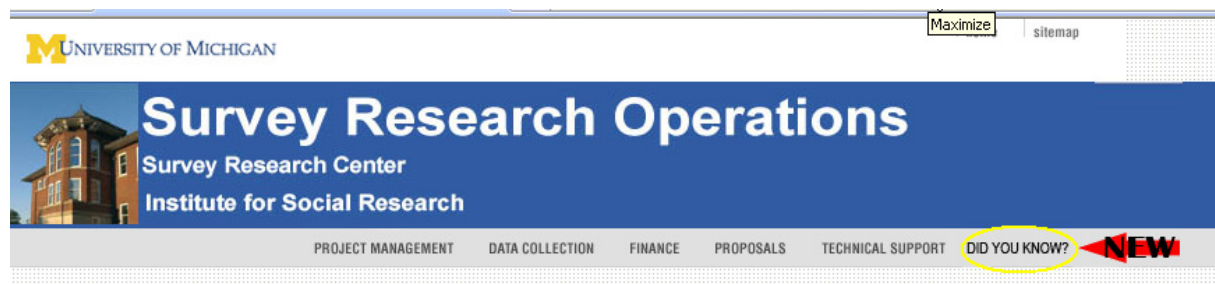


Happening in SRO

You can find this “Happening in SRO” and all similar updates on the SRO Intranet. Look for the Section titled: Did You Know?



From the Director of SRO: Since this is the first issue of our Happenings in SRO in 2015, I want to extend my best wishes for a happy and productive new year! It was great to see so many of you at the recent SRO All Staff Meeting, and I hope that your take away from that meeting is that we can look forward to a year of challenging and stimulating work.

Survey of Consumers Celebrates! **Jody Dougherty and Patty Maher**

The Survey of Consumers (SCA) held a celebration on January 15, 2015 to highlight accomplishments and changes to the study's sample design for 2015. The SCA is one of our longest running projects. SCA was one of the first projects that started in the Survey Research Center, launched by George Katona in 1946. In its initial years, the SCA was not conducted monthly, but a few times a year via face-to-face interviews using paper and pencil questionnaires. In the 1970's it moved to a monthly telephone, ultimately CATI, data collection. Next year the SCA will celebrate 70 years of data collection!

The SCA is nearly continuous data collection with 500 surveys being completed each month. These data are used as part of the Leading Economic Indicators, Consumer Confidence Index, used by our Federal Government. The SCA has used Random Digit Dial (RDD) sample, where a portion of all completes per month were from a landline sample. In addition there is a rotating panel design in SCA, where some of the respondents who are contacted by RDD are enrolled to be re-contacted six months after their initial interview. With more and more households no longer using landline telephones, the SCA has been integrating cell phone sample to ensure a more representative sample. Beginning in January, 2015 the SCA will only use a cell phone sample. Since landlines were still being contacted in 2014, we'll continue to contact the rotating sample from the landlines through June, 2015.

At the center of the SCA celebration was project manager, Joe Matuzak – who in December managed his 100th month of SCA data collection! Here are some summary production statistics from Joe's 100 months at the helm:

- Number of dials: 1,764,278
- Number of completed interviews: 50,750
- Number of cases with concerns/reluctance expressed by the household: 63,152
 - Number of completed interviews: 9,137
- Average hour per interview: 2.97

In this 100th month, Joe has earned this singular distinction – longest serving project manager for one of the longest standing SRC projects! Staff from the Survey Services Lab (SSL) gathered up SCA statistics and fun facts to share as part of this celebration. Speaking at the event were Joe, Patty Maher, and Dr. Richard Curtin (all pictured below). Congratulations to Joe and the entire SCA team!



Army STARRS Project (Year 6) Data and Analysis Activities Lisa Lewandowski-Romps and Nancy Gebler

Collaboration of staff across multiple Survey Research Operations Units (TSG, SMU, PDMG) is currently underway to support data analytic activities for the Army STARRS project.

Lisa Lewandowski-Romps, Army STARRS data enclave lead, oversees a work group comprised of Emily Blasczyk, Ryan Yoder and Heather Schroeder. This group is developing an All Army Study (AAS) chartbook report for the Army, providing frequency distribution tables for the key dependent and independent variables in the instrument. Also, they are preparing data and conducting analyses to replicate and expand upon two research articles on suicidality and mental disorder prevalence, published by the Harvard-Army STARRS research group. Data being analyzed come from two study components, the All Army Study (AAS) and the Pre/Post Deployment Study (PPDS). These data were integrated and harmonized by Kyle Kwaiser, Ryan Yoder and Lingling Zhang for use in project analysis work.

Using Army/DoD administrative data, Lisa LR and Heather Schroeder are working on accident risk analyses in consult with Steve Heeringa, Patricia Berglund, Colter Mitchell, Roderick Little, Paul Schulz, and Army colleagues. Lisa LR is lead author of "Risk factors for accident death in the US Army 2004-2009", published in the December, 2014 issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. The article was chosen by the journal to be part of the continuing medical education program (to access the article, please go to <http://www.ajpmonline.org>). Work on expanding initial accident risk models is currently underway and will be included in a follow up manuscript on accident death risk.

Andrew Piskorowski, Ryan Yoder and Patricia Berglund have worked on the development of a longitudinal PPDS data set that will be used for imputation and substantive analysis work. Andrew Piskorowski is also working with James Wagner on several methodologically related analyses using PPDS, Time 3, data. They are currently revising a manuscript focused on impact of mode switch timing and are looking at differences in response rates, costs, and key estimates by four experimental treatments (switching mode after 1, 2, 3, or 4 weeks). Additional work on nonresponse and measurement is also underway in collaboration with Harvard researchers. James and Andrew plan to submit an abstract of their work for presentation at the August, 2015 Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM).

Biomarker analysis work is supported by Kyle Kwaiser and Emily Blasczyk who provide data management, data transfer protocol development, and file transfer coordination. Kyle Kwaiser has improved the efficiency of workflow by developing standardized methods for documenting and tracking the diverse data requests generated by researchers focusing on biomarker analysis. Additionally, Paul Schultz is working with Colter Mitchell on sample selection and various analysis activities that include GWAS analysis, Telomere analysis and Methylation analysis on suicidality. Several paper presentation submissions for the 2015 JSM include, "Statistical design and methods for integrating biomarker and genetic data into the Army STARRS epidemiological study of suicidality" and a paper that will discuss the Army STARRS project design and implementation challenges by Paul Schulz, Heather Schroeder and Steve Heeringa.