

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 Key Updates.

If you have items for the newsletter or if you would like to highlight an event, please let Brenda Spaulding or your unit director know.

2026 SRO Closures, Holiday & Season Day Schedule

SRO Designated Closure Days for 2026:

Friday, March 27 – to correspond with Spring Break schedules.

Friday, May 22 – May/Memorial Day (U-M Holiday) is Monday, May 25.

Thursday, July 2 – July/Independence Day (U-M Holiday) is Friday, July 3.

Friday, September 4 – September/Labor Day (U-M Holiday) is Monday, Sept. 7.

Wednesday, Nov. 25 – November/Thanksgiving (U-M Holiday) is Thursday, Nov. 26 & Friday, Nov. 27.

December Holidays/Season Days:
Christmas (U-M Holiday) is Friday, Dec. 25. U-M Season Days are Monday, Dec. 28 through Thursday, Dec. 31. New Year's Day 2027 (U-M Holiday) is Friday, Jan. 1.

No SRO closure day.

MARCH 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

DECEMBER 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JULY 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY 2027						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SRO Closure U-M Holiday U-M Season Day



This month, we are recognizing those who had milestone anniversaries in October, November, and December. Congratulations on your U-M anniversary!

25 Years

Ashanti Harris, DCO

Andrew Hupp, PDMG

Lisa Lewandowski-Romps, DMSS

Brenda Spaulding, DO

30 Years

David Padot, TSG

35 Years

Barb Ward, PDMG

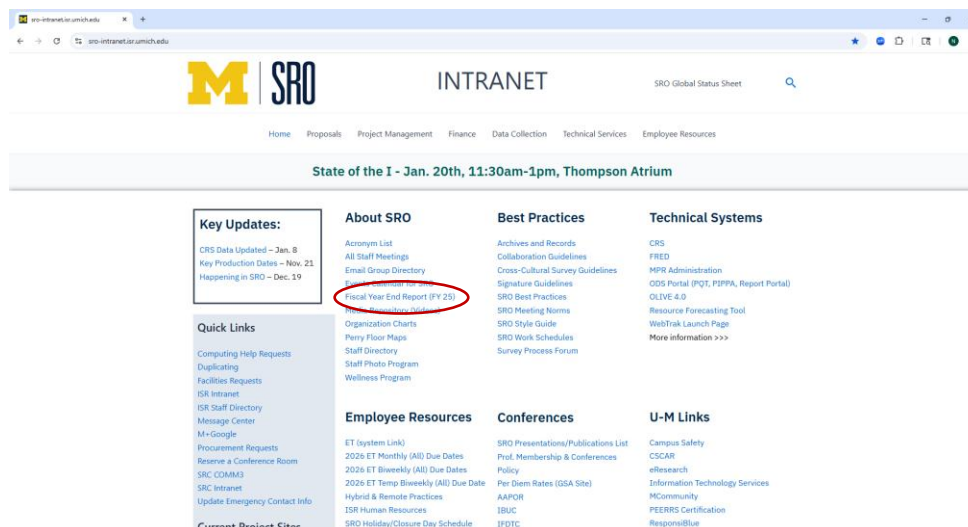


SRO Logo

The Block M SRO logo is now available to use and can be found on the SRO intranet, under Best Practices, [SRO Style Guide](#), Logos.

Fiscal Year End Report 2025

The FY25 year-end report has been posted on the SRO intranet, under 'About SRO'.





Conclusion of PSID Core 2025 (Rachel Orlowski)

As is the norm on the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), Core interviewing started in March and ended on December 31. PSID25 was the 44th wave of the study and the third wave with web survey administration.

- We completed 9,128 interviews - of which 76% were collected entirely via the web (an increase of 5 percentage points compared to 2023), 7% were via CATI and the web (the same as in 2023), and 18% were via CATI only.
- We achieved an 89% response rate, which exceeded the 86% response rate from the prior two waves. PSID Core last had an 89% response rate in 2019 when we had phone and in-person interviews and an HPI of 7.8. In 2025 with phone and web interviews, we had an HPI of 5.3.

We made a number of changes in PSID25 that we assume positively contributed to the production outcomes, but we cannot say for certain given their non-experimental nature.

The greatest change to our production protocol was the implementation of rolling end games.

- Since PSID21, we staggered the release of English web sample. In 2023, we conducted an experiment with one of our English web sample releases where a random half of the cases were told the study end date upfront, which was about 8.5 weeks sooner than the control cases' end date of December 31. The treatment cases with the short field period had a higher response rate than that of the controls. Building on this finding, the four English web sample releases in 2025 announced their end date at their onset which was 23-24 weeks later—the first being August 20 and last being November 5.
- Unlike the prior two waves where all English CATI sample was released at the start of the study and concluded data collection on December 31, we staggered the release and end date of the English CATI sample in 2025. Given PSID's design of related sample families, we released related web and CATI sample at the same time in 2025, but the CATI sample remained in the field longer (a total of 32-37 weeks) because more difficult cases were generally assigned to the CATI mode of completion.
- With each release's field schedule, there were three phases.
 - The beginning and ending phases were shorter than the phase in the middle.
 - There were multiple batch mailings, emails, and texts in the beginning and ending phases.
 - For the web sample, the beginning phase ended with a two-week special offer period where an additional \$20 was offered.
 - The ending (end game) phase had one incentive increase for the CATI sample and two incentive increases for the web sample.
 - The beginning and ending phases had an increase in interviewer effort as the phase progressed.
 - The middle phase did not have any batch communications and had a steady level of interviewer effort.
- This new fieldwork strategy proved to be challenging to manage.
 - It seemed that we were always in a phase that required batch mailings, emails, and texts. The batch templates varied by phase, mode, and interview type, so staff were very careful when executing the batch communication protocol.
 - The field was heavily dependent upon information at the sample line level to know the weekly contact attempt protocol, current incentive amount, and end date of the special offer or study period. This is, of course, on top of keeping track of standard production details like respondent concerns, appointments, last attempt by mode, last contact, mode switch approvals, and much more.

We believe the rolling end game approach achieved its desired outcome of a higher number of completed interviews because interviewers and field leaders were able to focus their attention on a subset of cases during the interventions, especially the end game. It also had benefits like generating new split-off lines earlier in the field period—allowing more weeks to work this fresh sample. In planning for 2027, we are thinking through ways to streamline the rolling end game approach to minimize some of the management challenges.

Another article or two could be written about the other changes on PSID25. Some of these changes were purely operational, like our new staffing model of CATI and follow-up interviewers. Others were technical changes that led to operational efficiencies—for example, how we changed the system workflows between interviewers and TLs, interviewers and locators, and the field and Ann Arbor.

In sum, PSID25 data collection came to a successful completion after nearly two years of hard work and innovation from across the organization. Thank you to all who contributed to PSID25.

Extending the Legacy

On January 19, MLK Jr. Day, SRC co-hosted (with RCGD) the event, “Extending the Legacy: Innovations of the 25 Year Follow up of the National Survey of American Life”, which highlighted the legacy of the National Survey of American Life (NSAL), the first nationally-representative mental and physical health survey of Black Americans ever conducted in the United States. The goals of the NSAL were to examine how factors like stress, coping, early-life experiences, and cultural beliefs relate to mental health and psychiatric disorders within the Black population. SRO’s work on this study was an important part of the original study and our work will continue to be an important part of the upcoming 25-year follow-up, which will attempt to reinterview this singular cohort to understand pathways of risk and resilience between psychosocial factors and dementia

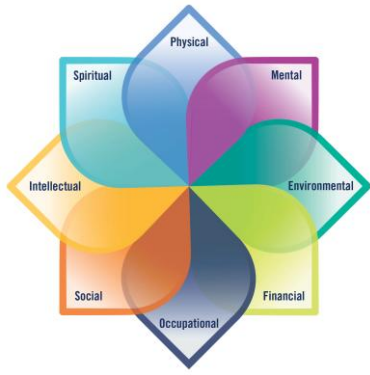
The hybrid event was well-attended and featured presentations by Belinda Tucker (who worked with James Jackson on the proposal for the original NSAL), Stephanie Chardoul (SRO Director – and original NSAL SRO Survey Director), Briana Mezuk (current NSAL PI), and Deborah Robinson (NSAL Co-PI and Project Director). All reflected on the importance of this study to social science research in the public interest and the importance of the continuity of our field staff in helping our studies stay in contact with our respondents across decades. Two very special guests, SRO field interviewers Eyvonne Mixon and Norma Reed, shared their unique reflections on their field work during the 2001 NSAL data collection effort and shared their advice to the team launching the 25-year follow up study.

It was a wonderful program, with thoughtful and emotional reflections on NSAL, Dr. James Jackson (who launched NSAL), and Martin Luther King, Jr. Collectively, it demonstrated how foundational principles of interdisciplinary collaboration, team science, relationships, and resiliency are essential in today’s efforts to conduct social science in the public interest.

If you missed it, you can watch this special session via ISR’s YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/jbuQM1hJeus>



An article about the event was published in the Michigan Daily: <https://www.michigandaily.com/news/campus-life/isr-celebrates-mlk-day-with-event-on-the-legacy-of-the-national-survey-of-american-life/>



SRO Wellness News (SRO Wellness Committee)

Please reach out if you are interested in being part of the SRO Wellness committee or if you have ideas to share. srowellcomm@umich.edu

[Friendly February 2026](#) Calendar from Action for Happiness.

MHealthy Portal - Powered by Asset Health

Some of the great offerings in 2026 include...

- ★ Active U 2026 - Program designed to get you moving and challenge yourself during a 12-week physical activity program. Active U t-shirts are BACK! Registration is open now and closes February 2.
 - [Register for Active U by February 2, 2026, on the MHealthy Portal](#)
- ★ MHealthy Rewards - Complete the confidential health questionnaire and set a goal within the MHealthy Portal to earn a \$75 reward! Open to all active, benefits-eligible U-M faculty and staff. The deadline is May 29, 2026.
 - [More information on MHealthy Rewards](#)

University Musical Society (UMS)

As part of U-M's commitment to promoting a culture of wellness, UMS has announced discounted tickets (\$29 mezzanine tickets, fees included) for U-M faculty and staff for three upcoming performances:

Wynton Marsalis's "The Jungle"

A symphonic work for jazz ensemble and orchestra

Friday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. // Hill Auditorium

An Irish Celebration: Featuring Martin Hayes, Sam Amidon, Paul Muldoon, Nic Gareiss and Stephanie Keane, Síle Denvir, and the Common Ground Ensemble

Friday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. // Hill Auditorium

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. // Hill Auditorium

You can redeem this offer online with promo code ARTSWELLNESS, or call or visit the UMS Ticket Office and mention this code. The offer is valid through Wednesday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m.; limit four discounted tickets per performance, but purchase as many performances as you wish. Discounted tickets must be purchased by 5:00 p.m. the day of each performance and are not available at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, please follow this link: <https://ums.org/>

Mental Wellness Mondays Webinar

Are you interested in learning ways to support your emotional well-being but short on time? If you have just 15 minutes, sign up for access to a monthly webinar called Mental Wellness Mondays (MWM). This brief webinar offers practical tips and strategies to support your mental wellness. This low-commitment virtual opportunity is meant to be accessible. Feel free to sign up and attend whenever you can. MWM is led by FASCCO counselor and licensed clinical psychologist Alex Jendrusina, Ph.D. [Mental Wellness Mondays](#)

"A Breath of Fresh Air" Guided Nature Experience

Staff, faculty, and students are invited to participate in a unique and energizing nature break, which introduces the positive effects of being in nature on our social and emotional well-being. You will practice mindful attention and appreciation for the natural environment, and learn how to refresh your energy and reduce stress by being outside.

The next [guided nature experience](#) will be held on February 10, 2026 near the Perry Building. Sign up can be found [here](#).

Career Development Fund for Staff

The [Career Development Fund](#) for Staff provides financial grants of up to \$1,500 for full-time regular staff. The goal is to help facilitate your learning, growth, and collaboration. For more information on the fund, attend the informational webinar on February 5.