



ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND URBAN RESEARCH



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Some photos in this publication were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and do not necessarily reflect current health and safety guidelines.

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



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

During the past year, UCSUR has produced more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and participated in more than 50 funded research projects, the majority of which have involved multidisciplinary collaborations.

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).

During the past year, UCSUR has produced more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and participated in more than 50 funded research projects, the majority of which have involved multidisciplinary collaborations. UCSUR received approximately \$1.5 million in external funding for multiple research infrastructure support projects through the Survey Research Program (SRP) in collaboration with faculty from across University schools and departments plus an additional \$1.2 million in funding related to other UCSUR programs. We continued our nationally recognized research in family caregiving, financial exploitation of older adults, and technology and aging. UCSUR also helped to cofound and provides leadership for the Center for Caregiving Research, Education and Policy with the Health Policy Institute, School of Nursing, Graduate School of Public Health, and School of Medicine. The Center for Caregiving Research, Education and Policy involves approximately 30 affiliated faculty members representing a range of health and behavioral science disciplines. As part of that effort, I am codirector of an Administration for Community Living/ National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Family Support. This is funded by 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 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 contains several data extraction and visualization tools that enhance user access and support statistical analyses. UCSUR's Environmental Policy Initiative, part of the Urban and Regional Analysis Program, continues to expand, with projects on lead water line detection and integrating engineering and social science methods and modeling.

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.

Finally, 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 respond to the pandemic.

I hope this report will give you a sense of the value that UCSUR provides to the University and the broader community.



Scott R. Beach, PhD

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:

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.

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.

UCSUR

A hub for social, behavioral, economic, and health sciences research

UCSUR:

A research collaborative network (FY 2021)

Internal Pitt Inputs
(UCSUR received sub-awards)

Graduate School of Public Health, Epidemiology
Health Policy Institute
Learning Research and Development Center
Psychiatry
Psychology
School of Computing and Information
School of Dental Medicine
School of Engineering
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
School of Medicine
School of Nursing
University Library System

External Organization Inputs
(UCSUR received sub-awards)

Allegheny County Library Association
Carnegie Mellon University
Cornell University
Drexel University
RAND Corporation
Veterans Administration
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina



UCSUR Manners Pilot Awards

Urban Studies Program

Internal Pitt Outputs
(UCSUR provided sub-awards)

Medicine
Psychiatry
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
School of Nursing
School of Social Work

External Organization Outputs
(UCSUR provided sub-awards)

Carnegie Mellon University
Cornell University
Penn State University
University of Miami (FL)
University of Missouri
University of Victoria, Canada
UPMC

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
- **instrument** pretesting.

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. Over the past year, SRP has added 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.

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.



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.

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center supports key community initiatives by making public information easier to find and use.

Environmental Policy Analysis

In spring 2017, UCSUR initiated 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.

The 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 published by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) to develop and maintain a regional economic model for Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh's REMI model is supported by UCSUR in partnership with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, which uses REMI for planning transportation infrastructure. UCSUR has more than 25 years of experience applying the model to the Pittsburgh region. Previous applications of Pittsburgh's REMI model include economic, population, and labor 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 14 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 project started the year with our PittsburghTODAY and Tomorrow project, comparing the Pittsburgh metro area with 15 others across the country. Specific stories included: the region's economic outlook; whether or not COVID-19 will lead to a baby boom or bust; the problem of our continuing decline in regional population; trends in real estate vis-à-vis the suburbs and Downtown; a different focus among local foundations because of the pandemic; problems among local news organizations because of the steep drop-off in advertising; significant problems in municipal financing caused by the pandemic; and how the higher education sector was weathering the COVID-19 crisis financially and in terms of enrollment.

UCSUR also has launched an education series looking at innovations that arose because of COVID-19 and whether any of those are likely to stick in the future. And, we executed and published the results of an education survey—a little over a year after an earlier survey—in order to see how attitudes and behaviors changed because of the pandemic. All of

the stories mentioned above were published in Pittsburgh Quarterly Magazine.

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 URA 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 Community Initiatives

WPRDC supports many projects and initiatives by providing data, expertise, and tools.

- Our COVID-19 response work in collaboration with the Black Equity Coalition (BEC) was recognized for an award by the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) managed by the Urban Institute. The G. Thomas Kingsley Impact Award recognizes an NNIP partner organization that has demonstrated impact using neighborhood data to improve local policy and practice to benefit people with low incomes and communities of color. Working with other members of the BEC Data Committee and BEC leadership, we were able to use data about the pandemic to address the racially disparate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Earlier this year, WPRDC also advised members of City Council about the kinds of racially disaggregated data that can be shared about policing in our community. We are also working with the city's Urban Redevelopment Authority to help design a property data system for their land banking initiatives.
- Staff members also are supporting efforts to preserve affordable housing in the region by providing data about affordable properties to policymakers, investors, and nonprofit housing developers involved in the newly formed housing preservation working group. The data will be used to both identify threats to the supply of affordable housing and provide overall housing market contexts to the group.

Provide Access to Open Data

WPRDC hosts open data on a variety of topics. Some of the most used or most notable data includes COVID-19 tests and cases in Allegheny County, county property sales and assessments, city crimes, Port Authority ridership, city parking meter usage, United Way 211 referrals, 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.

- During the 2020-21 school year, approximately 4,000-5,000 people accessed data through the open data portal each month.

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 a daily feed of service requests to the United Way's 211 helpline, asthma-related visits to the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh emergency room, and data on school enrollment by neighborhood in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.
- We continue to partner with the county and city to publish data and maintain data feeds from their internal systems and have been able to make sure changes to 311 and air quality data systems did not disrupt public availability and accessibility of data.
- We also curate a collection of data about community assets, which has been used to design Census 2020 outreach strategies through our participation in the Complete Count Committee, as well as vaccine outreach events.

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.

- We continue to improve the University's Community Engagement and Outreach Map, and the interactive Greenprint Map, supporting land conservation efforts with the Allegheny Land Trust.
- Work also continues on a community indicators tool that will provide community statistics to the public along with organizational partners, including The Pittsburgh Study and the coalition of organizations working on the CDC-funded Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health project.
- Our team also has been able to provide community-level vaccination data to the Black Equity Coalition and the local vaccine collaborative through a regularly updated vaccination map.

Support to University Research, Analysis, and Special Projects

We sometimes leverage our 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 is creating a toolkit for library workers, which includes a series of case studies from pilot projects. The second phase of this project involves the design of course materials to prepare library and information science students for careers in civic data.
- WPRDC staff members are also working with the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security on two initiatives. We are part of a team advising the Pittsburgh Task Force on Public Algorithms about the design features that should be included in any website documenting public algorithms used in Allegheny County. We are also participating in the activities of the newly formed Pitt Disinformation Lab designed to identify and combat disinformation.
- Members of the WPRDC team also serve on Pitt's Year of Data and Society Steering Committee, Pitt's Digital Inclusion Center Steering Committee, and the Forbes Corridor Colloquia, which is designed to build connections between the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University.

WHAT WE DO:

Center Resources

Course Design and Personalized Learning

We are directly involved in providing learning opportunities for students.

- We have collaborated with faculty members in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Pitt's Urban Studies Program, and Pitt's School of Computing and Information (The Master of Library and Information Science Program and digital humanities projects) to design courses where students are exploring data contexts and writing guides for data users, curating electronic data from archival collections and making it available as open data, and developing Geographic Information System skills.
- We continue to deliver in-class guest lectures every term to students in programs including public health, urban studies, sociology, social work, geology, and computing and information, as well as to students in Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), School of Medicine, and University Honors College. We also deliver guest lectures to students at other institutions, including Carnegie Mellon University, Carlow University, Duquesne University, and Chatham University.
- We also support students working on independent research projects and those working on group initiatives, including students working on multiple Grief to Action projects through the Center for Analytic Approaches to Social Innovation in GSPIA.

Training

- Working with librarians at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County Library Association, and the National Network Libraries of Medicine, Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) staff members have developed data literacy training classes for librarians.
- WPRDC staff members also have provided training in data literacy and how to find and use data tools to health care professionals in the Gateway Medical Society and to those who work and/or volunteer at Pitt's Digital Inclusion Center, Pitt's Hill District Community Engagement Center science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) studio, the Homewood Children's Village, and for Pitt's Civic Action Week activities.

Technical Assistance

We often consult with faculty, staff, and community partners who are looking to use data in their work. We primarily do this through funded projects, but also provide ad-hoc support weekly office hours, and also through meetings and ad-hoc requests. We receive three to five requests for help on a daily basis. Recent technical assistance projects include:

- supporting the City of Pittsburgh Department of Innovation and Performance as staff members work to develop and implement a data governance strategy that will help the city to manage data as an organizational asset;
- serving as mentors to people working in multi-sector health collaborations through the Data

Across Sectors for Health project—funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—and working to convene an affinity group to help participants understand issues with dashboard use and design;

- providing data in support of the Jefferson Regional Foundation's community health initiatives; and
- providing data to guide investments by the East End Community Fund.

Provide Publishing Platforms

More than 20 organizations publish data through the WPRDC, and we are positioned to support emerging collaborations with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

- WPRDC also is part of a federally funded project to publish standardized inspection data about swimming pools and aquatic facilities in collaboration with the National Environmental Health Association. WPRDC will help to publish data from Allegheny County and the state of Florida in the newly developed data standard.

Representing the University of Pittsburgh in External Networks

We represent the University in several different national networks focused on civic data, open data, and technology. Participation in these networks can help us to connect our work with that of other practitioners. We also welcome others at the University to leverage our connections developed through participation in these networks.

- We participate in the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (managed by the Urban Institute), the Metrolab Network, the Data Across Sectors for Health Partnership, and Code for America.

WHAT WE DO:

Center Resources

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.

For more than three decades, our multidisciplinary faculty members and clinicians at the University of

WHAT WE DO:

Center Resources

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 our 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 which 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.

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



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

UCSUR Technology Services provides customized data management systems and services for our programs, our clients and the community. These systems and services focus on high-level security, data integrity, reliability, performance, and functionality. UCSUR partners with the University of Pittsburgh's Information Technology (PittIT) group as well as cloud-based services from Microsoft and Amazon. These relationships enhance our capability to utilize modern computing technologies, deploy enterprise quality software, implement contemporary security protocols, and leverage protective network infrastructures. These partnerships enable UCSUR to provide staff members, researchers, and the community with the tools needed to meet unique project requirements and goals. Using this approach, UCSUR can meet the strict data integrity, security, and privacy demands of entities such as Institutional Review Boards, funding agencies, and the federal government.

UCSUR Technology Services also supports data mining and data analytics software and methods enabling researchers to identify relationships and draw conclusions from data. This data-based, analytical methodology is fundamental to research conducted and supported by UCSUR's interdisciplinary research team.



UCSUR has conducted evaluations on family support, home visiting, education, and child health programs among many others.

PROGRAM EVALUATION SERVICES

UCSUR can assist faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and community agencies with their program evaluation needs. We provide assistance in developing and designing evaluation plans, collecting and analyzing data, and writing evaluation reports. Depending on the focus of the project, these services can be provided by the Survey Research Program, Qualitative Data Analysis Program, Urban and Regional Analysis Program, or the Gerontology Program.

UCSUR's interdisciplinary staff members have evaluation experience in a wide range of content areas, including social service programs, behavioral and mental health services, public health programs, and

educational services. UCSUR has conducted evaluations on family support, home visiting, after school and youth development, conflict resolution, developmental disabilities, maternal and child health, fatherhood, and parent education programs, among many others.

In addition, UCSUR has expertise in developing and implementing management information systems and needs assessments. UCSUR provides training and technical assistance to increase the capacity of staff members to carry out evaluations, either independently or in collaboration with program evaluation specialists. Specific evaluation services

offered include:

- Development of evaluation designs, including process and outcome evaluations
- Assistance with program design, focusing on connecting program activities to expected outcomes (program logic models)
- Needs assessments
- Selection of appropriate outcomes and measurement methods
- Identification of assessment instruments
- Development of surveys for program evaluation
- Data analysis consultation and research design
- Referral to evaluation consultants with expertise in specific content areas

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

- 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
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**
Pamela Peele, Health Economics;
William Klein, Psychology
Daniel Rosen, School of Social Work;
Lisa Brush, Sociology
Audrey Murrell, Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business
Jeannette Trauth, Graduate School of Public Health
- 2002**
Maureen Porter, Administrative and Policy Studies
Scott F. Kiesling, Linguistics
- 2001**
Miriam Hertz, Health Information Management
Paul E. Griffiths, History and Philosophy

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.



Core Staff

Administration

Interim Director:
Scott Beach

Business Manager:
Greg Six

Administrators:
Anna Aivaliotis,
Donna M. King

Financial Administrator:
Abena Boadi-Agyemang

Pre-Award Administrator:
Carrie Rodzwicz

Administration - Technology Services

IT Director/Database
Administrator:
Robert Keene

Systems Administrator:
Eric Wolfe

Senior Research Programmer:
David Walker

Research Programmers:
Rhaven Nelson,
Steven Saylor

Survey Research

Program Director:
Scott Beach

Research Associate:
Donald Musa

Senior Research Specialist:
Janet Schlarb

Senior Fieldwork Supervisor:
Lynda Connelly

Fieldwork Supervisors:
Olivia Kirsch, Patricia Lietz,
Olivia Wilson

Fieldwork Supervisor/
Research Specialist:
Amber Barton

Research Specialist:
Christine Byerly

Research Specialists/
Interviewers:

**Carolyn Baker, Victoria
Casilli, Jane Dirks, Paula
Kubrick, Matthew Maielli,
Susan Stringfellow, Meg
Streiff**

Center Manager, National
Research and Training Center
on Family Support:
Julie Klinger

Outreach Coordinator, Na-
tional Research and Training
Center on Family Support:
Heather Tomko

Urban and Regional Analysis

Co-Program Director:
Michael Blackhurst

Co-Program Director:
Sabina Deitrick**

Western Pennsylvania
Regional Data Center
Director:
Robert Gradeck

Regional Economist:
Christopher Briem

GIS Database Analyst:
Ellen Kinnee

Project Manager:
Elizabeth Monk

PittsburghTODAY Director:
Douglas Heuck

PittsburghTODAY Research
Coordinator:
Julia Fraser

Gerontology

Program Director:
Richard Schulz

Associate Program
Director:
Judith Matthews

Project Coordinator:
Jennifer Bissell

Qualitative Data Analysis

Research Specialists:
David Halpern,
Kevan Schultz

Generations Together

Emeritus Director:
Sally Newman

Journal Editor:
Rafael Engel**

** Indicates participating faculty,
not UCSUR staff

FACULTY ASSOCIATES

Charles David Boucek
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John P. Williams
Anesthesiology

Steven Albert
Behavioral and Community
Health Sciences

Jessica Griffin Burke
Behavioral and Community
Health Sciences

Mary Hawk
Behavioral and Community
Health Sciences

Richard Boyce
Biomedical Informatics

Gary M. Marsh
Biostatistics

Amber E. Johnson
Cardiology

Melissa Bilec
Civil and Environmental
Engineering

David Sanchez
Civil and Environmental
Engineering

Kenneth Sochats
College of General Studies

Caitlin Bruce
Communication

Catherine V. Palmer
Communication Science and
Disorders

Alexandros Labrinidis
Computer Science

Rami Melhem
Computer Science

Daniel Mosse
Computer Science

Taieb Znati
Computer Science

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Critical Care Medicine

Douglas White
Critical Care Medicine

James Guggenheimer
Dental Medicine

Mary Marazita
Dental Medicine

Robert Weyant
Dental Medicine

Patricia Beeson
Economics

Randall Walsh
Economics

Linda DeAngelo
Education

Carl I. Fertman
Education

Michael Gunzenhauser
Education

Maureen Porter
Education

Vince N. Mosesso, Jr.
Emergency Medicine

Brian Suffoletto
Emergency Medicine

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Jane A. Cauley
Epidemiology

Andrea Kriska
Epidemiology

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Howard B. Degenholtz
Health Policy and Management

Everette James III
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History

Lisa S. Parker
Human Genetics

Mary Besterfield-Sacre
Industrial Engineering

Kathleen McTigue
Internal Medicine

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Katz Graduate School
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Vivian Curran
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Medicine

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Medicine

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P. Sudhakar Reddy

Medicine

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Nursing

Eileen Chasens

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Rose E. Constantino

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Jill Radtke Demirci

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Nursing

Paula Sherwood

Nursing

Pamela Toto

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Joseph McCarthy

Office of the Provost

Parmjeet Randhawa

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Raymond Pitetti

Pediatrics

Dianna Ploof

Pediatrics

Kristin Ray

Pediatrics

Selma F. Witchel

Pediatrics

Pouran Famili

Periodontics

Pam Smithburger

Pharmacy

Victorial Hornyak

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James J. Irrgang

Physical Therapy

Andrew Lynch

Physical Therapy

Jessie VanSwearingen

Physical Therapy

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Boris Birmaher

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Dana Bovbjerg

Psychiatry

David Brent

Psychiatry

Charlotte Brown

Psychiatry

Daniel Buysse

Psychiatry

Tammy Chung

Psychiatry

Duncan Clark

Psychiatry

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Psychiatry

Andrea Dimartini

Psychiatry

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Psychiatry

Michael Marsha

Psychiatry I

Karen A. Matthews

Psychiatry

Richard Morycz

Psychiatry

Edward P. Mulvey

Psychiatry

Vishwajit Nimgaonkar

Psychiatry

Paul Pilkonis

Psychiatry

Neal Ryan

Psychiatry

Lalith Kumar Solai

Psychiatry

Sarah Stahl

Psychiatry

Ellen Whyte

Psychiatry

Kirk Erickson

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Psychology

Peter Gianaros

Psychology

Thomas Kamarck

Psychology

Kathryn Roecklein

Psychology

Daniel Shaw

Psychology

Steven E. Stern

Psychology-Johnstown

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Rehabilitation Science and
Technology

Dan Ding

Rehabilitation Science and
Technology

Mary Goldberg

Rehabilitation Science and
Technology

Ralph Bangs

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Rafael J. Engel

Social Work

Catherine Greeno

Social Work

Elizabeth Mulvaney

Social Work

Helen Petracchi

Social Work

Mary Rauktis

Social Work

Hide Yamatani

Social Work

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Sociology

Lisa D. Brush

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.

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.

Does a New Supermarket Improve Dietary Behaviors of Low-Income African Americans?

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

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 05/10-12/20

Interviewer training, programming for data collection, and data management in a study of the impact of a new grocery store on dietary behavior in 1,600 residents of low-income neighborhoods.

Does Mindfulness Meditation Training Improve Social Relationship Functioning?

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
David Creswell, Carnegie Mellon University**

Funder: National Institutes of Health

Period: 09/15-08/20

Telephone recruitment of N=189 older adults for participation in a mindfulness meditation training program.

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.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator (PI)

PROJECTS*

Esophageal Cancer Patient Survey

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR
Katie Nason, Medicine**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: ongoing

Telephone interviews of 200+ patients diagnosed with or at risk for esophageal cancer exploring risk factors and patient interactions with the healthcare system.

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.

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.

Improving the Availability of Younger Unrelated Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors

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

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 04/16-04/21

Web survey of several hundred younger potential unrelated hematopoietic stem cell donors (aged 18–30) with the ultimate goal of improving availability of this younger donor group.

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: 01/19-12/20

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.

Regional Quality of Life 2018

**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: 05/21-06/22

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)

Targeted Interventions to Prevent Chronic Lower Back Pain (TARGET Trial)

**PIs: Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR
Janet Schlarb, SRP, UCSUR**

Anthony Delitto, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Funder: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Period: 07/15-09/20

Surveys (web and phone) of 12,000 patients (across 5 sites) at 6 and 12 months after an initial doctor's visit for lower back pain.

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 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 Klinger, 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

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.

Advancing Equity and the Health of Children through Open Data in Allegheny County

PI: Robert Gradeck

Funder: Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation

Period: 2/20- 2/21

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center will work with existing multi-sector data partners and establish data sharing partnerships with new organizations in order to obtain, transform, and provide open child health data within an existing multi-sector partnership to advance child health and health equity.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator (PI)

PROJECTS*

Census 2020 Asset Map

PI: Robert Gradeck

Funder: Allegheny County Complete Count Committee, Grantmakers of Western PA

Period: 1/20-10/20

Project to develop a community asset map to support outreach activity related to a complete count for 2020 Census, as well as other community engagement projects.

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.

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.

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.

The Symptom Experience, Management and Outcomes According to Race and Social Determinants of Health (SEMOARS) During Breast Cancer Chemotherapy- COVID-19 Addendum

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

Funder: School of Nursing

Period: 01/21-03/21

Transcription of interviews exploring the impact of COVID-19 on SEMOARS study participants.

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

PI: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR

Period: 7/20-6/21

Funders: Multiple

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

UAR for Sleep Apnea: the Patient's Experience

PIs: David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR Faith Luyster, School of Nursing

Funder: Inspire Medical Systems, Inc.

Period: 07/20-06/21

Transcription and coding of interviews exploring the efficacy of upper airway stimulation treatment of sleep apnea.

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 14 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.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator (PI)

Self-management via Health Kiosk by Community-residing Older Adults

PIs: Judith Matthews, Gerontology, UCSUR

Scott Beach, SRP, UCSUR

Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR

Daniel Buysse, Psychiatry

Karen Courtney, University of Victoria

Sandra Engberg, Nursing

Jennifer Hagerty Lingler, Nursing

Kathleen McTigue, Internal Medicine

Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri

Asim Smailagic, Carnegie Mellon University

Jessie Van Swearingen, Physical Therapy

Funder: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Period: 09/14-09/20

This project will study older adults' views, motivations, and patterns of use of an adaptive, community-based, multi-user health kiosk over 18 months of study participation. The goal is to understand how and why older adults use a health kiosk to live a healthier lifestyle and monitor and manage selected chronic conditions.

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.



Building Health Data Literacy Through Public Libraries

**PI: Elizabeth Monk, URA, UCSUR
Kelci Degnian, Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA)**

Period: 07/20-05/21

Funder: National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Partnering with ACLA to host a learning collaborative and develop asynchronous health data literacy training.

Civic Switchboard

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

Funder: Institute of Museum and Library Services

Period: 10/17-04/21

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.

Comprehensive Primary Care Plus

**PIs: Donald Musa, SRP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Deborah Peikes, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.**

Funder: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Period: 03/15-present

Transcription of interviews with multiple stakeholders regarding the implementation of CMS's CPC Classic and CPC+ programs.

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.

*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator (PI)

PROJECTS*

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.

Essential Women of Color: Coping with COVID-19 in Mecklenburg County

**PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
David Halpern, QDAP, UCSUR
Rachel W. Goode, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 01/21-05/21

Coding of interviews with women of color deemed to be “essential workers” to understand their experiences and coping strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Natural Product-Drug Interaction User Studies

**PIs: Kevan Schultz, QDAP, UCSUR
Rich Boyce, Biomedical Informatics**

Funder: National Institutes of Health
Period: 11/17-present

Transcription of interviews with users of a web site that will provide evidence-based information regarding purported pharmacokinetic natural product-drug interactions (PK-NPDI).

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-present

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

A Non-Pharmacological Intervention for Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease and Family Caregivers

**PIs: Richard Schulz, Gerontology, UCSUR
Sara Czaja, Weill Cornell Medical College**

Funder: National Institute on Aging
Period: 09/16-04/21

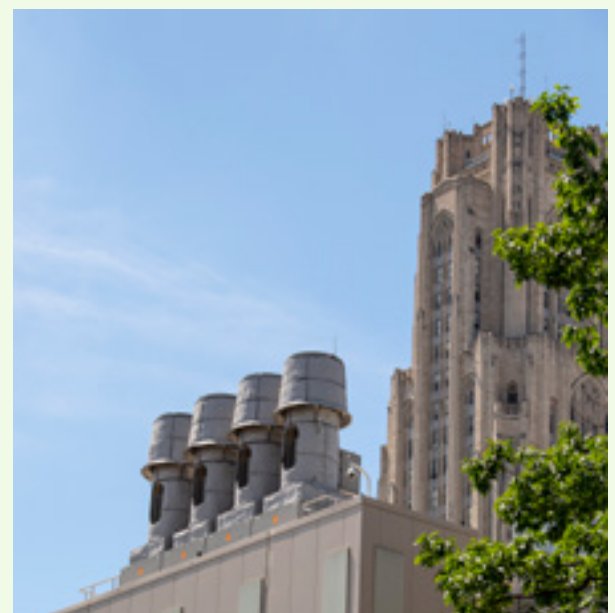
The study will develop and test the efficacy and feasibility of a dyadic-based intervention program (DT), delivered through state-of-the art computer tablet technology. A novel feature of the investigation is its focus on both the caregiver and the recipient of care (person with AD) and the integration of an evidenced-based caregiver intervention and evidenced-based cognitive/functional training for the care recipient.

Competitiveness Research

PI: Vijai Singh, Sociology

Funders: Heinz Endowments, Consolidated Natural Gas
Period: ongoing

Projects include analysis of factors which promote regional competitiveness of the biotech industry in Pittsburgh. Partner in a research network with Transatlantic Comparison of Continental Innovation Models. Project Director: Professor Ulrich Hilpert, University of Jena, Germany.



*In alphabetical order by UCSUR principal investigator (PI)

PUBLICATIONS 2020-21

Journals

Beach, S.R., Schulz, R., Donovan, H., & Rosland, A. (2021). Family caregiving during the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Gerontologist*, 61(5), 650–660.

Beach, S.R., Schulz, S., Friedman, E.M., Rodakowski, J., Martsof, G., & James, A.E. (2020). Adverse consequences of unmet needs for care in high-need/high-cost older adults. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, 75(2), 459-470.

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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., Beach, S., Kinnee, E., & Streiff, M. (2020). Environment and resident perception: Using Geographic Information Systems and survey methods. *American Journal of Health Studies*, 35(2), 83-92.

Deitrick, S., & Briem, C. (in press). Quality of life and demographic-racial dimensions of differences in most livable Pittsburgh. *Journal of Urban Regeneration and Renewal*.

Deitrick, S.E., & Briem, C. (2021). The Pittsburgh transition: Not quite so simple. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 35(3):197-201.

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Hajiseyedjavadi, S., Blackhurst, M., & Karimi, H. A. (2020). A machine learning approach to identify houses with high lead tap water concentrations. *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 34(08), 13300-13305.

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Technical Reports

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