

ANNUAL REPORT



20
23

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DEAR ISR COMMUNITY,

I am pleased to share the Institute for Social Research 2023 Annual Report. As an organization dedicated to advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration, this report highlights news and events that have shaped our Institute over the past year.

This report provides you with the highlights of our research programs, our efforts in training future social scientists, and the valuable data we have made available for research purposes.

We proudly showcase our research milestones on pages 4-5, including recent projects in partnership with the College of Engineering. This initiative focuses on studying and addressing issues affecting rural communities, exemplifying our commitment to tackling real-world challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Important initiatives, such as the successful launch of our Junior Professional Researcher program, are featured on pages 6-7. This program trains recent college graduates in the necessary skills to embark on a fulfilling career in social science research. Along with our Next Generation Initiative, which awards funding to promising early-career researchers, these programs shape the future of social science research. Innovative programs, including the Genomics for Social Scientists program and the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, further advance our mission to educate researchers; you can learn more about these programs on pages 8-9.

One of ISR's founding principles was that sound data are the foundation for public policy decisions. As part of ISR's scientific mission to conduct and widely disseminate rigorous social science research as a tool for public education and decision-making, we strive to make readily available all information we produce. Our data resources are featured on pages 10-11.

Thank you for your interest in our work. Our aim is to make a difference in society through social scientific research.

All my best,

Kate Cagney
Director
Institute for Social Research

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

Social Science in the Public Interest

ISR is the world's largest academic social science survey and research organization, and over the last year, we've put our resources and energy toward answering some of the biggest and most important questions of our time.

Our researchers have conducted key studies on inequality, the status of our democracy, our population's health, and the racial, gender, and identity makeup of the United States and the world, offering innovative solutions to perplexing issues at every turn.

We've also worked to equip our fellow researchers at other institutions, giving them the tools they need to advance research in a wide range of fields while providing data and resources to anyone willing to join us as we push the boundaries of our knowledge further and further.

300+

Faculty &
Associates

365

Publications in
2022

2,350

Media Mentions
in 2022





In the past year, research conducted at ISR has shed new light on a wide range of topics, including:

- Data from the Health and Retirement Study offers a new look at the effects of aging and what they mean for population health.
- Data from the Michigan Recession and Recovery Study found increased symptoms of mental illness among those who experienced housing instability.
- A new tool developed by researchers assesses older adults' access to civic and social organizations, cultural centers such as museums and art galleries, and recreation centers that may help protect against cognitive decline as a person ages.

A joint pilot program between ISR and College of Engineering awarded grants to four teams of interdisciplinary researchers studying rural life. ISR and CoE are leaders in interdisciplinary research, combining the expertise and perspectives of diverse disciplines to address real-world problems.



THE NEXT GENERATION

ISR's community brings diverse perspectives and asks the big questions necessary to develop meaningful solutions to societal challenges.

ISR's mission includes the critical priority of reaching and training the next generation of social scientists. This year we worked toward that goal in several important ways.

Our Next Generation Initiative continues to provide vital financial support to promising scholars at key points in their careers, connecting them with donor-funded awards to help them advance their research. In 2023, we awarded funds to 29 young social scientists, adding to the 46 we supported in 2021 and 2022 combined.



ISR launched the Junior Professional Researcher (JPR) program in 2023, giving recent college graduates with a passion for social science research the chance to work with senior colleagues and research teams in their fields. Faculty will work to mentor members of the cohort as they prepare to take the next step in their careers.

The Survey Research Center's (SRC) Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques Diversity Fellowship is a two-week program for undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds in survey methodology. It provides insight into survey research through ISR faculty experts and is ideal for those considering graduate studies in quantitative social sciences.



Our commitment to the next generation also underscores our dedication to diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring that our research community thrives with a rich tapestry of backgrounds and perspectives. This diversity not only enhances our research but also empowers individuals to excel, and is fundamental to our mission.



“ I feel an obligation to do good research and then also to publish it, so the research can help improve people’s health. I view research as service to those populations that are the focus of my work. ”

- Jasmine Manalel, senior research associate, Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging at Hunter College



“ One of the best parts of ISR is just the ability to talk with any number of people about any number of ideas all the time. I took great advantage of that during my time there working on my own research. ”

- Hakeem Jefferson, assistant professor of social science, Stanford University

LEADING THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

ISR provides training and leadership to develop the skills and expertise necessary to tackle complex problems and advance knowledge.

ISR serves as a telescope for society, highlighting and bringing into clear focus the attitudes and behaviors that make our world what it is today. A key aspect of our mission is offering our services to the scientific community and the world.

That effort takes many forms, from offering our labs for data collection to serving as administrators for research projects. ISR also offers key training programs for both established social scientists and future contributors to our field.



Our Genomics for Social Scientists workshop is the perfect example of this kind of work. In this program, ISR researchers train social scientists from across the country and around the world how to handle genetic data in a way that can benefit their research.



“ We really saw that for the data to be useful, both for genetic and social science researchers, we needed to cross train. We either needed to teach biologists and statistical geneticists social science or we needed to teach the social scientists genetics. We decided to start by teaching genetics to social scientists. ”

- Jessica Faul, ISR



Since 1963, the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods has provided rigorous, comprehensible training in statistics, quantitative and qualitative methods, and data analysis. Our commitment to providing premier instruction in courses that are affordable and enjoyable has inspired generations of researchers to call the ICPSR Summer Program their home for learning statistics.

Over the past year, ISR celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Michigan Program in Survey and Data Science. Established in 2001, the program seeks to train future generations of survey and data scientists by focusing on a broad range of data sources throughout its curriculum.

ISR faculty also contribute to a number of important scientific boards, helping shape policy at the national level. This year, ISR affiliate Deborah Loewenberg Ball was appointed to the National Science Board, showing that our influence reaches to the highest levels of political power in the United States.

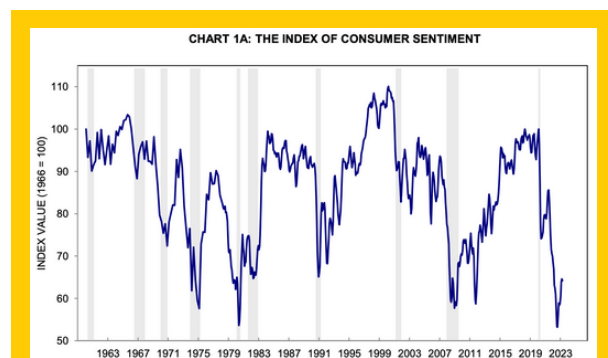


FOSTERING INNOVATION

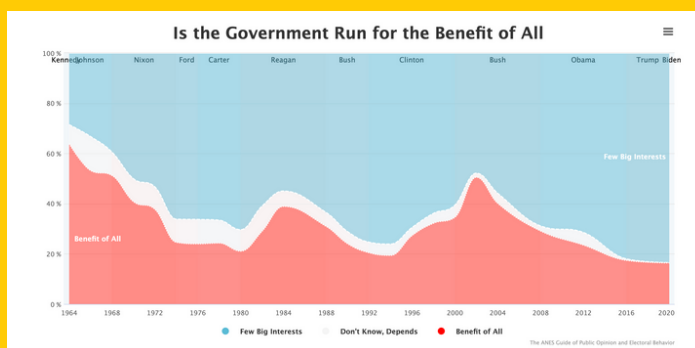
Accessible data is crucial for transparent, collaborative research. Many ISR studies make data freely available to researchers around the world, allowing them to validate and build upon existing knowledge.

ISR supports the public good by providing data for use by researchers and policy makers across the country. Objective data are fundamental to sound decision-making in a variety of fields, including economics, housing policy, health, and education.

The Consumer Sentiment Index, for instance, is a key indicator for policies set by the Federal Reserve. Overseen by Joanne Hsu, who joined ISR as the director of the Surveys of Consumers in 2022, the Consumer Sentiment Index is a crucial bellwether for the United States' economic health.



The Surveys of Consumers measures consumer expectations. Analyses of trends are issued every month, and data are widely used by government agencies, financial institutions, business firms, and scholars, as well as by ordinary citizens

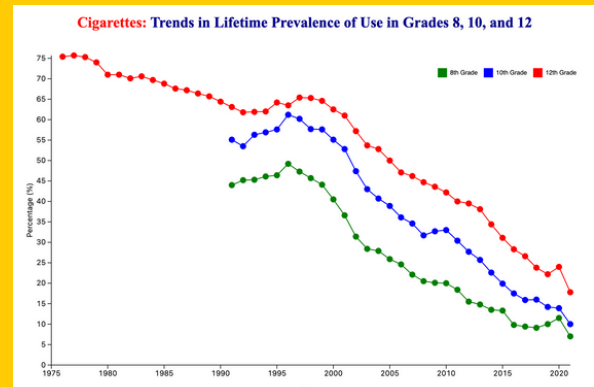


The American National Election Studies provide data that display the ebb and flow of public opinion, electoral behavior, and choice over time.

70+ years of data from the studies are available at <https://electionstudies.org>.

By tracking trends in adolescent beliefs and behaviors, the Monitoring the Future Study enables policymakers to monitor progress toward national health goals.

Data tables and trends are available for public use at <https://monitoringthefuture.org>.



The same is true of the long-term study Monitoring the Future: Drug Use and Lifestyles of American Youth. This study, which began in 1975, tracks decades-long trends in alcohol and drug use among American adolescents, college students, and young and middle-aged adults, allowing policy makers at the local, state, and national levels to make informed decisions to serve the overall health of the American population.

The ongoing work at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) also plays a key role in making this data available to the public and safeguarding it for future generations through data collection, curation, and archiving.



“ There is a shortcoming of longitudinal aging data on minority populations. We’re trying to bring together researchers to extend and advance the work being done in this area. ”

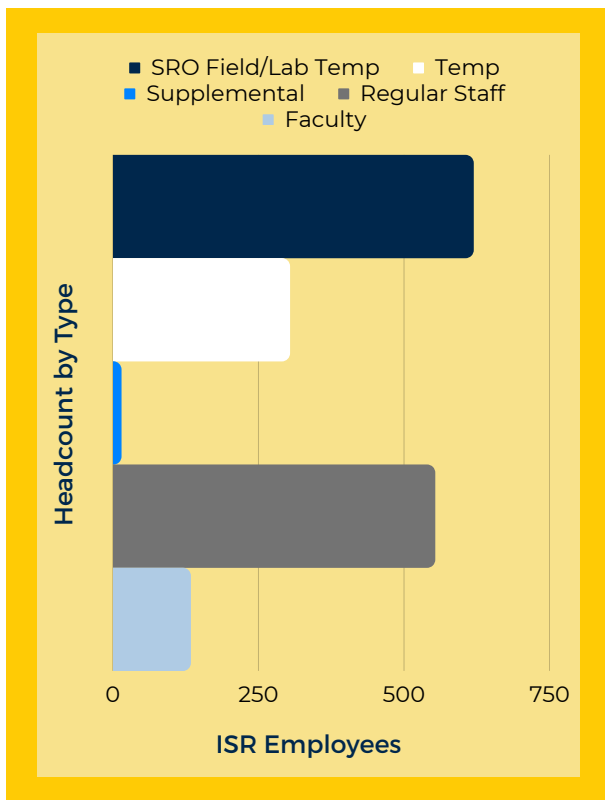
-Brady West, ISR, on the work of the Network for Innovative Methods in Longitudinal Aging Studies (NIMLAS)



Read more about how ISR’s data shape social science research

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Institute for Social Research depends on the tireless work of our faculty, research staff, and many other ISR employees who support the overall mission.

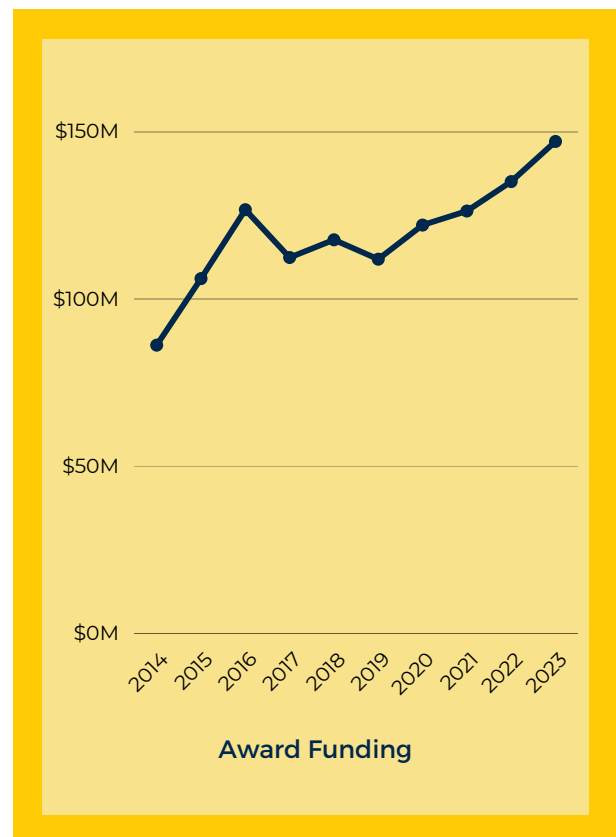
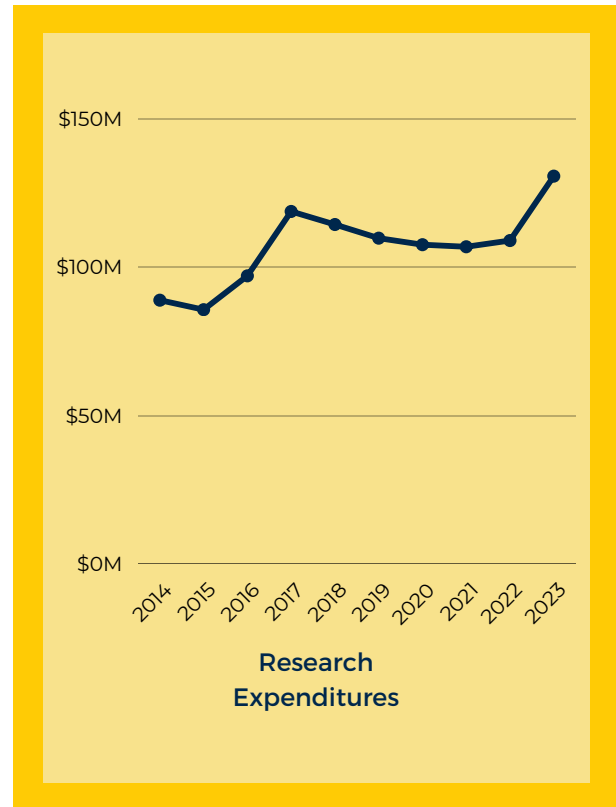


Nearly 2,000 employees — faculty and staff alike — make the work at ISR possible. Our research couldn't take place without the many different people who find ways to support key aspects of the process, using their diverse skills and perspectives to take our contributions to social science to new and unprecedented heights. At every level, the faculty and staff of ISR play a crucial role in shaping the institute's research agenda, securing funding, promoting its work, and building a strong community of researchers.



Research Expenditures represent the costs associated with externally sponsored research projects. Expenditures are a metric used to gauge the health of the Institute. Increasing expenditures indicate proposal submissions and awards to the Institute are increasing year over year within the centers. Currently, expenditures are at an all-time high and trending up with more than 65% of expenditures coming from National Institute of Health (NIH) awards. ISR receives most of its funding from the NIH.

In FY 23, ISR received more than 150 externally sponsored awards from a variety of sponsors including federal, non-federal, industry and foundation entities. Award amounts have been increasing over the past several years. Federal sponsors account for nearly 75% of all awards to ISR. The value of those awards is at an all-time high of over \$140M this year.



THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

ISR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Kate Cagney, Director
Institute for Social Research

Thom Madden, Managing Director
Institute for Social Research

CENTER DIRECTORS

Ken Kollman, Director
Center for Political Studies

Richard Gonzalez, Director
Research Center for Group
Dynamics

Margaret Levenstein, Director
Inter-university Consortium for
Political and Social Research

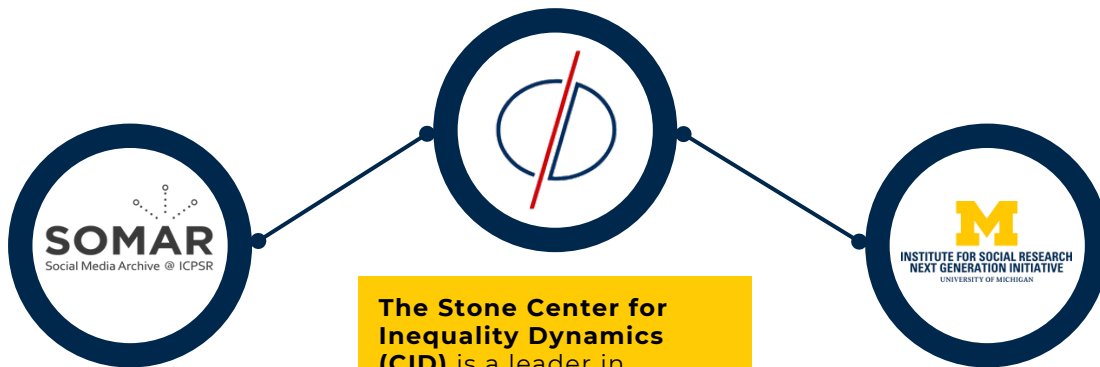
James Wagner, Interim Director
Survey Research Center

Sarah Burgard, Director
Population Studies Center

A GREATER IMPACT

Philanthropy can significantly contribute to advancements in the social sciences, and greatly enhances ISR’s ability to invest in people, community, innovative research, and robust data infrastructure.

Here are some of the achievements made possible by donor support in the last year:



The Social Media Archive (SOMAR), with support from Meta, is a revolutionary initiative and resource resource that democratizes social media data for researchers. This year, SOMAR received a historic deposit of rich data about social media’s impact on the 2020 US elections.

The Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics (CID) is a leader in research, training, and data development concerning wealth inequality. Supported by the James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Foundation, the center’s strong commitment to mentorship and intellectual community has created a robust cohort of wealth inequality scholars.

The ISR Next Generation Initiative propels early-career scholars forward in their research careers. In 2023, this donor-funded initiative supported 29 scholars with almost \$300,000 in donor funding for research, salary support, and community building experiences.



MEET THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Dennis Kim, intern
Jerome Nichols, Henry
Jewell, Paige Brann,
and Grace Bukovsky



Contact our
development team:
umisr-dev@umich.edu

