. As in previous years, we will also be collecting old office supplies, computer disks/CDs/DVDs and equipment, and will provide extra shredding and recycling bins for any paper materials. Look for more information next week in your email! Posters will also be hung around the building for general information.



### Upcoming Training Opportunities



#### From Stats & Methods (Lisa Holland)

There are several training and educational opportunities coming up in the next several weeks, most of which are being presented by SRO staff from the Statistics and Methodology Unit. We hope that you will be able to take advantage of those that are of interest to you.

#### Monday, March 6 **How to Use Blue Jeans** - Perry 2300 - Noon-1:00PM

Monica Hickson, an Instructional designer from the University's Information & Technology Services group (ITS) will conduct an informal training session about how to use **Blue Jeans**, the cloud-based video and content sharing service licensed by the University. This session will be of particular value to those of you who regularly schedule or host conference calls, meetings, or training sessions which include participants in one or more remote locations. In addition to the basics of using the platform, we will have an opportunity to ask questions and get advice about how to handle problems or challenges we've encountered in the past.

#### Monday, March 13 **Sampling and Statistical Terminology** - Perry 2300 – Noon-1:00PM

In this session, Daniel Guzman will present a glossary of sampling related terms. We want to use this session to clarify and unify the understanding of statistical concepts commonly used in SRO's daily work. Our intention is to keep updating SRO's statistical glossary and turn it into a resource for SRO that would be available online.

#### Wednesday-Friday, March 22-24 **SAS Programming II** - Perry G150 - 9:00AM-3:00PM

Heather Schroeder will be in Ann Arbor to teach the sequel to the course she presented last fall. This course is for those who need to learn data manipulation techniques using SAS DATA and procedure steps to access, transform, and summarize SAS data sets. The course builds on the concepts that were presented in the Programming I class and is not recommended for beginning SAS software users.

#### Tuesday, March 28 **Introduction to Weighting** - Perry 2300 - Noon-1:00PM

Paul Schulz will provide basic definitions and explanations of weighting, including sampling weights, non-response adjustments, and trimming and post-stratification procedures. We will illustrate with a project-specific example and explain how (unexpected) changes in the data collection protocol can affect the weighting procedure.

## Tuesday, April 25 **Propensity Models** - Perry 1300 - Noon-1:00PM

In this session, Paul Burton will provide an overview of propensity models, the general inputs and outputs of these models, and how such models are applied in our project work. We will provide a basic explanation of the mechanisms that underlie propensity models and what types of questions such models are able (and not able) to help us answer.

**From TSG  
(Gina Cheung)**

## Monday-Friday, April 24-28 **Blaise 5.2 Tech Summit** - ISR Rm 1430AC – Varied Times

SRO is planning to conduct the 3<sup>rd</sup> technical Blaise training sessions for all interested SRC staff. We are hoping that this session will facilitate knowledge about Blaise 5 across SRC.

SRC has been using Blaise extensively as our main data collection survey software since 2000. SRC has used Blaise version 4.8 on many CATI and CAPI data collection projects. It has successfully met our data collection needs, and SRC has developed many ancillary systems and utilities associated with Blaise 4.8 for production process both within program areas and Survey Research Operations (SRO).

The CBS (Central Bureau of Statistics; Statistics Netherlands) Blaise Team released the newest version of Blaise 5.2 in October 2016. CBS' documentation on Blaise 5.2 production readiness states that it maintains all the key features of Blaise 4.8 such as processing complex questionnaire design, supporting large datasets, fast performance and a highly advanced programming language. Additionally, the Blaise 5.2 single mode specifications yield one multi-mode, multi-device questionnaire application. This means that one specification provides a variety of user interfaces including full-screen and split-screen interfaces for all sizes of screen, one questionnaire structure within one database for all modes and respondents, and interviewers and sample cases may move seamlessly between modes.

Some details about this training:

### 1. Agenda:

Date	Time	Topics	Lead Trainer
April 24th	9:00am - 12:00pm	Introduction to Blaise 5, what we have implemented in Blaise 5, what we are planning to do	Gina Cheung
April 24th	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Introduction to SRC Blaise 5 screen standards. Basic layouts for both Self-administrated Web survey and interviewer administrated CAI survey	Rebecca Gatward
April 25th	9:00am - 12:00pm	Blaise 5 data in and data out process; also paradata usages for SRC reporting and QC process	Lisa Wood
April 25th	1:30pm - 4:30pm	Blaise 5 tech related topics: Servers; Portals; APIs; Integration with sample management systems	Hueichun Peng
April 26th	9:00am - 4:30pm	<b>hands-on session:</b> Blaise 5.2 Basic Suite and Layout	CBS Blaise Developer
April 27th	9:00am - 4:30pm	<b>hands-on session:</b> Blaise 5.2 APIs, Manipula_5 and PowerShell	CBS Blaise Developer
April 28th	9:00am - 4:30pm	<b>hands-on session:</b> Practices/specific features/Q&As	CBS Blaise Developer

2. Lunch will be provided to the trainees.

3. Please talk with your supervisor if you are interested in attending this training. Let us know if you are planning to attend the full training or just some of the sessions.

4. **IMPORTANT:** You must register at this URL below. The registration deadline is Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

<https://tinyurl.com/h5k935s>



## **Update on the SSL**

### **Margaret Hudson (SSL Manager)**

As part of the Data Collection Operations (DCO), the Survey Services Lab (SSL) is SRO's centralized telephone facility. With fifteen full time staff and about 75 currently active part time Survey Technicians, the SSL handles a wide variety of work in support of SRC's mission, including telephone screening and interviewing, reminder calls to respondents, mailing, logging, data entry, coding, quality assurance, and respondent support.

Currently there are six active data collection projects in the SSL. About half of the Survey Tech hours scheduled (46%) are for the monthly Surveys of Consumers (SCA). The work is rounded out by the Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Servicemembers Longitudinal Study (STARRS-LS), the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID 17), Monitoring the Future (MTF), Daily Experiences and Wellbeing Study (DEWS), and Emergency Department Screen for Teens at Risk for Suicide (ED-STARs).

With increasing workload over the recent months, the SSL team, along with DCS and outside vendor Manpower, has been actively recruiting and hiring new Survey Techs. The table below gives a brief summary of recruiting and hiring efforts over the last three months.

	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Invited for Testing</b>	<b>Offer Declined</b>	<b>Hired</b>
December 2016	14	8	0	3
January 2017	11	9	2	6
February 2017	15	14	0	8

New hires over the last months will begin working on SCA. The additional 35-40 new hires we hope to bring in between March and May will be trained to work on STARRS-LS or MTF non-response follow-up efforts.

Looking further ahead at the year, the SSL team will be focusing on a number of goals. As part of my vision of continuing to build a strong professional workforce in the SSL, staff development will be a focus. This will include providing opportunities for continual training to all our staff – interviewers, team leaders, and production managers. We will also be working to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us to do the work assignments. This will mean looking to improve processes and documentation, using data and best practices, to be more efficient. Additionally, the SSL and field will be working more closely together to share strategies and harmonize processes, which will provide consistency across DCO. Finally, communication will be a focus in 2017, both within the SSL and between the SSL and other units. “Service” is a part of our name, and we in the Survey Services Lab want to be sure the communication channels are open to ensure we provide great service to the entire organization!

## **The Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO)**

**(Eva Leissou)**

When the National Children's Study (NCS) ended in 2012, the Michigan researchers involved in it were not ready to give up on its objectives. Researchers from five Michigan institutions -- the Henry Ford Health Center (HFHS), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan State University (MSU), the University of Michigan (U of M) and Wayne State University (WSU) -- collaborated on a new seven-year NIH initiative modeled after NCS.

The goal of ECHO is to understand pressing childhood health concerns such as autism spectrum disorders, low birth weight and childhood obesity. The project will collect survey data and a series of bio-specimens in order to assess the effects of persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals, the maternal nutritional or weight status in pregnancy, and pregnancy infection and inflammation on the health of children.

A statewide probability sample of 1,000 women will be recruited from 10 Michigan hospitals and 20 clinics in Detroit, Saginaw, Flint, Traverse City, Grand Rapids, and Sturgis. Sample recruitment will start in spring 2017 and will continue through 2018. This cohort will be called the Michigan Archive for Research in Child Health (MARCH). Two additional sample cohorts that have been interviewed for studies in Lansing and Ann Arbor since 2011 will join the ECHO project in later years of the study.



For the MARCH sample, expectant mothers will be recruited during their initial visit to a healthcare provider, and asked to complete a 40 minute interview about nutrition, levels of physical activity, use of healthcare services, physical and mental health, prescription medications and other substance use. In addition, women will be asked to give blood samples in the first and second trimesters and urine samples in all three trimesters.

The sample recruitment and administration of prenatal interviews will be done by MSU and WSU interviewers using SRO's technical systems and laptops. SRO will program all questionnaires to be administered in the study, the sample management system, and the system to keep track of the collection and storage of blood and urine samples. When babies are born, the research team will obtain hospital birth records for the mother and child, and a sample of the placenta.

The first ECHO babies are expected to be born in late summer or early fall, 2017.

SRO's involvement in data collection will start after the babies are born. The first interview with the mother will be when the baby is 3 months old. Mothers will be interviewed again when the children are 12 months old and yearly after that until the child is 6 years old. When the children are 3 months old, mothers will provide fecal samples, and at age 4 they will provide shed teeth. The children will also be assessed using standardized developmental assessments at age 2, 4, and 6 years old. The assessments will be done during in-home visits.

The study is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF).