

SOCIAL SCIENCE:

Helping others provide service



Chance McDavid

MAFES-supported projects at Mississippi State's Social Science Research Center (SSRC) help provide state and local governments and agencies with information necessary to provide effective, efficient services.

During the past year, SSRC researchers formed a partnership with the Mississippi Development Authority to provide support for workforce development in the state. Their work has already led to data sharing and improved information systems.

Another SSRC project with MAFES and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality funding has led to the formation of a network of child care centers in the Mississippi Delta to conduct child health services research. Individuals from the University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Dentistry are part of the research team and have conducted oral health examinations of more than 300 preschool children in the network's 15 child care centers. The procedures are being expanded to include specific intervention to deter and/or decrease the level of early childhood cavities.

The center's Survey Research Unit completed several MAFES-supported surveys during the past year, including the Rural Delta Poll to help plan economic development strategies in Mississippi's Delta counties.

Another recent SSRC project, the Physician Labor Force Study, resulted in the first comprehensive data concerning physicians practicing in the state. The study highlighted rural shortages and provided the information necessary for a better understanding of Mississippi's rural health needs.



Marco Nicovich



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For more about the work of the Social Science Research Center, visit www.ssrc.msstate.edu.