



ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND URBAN RESEARCH

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

I am happy to update the University of Pittsburgh community on the recent activities and accomplishments of the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR).

UCSUR celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022. A timeline of its history and accomplishments is included in this report.

During the past year, UCSUR produced more than 25 peer-reviewed publications and participated in more than 50 funded research projects, the majority of which involve multidisciplinary collaborations. UCSUR received approximately \$1.7 million in external funding for multiple research infrastructure support projects through the Survey Research Program (SRP) in collaboration with faculty from across the University plus an additional \$1 million in funding related to other UCSUR programs. We continued our nationally recognized research in family caregiving, financial exploitation of older adults, technology and aging. I am pleased to serve as codirector and coprincipal investigator of the Administration for Community Living's National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research organization's Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Family Support program. This is a five-year, \$4.3 million center grant focused on facilitating the rapid translation and dissemination of state-of-the-art research and training into direct services and support programs designed to improve care, health, and quality of life of persons with disabilities, their families, and informal caregivers.

UCSUR also conducted the State of Aging, Disability, and Family Caregiving in Allegheny County project, an update of a similar 2014 project. Using secondary data and a large-scale telephone survey, the project characterizes older adults across a broad range of dimensions including demographics; income and poverty; health; work and retirement; living arrangements; housing and neighborhood conditions; and caregiving, disability and aging services use. UCSUR also continues to be the go-to resource for data and analysis to inform regional public policy through the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC), which currently provides access to more than 300 downloadable data sets (many of which are updated on a frequent basis). WPRDC also offers several data extraction and visualization tools that enhance user access and support statistical analyses.

UCSUR also continues to build its permanent research infrastructure. Highlights include our regional research registry, with more than 9,000 local residents (including 1,200 family caregivers) willing to participate in research studies; continued refinement of the UCSUR SRP in-house longitudinal multimode survey data management and collection system; and continued expansion of our geographic information system capabilities.

UCSUR has played a key role in conducting research to understand the social, economic, and quality of life impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, UCSUR has collaborated on community-based efforts to assist with responses to the pandemic.

Finally, UCSUR celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022. A timeline of its history and accomplishments is included in this report. I hope this report will give you a sense of the value that UCSUR provides to the University and to the broader community.



Scott R. Beach, PhD
Interim Director, UCSUR

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

The University Center for Social and Urban Research serves as a resource for researchers and educators interested in the basic and applied social and behavioral sciences. Here are just a few examples of the milestones in the center's distinguished history.

TIMELINE

1972

The center was established as the University Center for Urban Research (UCUR) with a mandate to "bring together, in an organized and integrated fashion, the many research activities and some of the service activities of the University of Pittsburgh which focus on urban phenomenon."

Brian Vargus and **Clyde McDaniel** served as the founding codirectors.

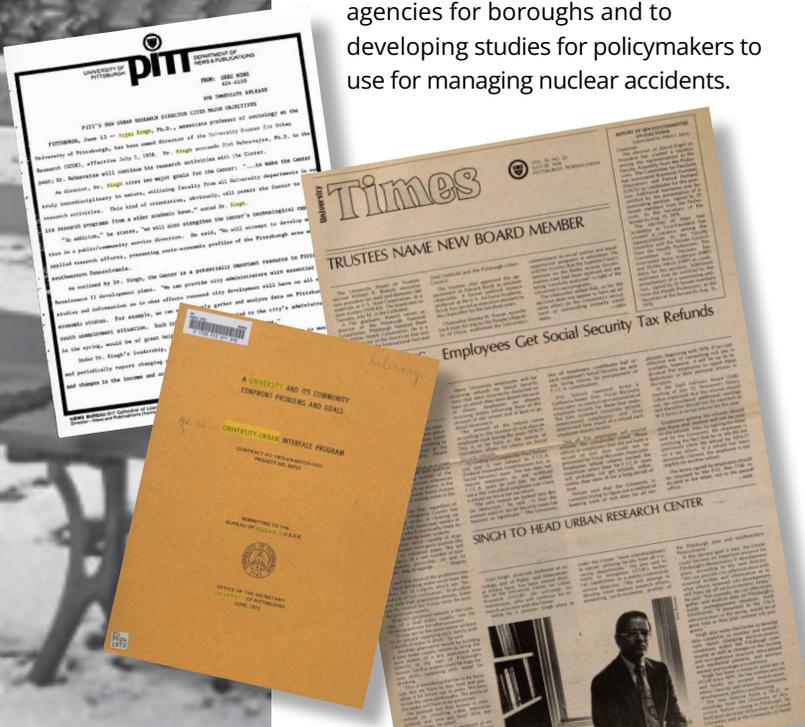


1973

Jiri Nehnevajsa assumed the role of director, expanding the programmatic areas of research within the center and establishing the foundation for the development of the survey research program. The small staff at UCUR during Nehnevajsa's tenure (1973-78) confined itself mostly to surveys of use to community groups and planning agencies for boroughs and to developing studies for policymakers to use for managing nuclear accidents.

1978

Vijai Singh was appointed director. Through a series of discussions with a great many members of the faculty, it became clear that the University needed a high quality, multidisciplinary social science research facility with a strong quantitative methodological orientation. This organization was to assist the University in fulfilling its urban mission by undertaking social and policy-oriented research and providing technical assistance to local governments and community organizations. Thus, in November 1978, with the approval of the Program Policy Committee, the Chancellor and the Provost, the center was renamed the **University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR)**, and its mission was expanded. During Singh's tenure (1978-95), UCSUR broadened both the scope of UCUR's areas of inquiry and the breadth of agencies to which its information would provide a service.



Under the direction of **Steven Manners**, the Survey Research/Data Processing Program (later renamed the Survey Research Program) was formed to expand the resources offered to University researchers and outside clients, with the ability to carry out all phases of a survey research project.

The Gerontology Program was formed under the codirectorship of **Edmund Ricci** and **Barbara Shore** and tied together University resources in more than a dozen departments and centers to further research on aging and better training of caregivers for the elderly.

1979

Generations Together (GT), the first university-based intergenerational studies program in the United States, became a part of UCSUR. Founded by and under the direction of **Sally Newman** as executive director (1979-2000), GT developed programs to help older residents feel useful and stay involved in their communities, in part to help them remain independent. Such programs as the Senior Citizen School Volunteer Program and the Artists Resource program used the region's larger than average elderly population as a resource to help educate the young. In 2000, **James McCrea** took over directorship until the program ended in 2004.

1980

The Urban and Regional Analysis (URA) Program was formed under the direction of **Vijai Singh** with a grant to study the economy of the Pittsburgh region. Under the URA Program, UCSUR conducts studies on the quality of life, present and future employment trends, and economic competitiveness of the area. It also provides technical support for agencies and communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

1983

Researchers begin constructing the Pittsburgh Regional Econometric Model. UCSUR and the Department of Economics received a major grant to construct an econometric model of the Pittsburgh region (**Frank Giarratani**, principal investigator; **Shirley Cassing** and **Roger Ahlbrandt**, coinvestigators). This research helped to set a basis for econometric modeling in policy analysis for the Pittsburgh region.

1984

Richard Schulz was recruited by the Department of Psychiatry and UCSUR to serve as director of the Gerontology Program, a University-wide position charged with building the research capacity on aging throughout the University. By the end of the 20th century, the research portfolio on aging at Pitt was second to none among U.S. universities.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



1986

The Office of Child Development (OCD) was established, with **Robert McCall** as director, to promote multidisciplinary research on and educational programs for children, youth and families, disseminating research to policymakers and citizens. In the early 90s, OCD became part of UCSUR.

UCSUR joined with the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and the Center for Hazardous Material Research to form the Environmental Policy Studies Program.

1989

UCSUR contracted with **Regional Econometric Modeling, Inc. (REMI)** to build an economic model of the Pittsburgh region. REMI uses an input/output database to help clients perform economic impact analysis and economic and demographic forecasts. UCSUR, along with Allegheny County and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission, purchased the Pittsburgh REMI model for local projects. UCSUR continues to maintain the most recent versions of the REMI model for an 11-county region of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

1990

The Environmental Policy Studies Program was relocated to UCSUR under the directorship of **Gene Gruver** and **Stephen Farber**.

1992

Christina Groark joined the Office of Child Development (OCD) as codirector with **Robert McCall**. OCD remained part of UCSUR until it was transitioned to the School of Education in 2002.

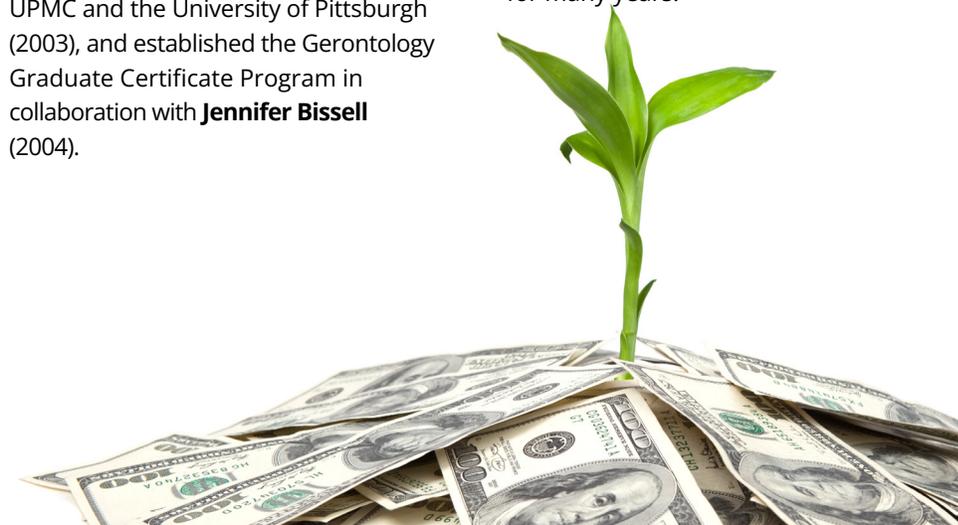
1995

Richard Schulz was appointed interim director of UCSUR and was appointed director in 1999.

During his tenure as director (1995-2016), Schulz continued to serve as director of the Gerontology Program, cofounded the Institute on Aging of UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh (2003), and established the Gerontology Graduate Certificate Program in collaboration with **Jennifer Bissell** (2004).

1996

UCSUR launched a seed grants program to promote faculty research development. Five years later, the program was renamed the **Steven D. Manners Awards** in memory of Steve Manners, who served as UCSUR's assistant director for many years.





1999

Scott Beach became director of the Survey Research Program. Under Beach's tenure, the Survey Research Program has continued to expand. The program now includes 15 full-time staff and typically conducts between 10 and 20 survey projects per year with Pitt faculty and others doing research in the public interest.

The Environmental Policy Studies Program was renamed the Environmental Decision Support Program. This program was established in response to a regional need for environmental resource management decision support. It brought together researchers from a broad range of natural sciences, social sciences, and engineering disciplines to focus on complex environmental issues using geographic information systems as a tool for data integration and modeling.

2004

The Qualitative Data Analysis Program was formed under the directorship of **Stuart Shulman** to offer a rigorous approach to managing and analyzing text-based data, including data preparation and cleaning, data management and storage, data distribution and unification, code development and testing, rater reliability reporting, and results analysis and expression.

2005

The Geographic Information Systems and Visual Analytics (GIS/VA) Program replaced the Environmental Decision Support Program and continues to serve the growing need for spatially represented data and analysis in many disciplines.

2012

Scott Beach created the **UCSUR Research Registry**, a panel of local residents recruited by the Survey Research Program who are willing to be contacted for additional surveys and research studies. To date, the registry contains more than 9,000 participants and has been a highly valuable resource to the research community.

2015

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center was launched as a partnership between the University of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and the City of Pittsburgh. It provides an inclusive infrastructure for openly sharing civic information, and project staff provide a range of services as a civic data intermediary.

2016

Scott Beach was appointed UCSUR interim director. Beach continues to serve as interim director and as director of the Survey Research Program.



Over the past 50 years, UCSUR's location moved many times to accommodate its continued expansion. Beginning on North Craig Street, moves included Pitt's Loeffler Building, Forbes Quad (now Wesley W. Posvar Hall), the Cathedral of Learning, 121 University Place, and finally to its current location at 3343 Forbes Avenue.

UCSUR looks forward to continuing its evolution as a valuable resource for multidisciplinary collaboration and a source for the latest data to inform public policy on the most pressing issues facing society.

WHO WE ARE

University Center for Social and Urban Research

The mission of UCSUR is to work collaboratively to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves communities and addresses social, economic, health, and policy issues most relevant to society. UCSUR carries out this mission by: (1) providing research support infrastructure and training; (2) conducting original research in a few focused areas, including urban impact analysis, survey methodology, and psychosocial aspects of aging; and (3) enhancing access to local and national policy-relevant data.

Goals

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) was established in 1972 to serve as a resource for researchers and educators interested in the basic and applied social and behavioral sciences. UCSUR promotes and coordinates interdisciplinary research focused on the social, economic, and health issues most relevant to our society. Specific goals of UCSUR fall into the following four broad domains:

1. **Provide** state-of-the-art research support services and infrastructure for investigators interested in interdisciplinary research in public policy and the social, behavioral, and health sciences
2. **Support** the community service mission of the University by providing data and conducting policy analysis for the region
3. **Develop** nationally recognized research programs within the center in a few selected areas (currently family caregiving, elder abuse, and technology and aging)
4. **Support** the teaching mission of the University by offering interdisciplinary training and mentoring to diverse graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty members



To achieve the strategic goals of the center, UCSUR maintains a permanent research infrastructure available to faculty and the community with the capacity to:

1. **conduct** all types of survey research and quantitative data analysis;
2. **acquire, manage, store, and analyze** secondary and administrative data sets including Census data and data of unique local interest;
3. **obtain, format, and analyze** spatial data;
4. **carry out** regional econometric modeling;
5. **design and carry out** descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies; and
6. **conduct** qualitative data collection and analysis.

Our research infrastructure is organized under the following four core programs:

1. **Survey Research Program**, which is responsible for all aspects of survey research and quantitative data analysis
2. **Urban and Regional Analysis Program**, which acquires, manages, and analyzes secondary and administrative data sets; does regional econometric modeling; and obtains, formats, and analyzes spatial data
3. **Gerontology Program**, which provides expertise in the design, measurement, and analysis of descriptive, evaluation, and intervention studies focused on older adults
4. **Qualitative Data Analysis Program**, which supports the collection and analysis of open-ended text data using rigorous computer-based methods

PROGRAMS

In response to faculty interests and current domestic policy issues, UCSUR develops interdisciplinary research programs that address regional and national policy issues. The resources described in the next section are provided by one or more of these programs. As new policy issues emerge, UCSUR is prepared to facilitate and coordinate the development of additional programs identified by interested faculty. Existing research programs include:

Gerontology

The Gerontology Program initiates, coordinates, and facilitates research on aging. In collaboration with faculty in more than a dozen different disciplines (e.g., psychiatry, anesthesiology, rheumatology, nursing, epidemiology, engineering, computer science), program faculty and staff members play an active role in developing proposals for research focused on psychosocial, behavioral, cognitive, and physical aspects of aging.

Qualitative Data Analysis

The Qualitative Data Analysis Program offers a rigorous approach to qualitative data collection and analysis, including focus group facilitation; in-depth interviewing; cognitive interviewing; analysis of textual or website information; audio and video transcription and analysis; data preparation, cleaning, and management; codebook development and testing, coding and multi-coder adjudication; reliability and validity reporting; and results analysis and reporting.

Survey Research

The Survey Research Program maintains a highly experienced staff of survey professionals, trained interviewers, and data management specialists. Services are available to faculty, staff, and students throughout the University and to local, state, and federal agencies and others working in the public interest. It offers the capability to execute any or all phases of a survey research project, including sample design, questionnaire construction, data collection, data processing, statistical analysis, and reporting. It also features a 45-line telephone bank for computer-assisted telephone interviewing.

Urban and Regional Analysis

The Urban and Regional Analysis Program promotes scholarly analysis of urban and regional development through multidisciplinary research and technical assistance in local, national and international issues. It furthers our understanding of the causes and consequences of regional economic development and social change, enhances the analytic basis for public policy decisions and civic engagement, aids in the evaluation of policy alternatives, and applies Geographic Information System and neighborhood indicators to understand community revitalization.

Projects conducted in all these areas illustrate the center's commitment to enhancing scientific understanding of social phenomena while generating information for improved policymaking in both the public and private sectors.

WHAT WE DO: CENTER RESOURCES

SURVEY RESEARCH SERVICES

UCSUR provides survey research services through the Survey Research Program (SRP). SRP maintains a highly experienced staff of survey professionals, trained interviewers, and data management specialists. SRP services are available to faculty, staff, and students throughout the University and to local, state, and federal agencies and others working in the public interest.

SRP is able to carry out any or all phases of a survey research project, including sample design, questionnaire design, data collection, data processing, statistical analysis, and reporting. SRP staff members have the training and experience to design scientifically valid studies customized to client research needs. SRP can help to clarify study objectives and provide advice on how to obtain the highest quality data within available resource constraints. More specifically, SRP provides assistance in the following areas:

Sample Design

SRP staff members provide advice on sampling methodology and sample size to meet study objectives and budget. Services include in-house development of specialized sample frames or consultation with commercial sampling firms to obtain an appropriate sample. Examples of the types of samples provided include:

- **online panel/research registry samples:** These are geographically and demographically targeted samples that use commercially available web panels or in-house research registries. These are also useful for cost-effective samples of rare populations.

- **random digit dialing (RDD) samples:** Particularly suited for telephone surveys of the general population, computer-generated telephone numbers are used to target specific geographic areas including both listed and unlisted phone numbers, landline and cellular. RDD sampling for any region of the United States is available.
- **targeted/listed samples:** These samples are used to reach specific subgroups or rare populations. These are useful for telephone recruitment of participants for larger studies. They are also used for supplementing RDD samples with oversamples of rare populations.

Data Collection Methodology

SRP staff members can provide:

- **advice** on the most productive and cost-effective method of data collection (mail, telephone, in-person, or internet/web-based) and the effective use of technology for surveys.
- **specification of procedures** for maximizing response rates within the framework of available resources. For example, recommended number of attempts to contact respondents, securing initial cooperation, following-up incomplete interviews, converting refusals into acceptances, and use of mixed-mode designs and incentives.

Questionnaire Development

SRP staff members can assist with all aspects of the development of a reliable and valid instrument, including:

- **writing**, formatting, and ordering questions;
- **asking** sensitive questions; and
- **pretesting** the instrument.

Interviewing and Data Collection

SRP conducts local, regional, and national telephone and mail surveys with both general and special populations, as well as in-person surveys in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region. SRP also conducts internet/web-based surveys.

SRP relies on a pool of experienced interviewers for telephone and in-person surveys. These include both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as nonstudents under the management of senior fieldwork supervisors.

Interviewer training and quality control:

Interviewers are trained in general and project-specific interviewing techniques, such as maintaining objectivity, reading questions as written, and securing respondent cooperation. Training involves a combination of lectures, written handouts, video instruction, and role-playing. Interviewers are continuously monitored during data collection for quality assurance, and periodic retraining sessions occur as necessary.

Computer-assisted telephone

interviewing (CATI): A 45-line phone bank at UCSUR is dedicated to a CATI system. Interviewers read questions as they appear on the screen and enter the respondents' answers directly into the computer. CATI allows complex question contingencies, sample management, and call scheduling to be handled automatically.

Random digit dialing (RDD) cell phone surveys: UCSUR has experience conducting RDD cell phone surveys in order to supplement traditional landline RDD telephone surveys. This methodology ensures inclusion of cell phone-only households, estimated at 50 percent of the U.S. population (and growing). Cell phone-only households are typically younger, more likely to

be employed, and more ethnically diverse, and their exclusion can result in significant biases in landline-only surveys.

Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI): With this type of interview, an interviewer uses a laptop computer, reads questions to the respondent, and then enters the answers directly into a database on the laptop computer. CAPI is programmed similar to computer-assisted telephone interviewing and provides the same advantages (automated skips, randomized experiments, etc.).

Audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI): With this application, a respondent operates a computer, the computer displays the questions on screen and plays recordings of the questions to the respondent who enters answers directly into a database on the computer. A respondent typically uses headphones with our ACASI solutions in order to maintain response privacy. ACASI enhances perceived privacy for sensitive questions and is ideal for less literate populations. ACASI is similar to CATI, CAPI, and computer-assisted self-interviewing (CASI) in programming requirements and function.

Interactive voice response (IVR): IVR is an automated system where a recorded voice administers survey questions/scripts and detects voice and keypad inputs from a home phone or cell phone. Privacy is enhanced by switching to IVR from a live interviewer for the administration of sensitive questions. IVR also is ideal for ecological momentary assessment.

Web-based data collection: SRP has the capability to conduct web-based surveys and other online data collection and management. UCSUR operates

secure servers that host such activities and uses the University-approved Qualtrics software platform.

Mobile device data collection: SRP has capabilities to design applications for the collection of data on smartphones and other mobile devices. These include tools for the collection and integration of self-reported surveys, location tracking, and physiological monitoring data for real-time ecological momentary assessment studies.

Additional data collection services: Telephone surveys using paper/pencil methodology, mail surveys, and in-person surveys in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region also are available.

Surveys of special and hard-to-reach populations: UCSUR has conducted numerous surveys of special and hard-to-reach populations, including numerous clinical populations, children, and ethnically and linguistically diverse samples. UCSUR has conducted interviews in Spanish, Chinese, and Korean and has the capability to conduct international surveys.

Participant Recruitment and Screening

In addition to assisting with primary survey data collection, SRP can assist researchers with locating, contacting, screening, consenting, and scheduling research participants. We use a variety of sample sources (e.g., telephone samples, research registries) and methods (telephone, web, social media) to cost-effectively recruit and enroll research participants for observational, clinical, and intervention studies.

Research Registry

UCSUR has developed and maintains an IRB-approved research registry currently containing more than 9,000 local residents who have agreed to

be contacted for possible surveys and other research studies. The participants are recruited to the registry on an ongoing basis from the pool of respondents to UCSUR-conducted population-based telephone surveys. The registry includes detailed contact information and demographic information including age, gender, race, education level, marital status, household composition, employment status, and income. This allows for targeting of participants for studies with specific eligibility requirements. External investigators can contract with SRP to access the registry for study recruitment. SRP also has an indicator for participants who are providing unpaid care to an ill or disabled family member or friend. To date, more than 1,200 family caregivers have been identified who are willing to participate in research studies.

Patient-Reported Outcomes Data Collection for Clinical Research

SRP conducts patient-reported outcomes (PRO) studies using telephone, web, in-person, and other technologies, including mixed-mode designs. These are typically part of clinical trials or intervention studies that follow patients over time. The SRP call center is staffed seven days per week by trained supervisory and interviewer staff members. SRP maintains a secure project dashboard that allows transfer of research participant data and contact information to initiate data collection protocols, schedule assessments, and enable two-way data dialog between the principal investigator's team and SRP staff members. SRP has conducted dozens of complex longitudinal PRO assessment studies with varying clinical populations and has consistently attained response/retention rates above 90 percent.

WHAT WE DO: CENTER RESOURCES

Data Management

Using a variety of computer programs, languages, database management software, and operating systems, SRP staff members are available to perform a number of data management functions, including database development, editing, coding, and survey data processing. SRP staff members also have the capability to integrate survey respondent data with GIS-based spatial data, and with other secondary data sources.

Statistical Analysis of Survey Data

SRP staff members can perform statistical analyses of survey data, ranging from simple tabulations to relatively complex statistical modeling using a variety of statistical packages. Analytic capabilities include:

- descriptive statistical analyses of survey responses, including calculations of sampling error, and statistical weighting adjustments for unequal selection probabilities and non-response;
- cross-classification analyses with demographic or other predictive factors;
- multivariate analyses, including analysis of variance, factor analysis, linear and nonlinear regression, logistic regression, categorical methods, and structural equation modeling; and
- longitudinal analyses.

Report Preparation and Presentation

SRP staff members have experience in the production of a variety of reports, including:

- simple tabulations,
- executive summaries,
- in-depth narrative reports, and
- oral presentations of results to interested parties.



Through URA's work, UCSUR is one of two research affiliates of the Pennsylvania State Data Center, the official source of demographic and economic data for the state.

URBAN AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS SERVICES

UCSUR's Urban and Regional Analysis Program (URA) analyzes major economic and demographic trends in the Pittsburgh region in national and international contexts. URA brings together faculty, research staff, and graduate students to examine important urban and regional issues, with the results disseminated widely to state and regional policymakers, local officials, and community and economic development organizations. URA also partners with other researchers and organizations across the globe to advance urban and regional knowledge. URA's research extends from regional development to community change and examines their consequences for regional restructuring, equity implications, and policy analysis. In addition to the performance of the regional economy, specific strategic economic sectors are examined through in-depth studies and their implications for workforce development and job creation. The program also fosters the development of new methods of data collection and analysis. URA research is published in scholarly journals and technical reports and has been an important element of UCSUR's commitment to providing regional economic development analysis to both the academic community and the Pittsburgh region. Through URA's work, UCSUR is one of two research affiliates of the Pennsylvania State Data Center, the official source of demographic and economic data for the state.

Environmental Policy Analysis

In spring 2017, UCSUR reinitiated the Environmental Policy Analysis Program led by Michael Blackhurst. The Environmental Policy Analysis Program integrates engineering and social science methods to address society's environmental challenges through open-source publications and decision support resources. The Environmental Policy Analysis Program also serves to connect researchers at the University of Pittsburgh to sponsors and interests external to the University.

Pittsburgh Regional Economic Model

Regional economic models describe the flow of monetary and labor resources within and across both regions and economic sectors. They are often used to assess the economic and labor impacts of policy alternatives, such as tax revisions, economic development, large-scale infrastructure investment, and many other similar scenarios.

UCSUR uses software developed by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) of Amherst, Massachusetts, for economic impact analysis and economic and demographic forecasting for an 11-county region of southwestern Pennsylvania. The Pittsburgh REMI model is supported by UCSUR in partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), which uses REMI for planning transportation infrastructure and long-range forecasting. UCSUR has over 25 years of experience applying the REMI model to the Pittsburgh region. Previous applications of Pittsburgh's REMI model include economic, population, and labor market forecasting and regional economic impact analysis.



Regional Indicators Project: PittsburghTODAY.org

PittsburghTODAY is an in-depth journalism and regional indicators program that compares Greater Pittsburgh with 15 other regions on hundreds of measures. The statistical indicators provide reliable and timely information that shows this region's strengths and weaknesses and how it compares with other regions. Additionally, PittsburghTODAY undertakes in-depth journalistic projects in subjects that are important to the region's future.

The program started the year with our Pittsburgh Today & Tomorrow project. Journalistic projects this year have included close looks at Allegheny County's vacant and abandoned property problem and the issue regarding the possible annexation by Pittsburgh of the borough of Wilkinsburg. Our work on vacant and abandoned property looked at the steps taken by other regions on that topic, including Cleveland and Detroit, and examined why Pittsburgh's Land Bank has been a dismal failure compared with those other similar cities. The year ended with journalistic projects that examined possible ways that school districts can make up for severe pandemic learning losses created when schools were out of session for extended periods. Finally, we examined how the expected changes in climate will continue to affect this region, and how we can prepare for it.

Geographic Information System

Geographic Information System (GIS) software is used to visualize and analyze spatial trends in data. UCSUR staff members have decades of leadership experience using GIS systems to manage and analyze spatial data, including executing original research and providing data publishing, technical assistance, online decision support, and data education and training. Our staff members have led GIS-driven projects across a diversity of domains, including environmental policy, health care, land use and housing policy, and public health. Exemplary recent projects include tools and training developed by the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center, interactive maps of neighborhood data in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles, and primary collaborations with UPMC physicians investigating spatial aspects of cardiovascular disease.

Pittsburgh Perspectives

The Urban and Regional Analysis Services Program has expanded public outreach with a new online section of the UCSUR web page, which publishes short analyses of topics related to economic and demographic change in the Pittsburgh region.

WHAT WE DO: CENTER RESOURCES



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL DATA CENTER

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) launched in 2015 as a partnership between the University of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and the City of Pittsburgh. It provides an inclusive infrastructure for openly sharing civic information, and project staff members provide a range of services as a civic data intermediary. Funding for the project is provided through the county and city, local and national philanthropic organizations, federal grants, fee-for-service projects, and University support provided through UCSUR.

Over the past year, WPRDC provided the following services and infrastructure to the University and the broader community.

Support for Strategic University Community Initiatives

WPRDC provides infrastructure for strategic initiatives of the University and community. It works to support many projects and initiatives by providing data, expertise and tools. The project team enhances the University's community engagement efforts, builds community among campus data users, supports COVID-19 response through the Black Equity Coalition, provides support to The Pittsburgh Study's efforts to improve the well-being of children, and informs affordable housing preservation and development strategies.

Access to Open Data

WPRDC hosts open data on a variety of topics and, in 2022, extended its partnership with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh for an additional three years. Some of the most-used data includes COVID-19 tests and cases in Allegheny County, county property sales and assessments, city crimes, Pittsburgh Regional Transit ridership, and city 311 requests for service. This data can be downloaded or accessed through an application programming interface and is used by students in many classes at the University, high school students from the Pittsburgh Dataworks Data Jam, and other members of our community. We also support University initiatives, such as the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory and the Congress of Neighboring Communities, by providing access to data needed by member organizations.

Data Acquisition and Transformation Services

WPRDC staff members often collaborate on research and community projects to acquire data and make it available. Recent work for The Pittsburgh Study enabled the acquisition of data about pediatric emergency room usage and primary care visits from the University's Record Research Request Service. We also continue to partner with Allegheny County and the city of Pittsburgh to publish data and maintain data feeds from their internal systems. We also have assembled a regularly updated collection of data to inform affordable housing preservation initiatives in Allegheny County in partnership with the Preservation Working Group.

Data Visualization Tools and Dashboards

To help make data more relevant and useful to different people, WPRDC has built exploration tools and dashboards using open data, including the University's Community Engagement and Outreach Map; the interactive Greenprint map, supporting land conservation efforts with the Allegheny Land Trust; HouseCat, a tool to display data about subsidized residential properties; and tools that provide community statistics on health and housing.

Support to University Research, Analysis, and Special Projects

WPRDC staff members leverage their experiences and engage in special projects. We partnered with the University Library System and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to found the Civic Switchboard project, designed to develop the capacity of academic and public libraries in civic data ecosystems. In the first phase of this work, the project team published a toolkit for library workers that includes a series of case studies. The second phase of this project involves the design of course materials to prepare library and information science students for careers in civic data. Project staff members also supported researchers at the School of Public Health with the Postpartum Mothers Mobile Study by providing community indicators related to structural racism; provided data and tools to Pitt Public Health faculty members working with the Live Well Allegheny: Lifting Wellness for African Americans initiative; and worked with Pitt's Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security's Disinformation Lab and Task Force on public algorithms.



WHAT WE DO: CENTER RESOURCES

Course Design and Personalized Learning

WPRDC has been actively involved in providing learning opportunities for students. Staff members cotaught a public policy course on public interest technology, are partnering with a team of students interested in working on affordable housing through the Center for Analytical Approaches to Social Innovation and served on the advisory board for the University's Year of Data and Society initiative in the 2021-22 academic year. In summer 2022, staff members mentored three interns from the School of Public Health who were working on independent projects. WPRDC continues to collaborate with faculty members on course design and delivers more than 10 in-class guest lectures every term to students in public health, urban studies, sociology, social work, geology, computing and information, public and international affairs, medicine, and the David C. Frederick Honors College.

Training

Building on earlier work with libraries, WPRDC staff members launched two new data literacy programs in 2022. One workshop series is designed to support data stewards and other data workers as they build equity into their data practices. The second workshop is focused on building skills and confidence of trusted community ambassadors. Staff members also have worked with faculty members from the School of Computing and Information and the Center for Creativity to develop a set of workshops in which participants build their data literacy through art.

Technical Assistance

WPRDC often consults with faculty, staff, and community partners that are looking to use data in their work. The center primarily does this through weekly office hours and also through meetings and ad-hoc requests. The center receives three to five requests for help on a daily basis. Staff members also work directly as advisors on student projects and initiatives like the Allegheny County Policing Project at the Center for Analytical Approaches to Social Innovation. WPRDC also provides assistance to community partners by participating in coalitions, including the Preservation Working Group, Sustainable Pittsburgh's DISCOVER initiative, and the Black Equity Coalition.

Publishing Platforms

More than 20 organizations publish data through WPRDC's open data portal. WPRDC helps partners big and small by providing a shared infrastructure for publishing open data. The open data portal provides the ability to download complete data sets or access data through an application programming interface, all with complete metadata and a license enabling reuse.

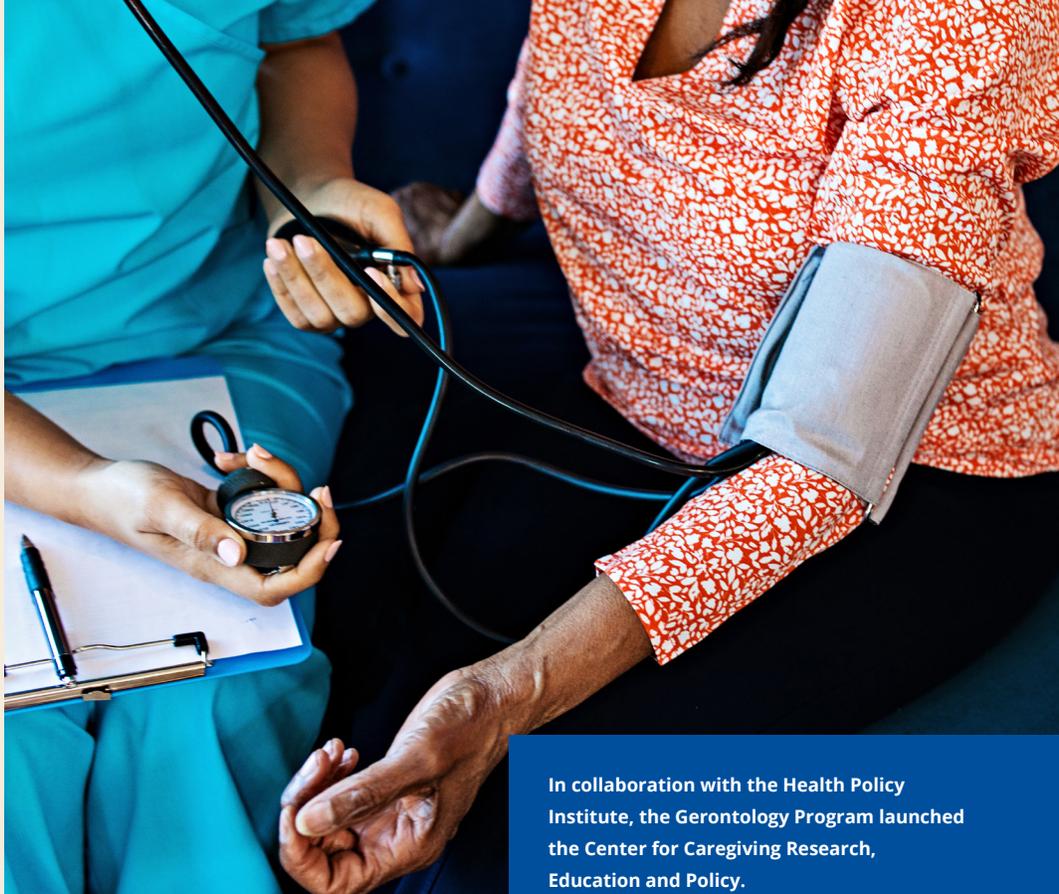
Represent the University of Pittsburgh in External Networks

WPRDC represents the University in several different national networks focused on civic data, open data, and technology. Participation in these networks helps us to connect our work to other practitioners. We also welcome others at the University to leverage the connections we have developed through participation in these networks. WPRDC staff members have participated in the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (managed by the Urban Institute), the Data Across Sectors for Health Partnership, and the Data Literacy Consortium.

GERONTOLOGY SERVICES

The Gerontology Program at the University of Pittsburgh has been conducting federally funded research on critical issues related to health, aging, and family caregiving for more than 30 years. Much of what is known about living with different illnesses has resulted from medical and psychological research such as that conducted in our program. This program is recognized as one of the leading social gerontology research programs in the nation. Program faculty and staff members play an active role in developing proposals for research focused on psychosocial, behavioral, cognitive, and physical aspects of aging. Our principal goals are to:

- Stimulate the development of externally funded research in six areas:
 1. physical and mental health of older adults
 2. use of technology to improve older adults' quality of life
 3. work and retirement
 4. aging and social institutions
 5. socialization and social support
 6. cultural differences and aging
- Operate as the information hub for interdisciplinary, aging-related research and training resources throughout the University
- Assist in the development of new gerontological training and service programs that serve the research and training missions of the University



In collaboration with the Health Policy Institute, the Gerontology Program launched the Center for Caregiving Research, Education and Policy.

Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

This educational program is designed to serve individuals from diverse educational, employment, and professional backgrounds who are interested in acquiring basic knowledge about gerontology and geriatrics and specialized knowledge of aging and aging processes. Students may focus broadly on a course of study in a general multidisciplinary track offered both on-campus as well as through Pitt Online. They may also select specialty tracks focused on prevention and healthy aging, family support, gerontechnology, law, mental health, nursing, occupational therapy/rehabilitation, public health, and social work.

Whether to gain credentials and skills for a competitive advantage in the marketplace or to enhance understanding of aging to inform the delivery of services, programs, or products, students may solely enroll in this certificate program or they may pursue the certificate in conjunction

with a degree program. Credits earned for the certificate often may be applied toward a degree program. Information about the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Program can be found at ucsur.pitt.edu/gerocert.php.

Center for Caregiving Research, Education and Policy

In collaboration with the Health Policy Institute, the Gerontology Program launched the Center for Caregiving Research, Education and Policy. The mission of the center is to enhance research on caregiving; train professionals and family caregivers to be as effective as possible; institute support programs integrating caregivers into existing health care services, long-term services and support systems; and inform public policy on the role of caregivers in state and national health care regulations.

WHAT WE DO: CENTER RESOURCES

For more than three decades, the multidisciplinary faculty members and clinicians at the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC have been at the forefront of research documenting the impact of caregiving on family caregivers and the persons they care for, developing intervention strategies to mitigate the negative effects and enhance the positive effects of caregiving, and formulating policy to support caregivers. The center consolidates and synergizes this expertise to accelerate the impact of its research on policy, health care systems, and the health of family members who are providing and receiving care.

Technology and Aging

A major research project led by the Gerontology Program focuses on how and why community-residing older adults, particularly those with limited access to personal computers and mobile devices, use multi-user health kiosks located in congregate settings to self-monitor and manage several aspects of their health. In addition to tracking user engagement with the assessment and intervention features of the kiosk, the project explores

health services utilization during and up to 18 months of study participation and promotes patient-provider communication regarding personal health and family caregiving concerns. This project is supported by the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research and involves multidisciplinary collaboration among researchers in the health professions, social sciences, engineering, computer science, and informatics from several universities.



QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS SERVICES

The Qualitative Data Analysis Program (QDAP) at UCSUR provides a resource to the University community in all aspects of qualitative data collection and analysis. Experienced QDAP staff members can carry out or assist with all phases of a qualitative research project including study design; project management and coordination; data collection utilizing interviews, focus groups, and document or website analysis; audio and video transcription; data coding and analysis; and results reporting.

Data Collection and Management

QDAP staff members have the expertise to collect and manage a range of qualitative data utilizing a variety of methods and sources. This includes conducting in-depth interviews, facilitating focus groups, and collecting qualitative data from both traditional and innovative sources such as document and textual material, videos, images and other visual material, and web sources such as websites, blogs and emails. QDAP provides high quality transcription of audio and video recordings for further analysis. QDAP staff members can provide management services ranging from full project management to assistance in the management of data collection including recruitment, screening and scheduling of participants, depending on project needs. Using qualitative data analysis and management software, QDAP staff members also can organize and manage qualitative data in preparation for analysis.



Value-Added Coding

Accurate and reliable coding is central to qualitative and mixed methods analysis. QDAP offers a rigorous approach to analyzing a variety of qualitative materials. Experienced coders deliver the data you need in a timely and expert manner from a wide variety of sources. Original material for analysis might include in-depth interviews, open-ended survey answers, field notes, transcripts from focus groups, web blogs, emails, website content, videos and images, results from database searches (such as LexisNexis™), congressional testimony, historical texts, and a host of other unstructured but digitized data sets. QDAP staff members work with your research team to craft an analysis plan and codebook with a tailored methodology designed to code the material for key concepts and relationships. Multiple coders can quickly and reliably extract the data you need to reach valid inferences.

QDAP employs University of Pittsburgh students and UCSUR professional staff members trained in data collection and in using qualitative analysis software. We maintain a 15-station transcription and qualitative data coding lab that utilizes Olympus transcription software; ATLAS.ti, a widely used qualitative data analysis software package that supports project management, enables

multiple coders to collaborate on a single project, and generates output that facilitates the analysis process; NVivo, another widely used qualitative data analysis software package; Transana, a video coding software package; and a specialized, in-house program for quality control which calculates inter-coder reliability statistics and simplifies adjudication of coder disagreement. In addition, we offer training seminars and one-on-one training sessions for faculty, staff and students in using ATLAS.ti, NVivo and Transana.

Services Provided

- Study design, management and coordination
- Interviewer training and management
- Participant recruitment
- Data collection including focus group facilitation, in-depth interviewing, cognitive interviewing and document analysis
- Transcription of audio and video recordings
- Data preparation, cleaning, and management
- Codebook development and testing
- Coding and coding adjudication
- Coder reliability and validity reporting
- Results analysis and expression
- Software training for qualitative data analysis software (ATLAS.ti, NVivo, Transana)

WHAT WE DO: CENTER RESOURCES

ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY DATA

UCSUR provides assistance for secondary data acquisition and management to the academic community and to the Pittsburgh region as a whole. As an affiliate of the Pennsylvania State Data Center, the official source of demographic and economic data for the state, UCSUR is a repository for electronic and printed Census information, including Census 2020 data. UCSUR also acquires and maintains a variety of government statistics, economic and labor market data, and other types of secondary information on a regular basis. This information is available to the academic community and to the general public.

The data acquisition and management services UCSUR provides include:

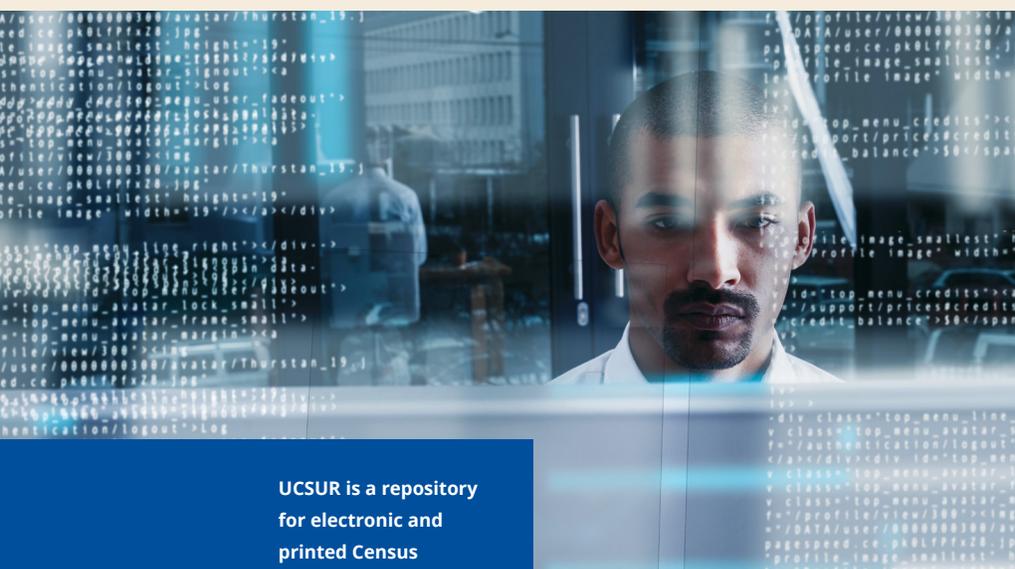
- assistance in acquiring secondary data stored at UCSUR to interested individuals and organizations;
- assistance in locating and acquiring a variety of other types of secondary information;
- expertise and consultation in the appropriate use and understanding of various secondary data sources; and
- evaluation and interpretation of policy relevant secondary information data for government, business, labor, media and other organizations.

UCSUR also conducts demographic, economic and policy research and analysis, and reports on secondary data and data trends relevant to the Pittsburgh region, both alone and in combination with various primary data sources. This research is reported through a number of venues, including research reports and up-to-date neighborhood information on the UCSUR website at ucsur.pitt.edu.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

UCSUR's IT Department continues to partner closely with Pitt-IT, the Network Operations Center (NOC), and NOC's efforts within Microsoft's Azure Cloud Services. This past year, UCSUR enhanced its Business Continuity Plan (BCP). The plan prioritizes bringing computers and critical data sets back online in the case of a disaster. The three main aspects of the BCP—high availability, continuous operations, and disaster recovery—are primarily handled centrally by NOC and Azure. UCSUR IT staff members will coordinate local PC-based resources with these central operations to efficiently restore business productivity in the event of a disaster.



UCSUR is a repository for electronic and printed Census information, including Census 2020 data.

STEVEN D. MANNERS RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

2022

Sara Goodkind and Jeffrey Shook,
School of Social Work
Karen Jakubowski, Psychiatry
Andrea Rosso, Epidemiology; and
Andrea Weinstein, Psychiatry

2021

Michael R. Glass, Urban Studies Program

2020

Jessica Levenson, Psychiatry and
Pediatrics
Randall Walsh, Economics

2019

Jessica Hamilton, UPMC Western
Psychiatric Hospital
Marlo Perry, School of Social Work

2018

Jamie Hanson, Psychology
Junia Howell, Sociology
Chelsea Pallatino, Obstetrics,
Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences

2017

Courtenay Dunn-Lewis, Health and
Physical Activity
Aidan Wright, Psychology

2016

Victoria Shineman, Political Science
Alicia Sufrinko and Anthony Kontos,
Orthopaedic Surgery

2015

Carissa Low, University of Pittsburgh
Cancer Institute
Elizabeth Votruba-Drzal, Psychology

2014

Anthony Fabio and Dara Mendez,
Epidemiology
Lyn Robertson, Medicine

2013

Brian Beaton and Rosta Farzan,
School of Information Sciences
Kathryn Monahan, Psychiatry
Ming-Te Wang, School of Education

2012

Nicholas Castle, Graduate School of
Public Health

2011

Jane Clougherty, Graduate School
of Public Health
Fengyan Tang, School of Social Work

2010

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, Graduate
School of Public and International
Affairs
Jennifer H. Lingler, School of Nursing
Werner Troesken and Randall Walsh,
Economics
Jennifer Nicoll Victor, Political Science

2009

Irina Murtazashvili, Economics
Brian A. Primack, Medicine
and Pediatrics

2008

Peter J. Gianaros and J. Richard Jennings,
Psychiatry
Elizabeth LaRue, School of Nursing
Keith Morgenlander, Medicine

2007

Patricia Isabel Documet, Behavioral
and Community Health Sciences
Jeffrey Shook and Michael Vaughn,
School of Social Work

2006

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran and Aaron
Swoboda, Graduate School
of Public and International Affairs
Larissa Myaskovsky, VA Pittsburgh
Healthcare System

2005

Charlotte Brown, Center on Race and
Social Problems
Bruce S. Ling, Institute for
Doctor-Patient Communication
Eva Marie Shivers, School of Education

2004

Ellen Olshansky, School of Nursing;
Seung-Hyun Yoo, Graduate School of
Public Health
Susan Zickmund, Medicine

2003

Lisa Brush, Sociology
William Klein, Psychology
Audrey Murrell, Joseph M. Katz
Graduate School of Business
Pamela Peele, Health Economics
Daniel Rosen, School of Social Work
Jeannette Trauth, Graduate School of
Public Health

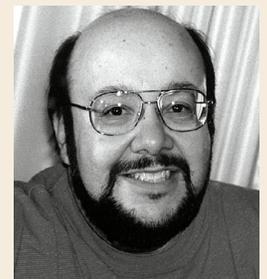
2002

Scott F. Kiesling, Linguistics
Maureen Porter, Administrative and
Policy Studies

2001

Paul E. Griffiths, History and Philosophy
Miriam Hertz, Health Information
Management

In memory of Steven D. Manners, who began working at the center in 1974 and served as its assistant director from 1989 until his death in September 2000, UCSUR initiated a Faculty Development Awards program in recognition of Manners' contributions to the center and the University community. These awards support pilot research in the social, behavioral, and policy sciences that has the potential of leading to larger, externally funded projects of interest to local/national foundations or state/federal agencies. The proposed research must align with UCSUR's mission of working collaboratively to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves communities and addresses social, economic, health, and policy issues most relevant to society.



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Scott Beach

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Donna M. King

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Carrie Rodzwick

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Olivia Wilson

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Research Specialist:
Christine Byerly

Research Specialists/
Interviewers:
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Luke Farkas, Ana Geibel,
Paula Kubrick, Brandon Self,
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Outreach Coordinator,
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Western Pennsylvania
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** Indicates participating faculty,
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Sociology

Waverly Duck
Sociology

Vijai P. Singh
Sociology

Daniel Hall
Surgery

James D. Luketich
Surgery

Aaron Brenner
University Library System

PROJECTS*

Access to Kidney Transplantation in Minority Populations (AKT-MP)

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Rhaven Nelson, UCSUR
Larissa Myaskovsky, University of New Mexico**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 02/21-01/25

Telephone interviews with N=398 end-stage kidney disease patients to compare the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of two approaches to help Hispanic/Latino and American Indian patients overcome barriers to completing transplant evaluation and receiving a kidney transplant.

Biobehavioral Studies of Cardiovascular Disease

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Peter Gianaros, Psychology**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/18-06/23

Telephone recruitment of participants for the NOAH (N=389) and eBACH (N=150) studies designed to advance mechanistic and translational science on the neurobiology of cardiovascular disease risk in midlife.

Caring for OutPatiEnts after Acute Kidney Injury (COPE-AKI) Consortium

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Kaleab Z. Abebe, School of Medicine**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 10/1/21-9/30/26

The goal of the COPE-AKI Consortium will be to develop and test interventions to enhance processes of care and identify key pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions to reduce morbidity among these high-risk patients. UCSUR will conduct telephone interviews with approximately 2,000 AKI patients at 30 days, 90 days, 6 months, and 1 year to assess global health related quality of life, AKI-specific health related quality of life, provider interactions, and social support.



Climate and Rural Systems Partnership

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Kevin Crowley, UPCLOSE, LRDC
Mary Ann Steiner, UPCLOSE, LRDC**

Funder: National Science Foundation
Period: 07/19-present

Data collection, management, and analysis support for a study of residents in a rural Western PA county designed to assess attitudes toward climate change before and after an informal educational intervention.

Community HealthChoices Evaluation - NSOC (National Study of Caregiving)

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Olivia Kirsch, SRP, UCSUR
Howard Degenholtz, Graduate School of Public Health**

Funder: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (Office of Long-Term Living)

Period: 07/17-06/22

Telephone interviews (~N=1000) with unpaid caregivers to participants in Community HealthChoices (CHC) - a Pennsylvania managed care program for Medical Assistance recipients - in order to evaluate the impact of CHC.

COVID-19 Outpatient Thrombosis Prevention Trial

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Lynda Connelly, SRP, UCSUR
Jean Marie Connors, Harvard Medical School**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 09/20-08/21

Telephone interviews with adults diagnosed with COVID-19 infection and at risk for blood clots in order to test the effectiveness of anti-thrombotic therapies.

Effects of COVID-19 on Family Caregivers

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Heidi Donovan, School of Nursing
A. Everette James, Healthy Policy Institute**

**Julie Klinger, National Research and Training Center on Family Support, Health Sciences
Heather Tomko, National Research and Training Center on Family Support, Health Sciences**

Funder: The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research
Period: 04/20-present

A mixed mode (web & phone) survey of persons from a local area research registry, and persons associated with several national disability and caregiving-related organizations. The goal of the survey was to assess the impacts of the pandemic on employment, financial well-being, social interactions, health behaviors, and physical and mental health. Responses were received from over 600 family caregivers and nearly 3000 non-caregivers.

Experimental Study of Stress and DNA Damage in Humans: Mediators and Moderators

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Dana Bovbjerg, Psychiatry**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 01/17-12/21

Telephone recruitment of 160 persons to participate in an experimental study looking at the effects of brief stresses on DNA in blood samples.

Factors Contributing to Oral Health Disparities in Appalachia

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Mary Marazita, Dental Medicine**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/11-06/21

Telephone interviews of 1,000 new mothers—500 in Pittsburgh and 500 in West Virginia—to explore factors related to childhood oral health disparities.

Families Coping with Alzheimer's Disease (FACT-AD)

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Joan K. Monin, Yale University**

Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 06/21-12/21

The goal of the study is to learn about the experiences of adult children and their parents (age 55 and over) with early-stage memory loss. UCSUR helped recruit 200 parent-child pairs using UCSUR's Regional Research Registry.

Identifying Predictors of Poor Health-Related Quality of Life among Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Galen Switzer, Medicine**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 01/18-12/21

Telephone interviews with several hundred pediatric stem cell donors and their family members to gather information that will be used to design interventions to improve quality-of-life in donors and their families.

Jefferson Area Community Data and Technical Assistance

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Mary Phan-Gruber, Jefferson Regional Foundation**

Funder: Jefferson Regional Foundation
Period: 01/19-06/23

This project leverages UCSUR's expertise in qualitative analysis, survey design, focus groups, database tools and training to provide analysis, guidance and technical assistance to the Foundation and Jefferson Community Collaborative. UCSUR is filling an essential role in the production of community data, evaluations and in building local capacity in the application of data for community impact through various projects.

On the Move: Optimizing Participation in Group Exercise

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Jennifer Brach, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences**

Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
Period: 10/14-present

SRP is using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) among group exercise participants to track falls, activity, and hospital visits monthly over the course of one year.

Pittsburgh Caregiver Survey

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Everette James, Health Policy Institute**

Funders: Pittsburgh Foundation; Stern Center for Evidence Based Policy
Period: 08/16-present

Telephone interviews with 1000 local informal caregivers and 200 care recipients to assess the state of caregiving in the region.

PHRESH: Pittsburgh Hill/Homewood Research on Neighborhood Change and Health

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Tamara Dubowitz, RAND**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 05/10-12/21

Interviewer training, programming for data collection, and data management in a study of 1,600 residents of two low-income Pittsburgh neighborhoods.

Regional Quality of Life

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Douglas Heuck, URA, UCSUR**

Funders: UCSUR, PittsburghTODAY
Period: ongoing

Web survey of N=1900 local residents assessing their views regarding quality of life in Allegheny County. This is an update to a similar survey conducted in 2011.

State of Aging, Disability, and Family Caregiving in Allegheny County

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Christopher Briem, URA, UCSUR
Ellen Kinnee, URA, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR**

Heidi Donovan, School of Nursing
Funder: Hillman Foundation
Period: 05/21-10/22

Project to update UCSUR's 2014 study of older adults and the state of aging in Allegheny County. Project characterizes older adults across a broad range of dimensions including demographics, income and poverty, health, work and retirement, living arrangements, housing and neighborhood conditions, caregiving and volunteering, aging service use, and overall well-being. Includes both secondary analysis of multiple data sources and primary data collection through a telephone survey.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator (PI)

PROJECTS*

Technology Assisted Collaborative Care Intervention

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Manisha Jhamb, Medicine**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 07/17-06/22

Telephone and IVR interviews with 150 hemodialysis patients in Pittsburgh and New Mexico to examine the effect of a 12-week stepped care intervention on changes in depression, pain, fatigue, and health-related quality of life.

The Impact of Post-Acute Care Payment Changes on Access and Outcomes

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Natalie Leland, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences**

Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 10/21-06/23

The study will examine the impact of Medicare's new payment models for skilled nursing facilities and home health agencies on access to care and quality outcomes. Telephone interviews with institutional and home health administrators.

The National Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Family Support at the University of Pittsburgh

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Heidi Donovan, School of Nursing
Julie Klingler, National Research and Training Center on Family Support, Health Sciences
Bambang Parmato, SHRS
Heather Tomko, National Research and Training Center on Family Support, Health Sciences**

Funder: The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research
Period: 09/19-08/24

Through a \$4.3M grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, the Center will serve as a national hub that leverages modern medical research to improve the care, health, and quality of life of all persons with disabilities and the families who support them.

The PittsburghTODAY Regional Education Survey

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Douglas Heuck, URA, UCSUR**

Funder: PittsburghTODAY
Period: 07/19-ongoing

A web survey of nearly 2300 Allegheny County residents that provides insight into their views regarding local public education, thoughts about key education issues, and experiences of those whose children are taught in public schools.

Undergraduate Student Satisfaction and Retention Study

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR
Joseph McCarthy, Office of the Provost**

Funder: Office of the Provost
Period: 09/97-present

Telephone interviews and web-based surveys of University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students (n=1800+ per year) and withdrawing students (n=600+ per year) to determine factors related to student satisfaction and retention.

Understanding Factors Influencing Financial Exploitation among Diverse Samples of Older Adults

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Sara Czaja, Weill Cornell Medical College
David Loewenstein, University of Miami**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/17-03/22

The aims of this project are to: examine the impact of financial scam susceptibility on incidence of financial exploitation (FE); examine the impact of socio-demographic factors and social integration/isolation on scam susceptibility and FE; examine the impact of general cognitive abilities and financial skills/advice and support on scam susceptibility and FE, and as mediators of relationships between socio-demographic factors, social integration/isolation, scam susceptibility and FE; and examine the impact of psychosocial factors on scam susceptibility and FE.

Wheelchair Registry

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Rory Cooper, Human Engineering Research Laboratories**

Funder: Human Engineering Research Laboratories

Period: 01/14-present

Development of a system to help the Human Engineering Research Laboratories at the University of Pittsburgh efficiently and securely register and track participants in a wheelchair registry for research participation. The system involves a custom database working in conjunction with an online survey instrument for data collection and maintenance.

Widowed Elders' Lifestyle after Loss (WELL)

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Robert Keene, SRP, UCSUR
Sarah Stahl, Psychiatry**

Funder: National Institute of Mental Health

Period: 02/15-present

Technical support for a study which is testing the feasibility of a behavioral intervention that uses technology and motivational health coaching to encourage a regular routine of healthy eating, sleeping, and physical activity among older adults who are at high-risk for depression following the death of their spouse.

Competitiveness Research

**PIs: Christopher Briem, URA, UCSUR
Vijai Singh, Sociology**

Funders: Heinz Endowments, Consolidated Natural Gas

Period: ongoing

Projects include analysis of factors which promote regional competitiveness in Pittsburgh.

Aquatic Facility Inspection Data

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funder: National Environmental Health Association

Period: 03/21-12/21

Worked on a project, conceived and funded by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), to publish aquatic facility inspection data under a data standard developed by NEHA.

Community Health Data Explorers

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funders: The Pittsburgh Study, and the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Project: Live Well Allegheny: Lifting Wellness for African Americans

Period: ongoing

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center has developed and maintained a data tool for presenting contextual community statistics in Western Pennsylvania. The tool is now used to support multiple projects at UCSUR.

Data Across Sectors for Health Mentorship Project

PI: Robert Gradeck

Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Period: 11/19-12/21

Project staff mentored for five cross-sector health data collaboratives.

Data Literacy

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Hillman Foundation

Period: 10/21-10/23

Development of two separate workshop series and toolkits designed to build data literacy among data stewards and new cohorts of community data ambassadors.

HouseCat – Affordable Housing Catalog

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Heinz Endowments and an anonymous funder

Period: 03/20-03/23

Development of a data tool and pipeline to provide information about subsidized housing to practitioners and policymakers working to preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing in Allegheny County.

Improving Community Engagement in the Design, Collection, and Use of Community Level Data and Small Area Estimates to Address Structural Determinants of Health

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funder: CDC Foundation

Period: 06/22-11/23

Project to improve the quality, efficiency, and utility of health surveys, such as BRFSS and PRAMS. Part of a cohort of four other peer organizations from around the U.S. to improve the use of small-area sample estimates included in the PLACES dataset.

Neighborhood Change

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Heinz Endowments

Period: 01/21-06/23

Explored data sources that can be used to measure residential mobility with the Carnegie Mellon CREATE Lab. Drafted a summary of data sources, their quality, potential biases, and ethical issues using neighborhood data to inform resident focus groups with the Black Equity Coalition.

PMOMS Structural Racism Indicators

**PIs: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR
Dara Mendez, Graduate School of Public Health**

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 6/21-12/22

Assembled a collection of community-level indicators related to structural racism. This data will provide community context to responses collected through the Postpartum Mothers Mobile Study (PMOMS) survey.

Prototype Design for a Public Algorithmic Accountability Website

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funder: Pitt Cyber

Period: 6/21-12/21

Development of a website design and algorithm registry data standard for use by Pitt Cyber's Task Force on Public Algorithms.

Synthetic Data

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funder: N/A

Period: 06/22-01/23

The Urban Institute is developing software to create synthetic data and is partnering with UCSUR and Allegheny County on a pilot project to create synthetic data from Allegheny County human service records. UCSUR is playing an advisory role on the project.

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center

PI: Robert Gradeck, URA, UCSUR

Funders: Allegheny County; City of Pittsburgh; Heinz Endowments; Hillman Foundation; Richard King Mellon Foundation; University of Pittsburgh

Period: ongoing

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) supports key community initiatives by making public information easier to find and use. The WPRDC is managed by UCSUR, and is in partnership with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.

Inclusivity, Accessibility and Healthcare Equity at the Shadyside Family Health Center

**PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Lindsay Nakaishi, Family Medicine**

Funder: Nimick Forbesway Foundation

Period: 06/22-present

Transcription and coding of focus groups assessing patients' attitudes and beliefs towards inclusivity and diversity at a family medicine clinic.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator (PI)

PROJECTS*

Mobile Health Intervention for Rural Atrial Fibrillation

**PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Jared Magnani, School of Medicine**

Funder: National Institutes of Health/
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Period: 03/22-present

Moderation, transcription, and coding of focus groups with stakeholders about their lived experiences as persons with atrial fibrillation living in rural communities.

Stakeholder Perspectives on Post-ICU Care in Rural Communities

**PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Leslie Scheunemann, School of
Medicine**

Funder: Agency for Health Care
Research and Quality

Period: 03/20-present

Transcription of interviews and focus groups focused on identifying priorities, barriers, and facilitators of ICU recovery care for older, rural-swelling ICU survivors.

The Symptom Experience, Management and Outcomes According to Race and Social Determinants of Health (SEMOARS) During Breast Cancer Chemotherapy

**PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Margaret Rosenzweig, School of
Nursing**

Funder: National Institute on Minority
Health and Health Disparities
Period: 06/19-present

Transcription of interviews exploring the breast cancer symptom experience among black and white women.

Three Smaller Short-Term Transcription and Consulting Projects with a Variety of Investigators and Funders

**PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR**

Funders: Multiple

Period: 7/21-6/22

Three smaller, short-term transcription and consulting projects with a variety of investigators and funders.

Regional Indicators Project: PittsburghToday.org

PI: Douglas Heuck, URA, UCSUR

Funders: Anonymous; Hillman
Foundation; Claude Worthington
Benedum Foundation; Richard King
Mellon Foundation

Period: ongoing

The Regional Indicators Project: PittsburghToday.org is an in-depth journalism and regional indicators program that compares Greater Pittsburgh with 15 other regions on hundreds of measures. Since its inception, hundreds of reports have been published on key regional quality of life issues.

Pediatric Health and Extreme Weather – Health Effects of Ambient Temperature (PHEW-HEAT)

**PIs: Ellen Kinnee, URA, UCSUR
Jane Clougherty, Drexel University
Perry Sheffield, Icahn School of
Medicine at Mount Sinai**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 08/19-08/23

Examine susceptibility of pediatric subpopulations to ambient temperature and disseminate research-informed strategies on reducing heat risks to children's health to public health departments and clinicians.

Understanding Pediatric Susceptibility Across Temperature and Environment in New York (UP-STATE NY)

PI: Ellen Kinnee, URA, UCSUR

Funder: U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency

Period: 06/22-06/25

Identify community stressors and resilience-enhancing assets that shape relationships between climate change-related exposures [heat, ozone (O3), fine particulate matter (PM2.5)] and child health. Particularly interested in assets which may bolster children's resilience to climate-related exposures in environmental justice (EJ) communities across Upstate NY.

Building Civic Open Data Capacity through Instructional Design

**PIs: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR
Nora Mattern, School of Computing
and Information (SCI)**

Funder: Institute of Museum and
Library Services

Period 11/20-11/22

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center is partnering with SCI to produce data literacy, management, and analytics instructional materials designed to: (1) foster MLIS students' capacity to engage in local civic data ecosystems in their careers; (2) build curation skills needed among civic data workers through curriculum for academic programs such as public policy, urban studies, and political studies; and (3) address existing data information needs among academic and public librarians and civic sector employees through professional development workshops and resources.

Civic Switchboard

**PIs: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR
Aaron Brenner, University Library
System**

Funder: Institute of Museum and
Library Services

Period: 10/17-04/22

Civic Switchboard aims to develop the capacity of academic and public libraries in civic data ecosystems. This project encourages partnerships between libraries and local data intermediaries, which will better serve data users, further democratize data, and support equitable access to information. The project will create a toolkit for libraries interested in expanding (or beginning) their role around civic information. Civic Switchboard is a partnership of UCSUR, the University Library System at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Engagement and Outreach Map

**PIs: Liz Monk, URA, UCSUR
Steven Saylor, URA, UCSUR**

Funder: University of Pittsburgh
Office of Engagement and Community
Affairs

Period: ongoing

Continued development of the University's Community Engagement Map, which serves as a catalog of information about university-community partnerships.

CACTUS Mental Model Interviews

**PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Kristin Ray, Children's Hospital of
Pittsburgh**

Funder: National Institute of Allergy
and Infectious Diseases

Period: 01/21-present

Transcription of interviews of clinicians and parents about how they decide the appropriate site of care (office, telemedicine, emergency department) for children with cold symptoms.

Development of an Obesity Prevention Intervention for Young Children with Down Syndrome

**PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Angela Caldwell, Department of
Occupational Therapy**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 06/20-07/21

Transcription and coding of interviews with parents of young children with Down syndrome to provide data to customize active ingredients of a new intervention to prevent obesity among young children with Down syndrome.

Pennsylvania Medicaid Research Center: Evaluation of the Community Health Choices Evaluation Program

**PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Howard Degenholtz, Public Health**

Funder: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services
Period: 11/19-present

Transcription of interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders as part of the evaluation of the Community Health Choices program.

Sex Differences in Symptom Reports of OSA

**PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Jonna Morris, School of Nursing**

Funder: University of Pittsburgh seed money

Period: 11/20-02/22

Coding of interviews investigating sex differences in symptom reports of OSA.

Studying Trust in Civic Data Portals

**PIs: David Walker, URA, UCSUR
Jacob Biehl, School of Computing
and Information**

Funder: Pitt Cyber Accelerator Grant
Period: 06/22-03/23

The goal of this project is to develop a better understanding of how intermediary organizations can enhance the trustworthiness of civic data.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator (PI)



PUBLICATIONS 2021-22

JOURNALS

- Beach, S.R., Schulz, R., Donovan, H., & Rosland, A.** (2021). Family caregiving during the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Gerontologist*, 61(5), 650-660.
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- Carbery, M., Schulz, R., Rodakowski, J., Terhorst, L., & Fields, B.** (2021). Evaluating the appropriateness and feasibility of the Care Partner Hospital Assessment Tool (CHAT). *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18, 13355.
- Clougherty, J.E., Humphrey, J.L., Kinnee, E.J., Remigio, R., & Sheffield, P.E.** (2022). What is "Socioeconomic Position (SEP)," and how might it modify air pollution-health associations? Cohering findings, identifying challenges, and disentangling effects of SEP and race in U.S. city settings. *Current Environmental Health Reports*, 9(3), 355-365.
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- Connors, J.M., Brooks, M.M., Scieurba, F., Krishnan, J.A., Bledsoe, J., Hoots, K., Kindzelski, A., Berdan, L., Nolan, T., Baucom, A.L., Kirwan, B., Eng, H., Martin, D., Zaharris, E., Castro, L., Shapiro, N., Lin, J., Hou, P., Pepine, C., Handberg, E., Haight, D., Wilson, J.W., Majercik, S., Fu, Z., Zhong, Y., Venugopal, V., Beach, S., Wisniewski, S., & Ridker, P.M., on behalf of the **ACTIV-4B Investigators.** (2021). Effect of antithrombotic therapy on clinical outcomes in outpatients with clinically stable symptomatic COVID-19: The ACTIV-4B randomized clinical trial. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 326(17), 1703-1712.**
- Deitrick, S., & Briem, C.** (2022). Quality of life and demographic-racial dimensions of differences in most livable Pittsburgh. *Journal of Urban Regeneration and Renewal*, 15(2), 193-209.
- Deitrick, S.E., & Briem, C.** (2021). The Pittsburgh transition: Not quite so simple. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 35(3):197-201.
- Engel, R., Jarrott, S., Thang, L.L., & Rodzicz, C.** (Eds). (2022). *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships* (Vol. 19). Philadelphia, PA: Taylor & Francis.
- Fields, B., Schulz, R., Terhorst, L., Carbery, M., & Rodakowski, J.** (2021). The development and content validation of the care partner hospital assessment tool. *Nursing Reports*, 11(3), 522-529.
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- Mueller, A., Beach, S.R., Bowers, B.J., & Fields, B.** (2022). Relationship between health care interactions and care partner burden. *Families, Systems, & Health*, 40(2), 225-231.
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Yu, J.A., Bayer, N.D., Beach, S., Kuo, D.Z., & Houtrow, A.J. (in press). A national profile of families and caregivers of children with disabilities and/or medical complexity. *Academic Pediatrics*.

Xu, J., Liu, P., & Beach, S. (2021). Multiple caregivers, many minds: Family discord and caregiver outcomes. *The Gerontologist*, 61(5), 661-669.

BOOKS / BOOK CHAPTERS / OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Deitrick, S.E., & Glass, M.R. (in press). Confronting the Pittsburgh narrative: Renaissance, renewal, and the tension of authenticity. In A. Cole, A. Healy, & C.M. Jorrel (Eds), *Constructing Narratives for City Governance*. Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing.

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Beach, S.R., Briem, C., Schlarb, J., James, E., & Hughes, M. (2022). *State of Aging, Disability, and Family Caregiving in Allegheny County*. UCSUR and Health Policy Institute, University of Pittsburgh.

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