NORC at the University of Chicago

NORC at the University of Chicago is an independent research institution that delivers reliable data and rigorous analysis to guide critical programmatic, business, and policy decisions. Since 1941, NORC has conducted groundbreaking studies, created and applied innovative methods and tools, and advanced principles of scientific integrity and collaboration. Today, government, corporate, and nonprofit clients around the world partner with NORC to transform increasingly complex information into useful knowledge. NORC conducts research in five main areas: Economics, Markets, and the Workforce; Education, Training, and Learning; Global Development; Health and Well-Being; and Society, Media, and Public Affairs. Headquartered in downtown Chicago, NORC works in over 40 countries around the world, with additional offices on the University of Chicago campus, the DC metro area, Atlanta, Boston, and San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and Albuquerque.

NORC’s long tradition of rigorous, transparent, and objective research has been fostered and reinforced by its long-standing relationship with the University of Chicago. As a result of this inspired affiliation, the reputations of each institutions as well as the quality of knowledge they produce has been greatly enhanced.

NORC has pioneered methodological innovations which advance the science of survey research and maintains an active presence in the research and teaching life of the Divisions of the Social Sciences and Biological Sciences, as well as the Pritzker School of Medicine, the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, and the School of Social Service Administration.

NORC conducts nationwide surveys that are used as data resources for social scientists and policy analysts throughout the world. It employs a field staff of over 1,000 trained interviewers and conducts more than 30 surveys each year on such topics as the costs and practices of health care, environmental studies, substance abuse, education, labor, family, and the attitudes of Americans. NORC has been conducting the General Social Survey (GSS) since 1972; the GSS is the most frequently used dataset in sociology aside from the U.S. Census.

In addition to its core research areas NORC is also the home to seven academic research centers which occupy two floors in the Harris School building on the University campus. The Centers provide a collegial, interdisciplinary environment in which University of Chicago faculty can conduct social science research. The six centers are:

**The Aging Action Research Center** functions as a substantive hub for aging research within and outside of NORC, acting as a knowledge broker for the development of design-based research, dissemination to stakeholders, innovation in survey research methods, and management of grant programs.

**The Center for Advancing Research and Communication (ARC) in STEM** (science, technology, engineering and math) is a National Science Foundation funded initiative that
supports education research focusing on core scientific questions about learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. ARC investigators conduct research and provide technical assistance in support of over 300 STEM investigators across the U.S. funded by NSF’s Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering (REESE) program as they work to improve education policy, instruction, and learning, in and outside of formal classroom settings.

The Center for the Study of Politics and Society focuses on the investigation of societal change. The National Data Program for the Social Sciences is the CSPS’s largest component and its major activity is the regular collection and distribution of the GSS and its allied surveys in the International Social Survey Program.

The Early Childhood Research and Practice Collaborative fosters research-practice partnerships that apply rigorous research/evaluation methods and the latest development science to addressing pressing needs and challenges faced by early childhood educators in formal and informal learning environments; policymakers; and investigators.

The Ogburn-Stouffer Center for the Study of Social Organizations promotes innovative, theoretically-informed, empirical research on population, political attitudes and decision making, community, health, social inequality, and social structure. A core mission is to promote the training of graduate students in the social sciences through involvement in all phases of large-scale survey research from development to execution and analysis.

The Population Research Center, funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, facilitates interdisciplinary population research by economists, sociologists, and other population sciences from the University.

University students participate in NORC’s activities in several ways. NORC offers a dynamic hands-on summer intern program open to graduate students. NORC has given countless graduate students experience in real-world social science research. NORC researchers who also hold University faculty positions often become lifelong mentors to these students. Some graduate students receive support through NORC for their own research in the writing of dissertations; many attend conferences and weekly workshops that are sponsored by and held at NORC. NORC employs many University graduates at professional career levels.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Trajan.

Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.