Bureau of Sociological Research

• Created in 1964 as the data collection vehicle for the Sociology Department.
• Directed by a member of the faculty
• Fee-for-service organization
• Currently have about 25-30 projects in the field
What We Do…
• Research Design Consultation
• Questionnaire Design
• Mail, Phone, and Web Surveys
• In-person Interviewing
• Focus Group Facilitation
• Data Entry, Processing, and Analysis
• Study Recruitment and Scheduling
• Technical Report Preparation
• Transcription
Typical Data Collection Examples

• Web-based surveys to help assess services provided by the UNL Office of Research to UNL faculty and staff

• Mail survey with Web option asking about the educational experiences and current activities of College of Engineering Alumni

• Lincoln Citizen Budget Outcomes Survey – Telephone survey of 600 residents of Lincoln to gather information about citizen’s perspectives and ideas about city budget cut decisions
Not-So-Typical Data Collection Examples

• Creating Web-based, specialized data coding packages for faculty of the UNL Law College.

• Facilitated the creation of a student teacher assessment tool with faculty in Teachers College and LPS teachers.

• Recruited over 200 Lincoln residents to attend on-campus, personal interviews with researchers in Political Science
NASIS
Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey
• Conducted (almost) each year since 1977
• Approximately 900-1,800 Adult Nebraskans each year
• Moved to a mail survey in 2010
• Core items with yearly client add-ins
  – Wide variety of topics
NASIS 2013
Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey
Bureau of Sociological Research
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

We need your help to learn about how Nebraskans think, feel, and live.

Researchers from the University of Nebraska and across the state are counting on your help to learn about a variety of issues. Your responses will help shape program and policy development in Nebraska now and into the future.

Life in Nebraska

1. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with living in Nebraska?
   - Very satisfied
   - Somewhat satisfied
   - Neutral
   - Somewhat dissatisfied
   - Very dissatisfied

2. All in all, do you think things in Nebraska are generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?
   - Right direction
   - Wrong direction
   - Unsure

3. All in all, do you think things in the country as a whole are generally headed in the right direction or wrong direction?
   - Right direction
   - Wrong direction
   - Unsure

Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)

These questions are about the roads of the state highway system, not the roads of your city or county.

4. How much do you agree or disagree that NDOR does a good job of communicating information on proposed highway improvement projects?
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neither agree nor disagree
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

5. Please indicate whether or not you would prefer to receive information from NDOR about proposed highway improvement projects in each of the following ways.
   a. News release
   b. NDOR website
   c. Project information letter
   d. Public meeting
   e. Highway message boards and signage
   f. Social media; Facebook, Twitter, YouTube
   Yes
   No

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

6. How much do you agree or disagree that NDOR does a good job of communicating information on highway projects that are under construction?
   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Neither agree nor disagree
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

7. Please indicate whether or not you would prefer to receive information from NDOR about highway projects that are under construction in each of the following ways.
   a. News release
   b. NDOR website
   c. Project information letter
   d. Public meeting
   e. Highway message boards and signage
   f. Social media; Facebook, Twitter, YouTube
   Yes
   No

8. How familiar are you with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)?
   - Very familiar
   - Somewhat familiar
   - Neither familiar or unfamiliar
   - Somewhat unfamiliar
   - Very unfamiliar

9. How confident are you that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources can responsibly manage Nebraska’s water?
   - Very confident
   - Somewhat confident
   - Slightly confident
   - Not at all confident

10. How urgent are water quantity issues in Nebraska?
    - Not at all urgent
    - Not very urgent
    - Somewhat urgent
    - Urgent
    - Extremely urgent
    - Don’t know, unsure
NASIS Results - Health Issues

• 70.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had enough money to afford the kind of medical care they need.

• 79.2% of respondents said that their overall health and well being was excellent or good.

• 86.8% of respondents said they did not smoke.

• 49.7% of respondents felt they were overweight while 47.1% of respondents felt they were just about the right weight.
41. Does your spouse or partner typically work full-time, part-time, go to school, keep house, or something else? (Check all that apply)
- Working full-time (15 hours or more)
- Working part-time
- Has a job, but not at work (due to illness, vacation, strikes)
- Unemployed, laid off, looking for work
- Retired
- In school
- Keeping house
- Disabled
- Other: __________

48. How many years have you lived in this Nebraska county? (Please enter “0” if less than 1 year.)

49. Please indicate the category that describes your total family income in the last 12 months.
- Under $5,000
- $5,000 to $9,999
- $10,000 to $14,999
- $15,000 to $19,999
- $20,000 to $24,999
- $25,000 to $29,999
- $30,000 to $34,999
- $40,000 to $49,999
- $50,000 to $59,999
- $60,000 to $74,999
- $75,000 to $99,999
- $100,000 or more

50. During the past 12 months, how much difficulty have you had paying your bills?
- A great deal of difficulty
- A lot of difficulty
- Some difficulty
- A little difficulty
- No difficulty at all

51. Think again over the past 12 months. Generally, at the end of each month did you end up with...
- More than enough money left
- Almost enough to make ends meet
- Not enough to make ends meet

52. Overall, how satisfied are you with your current financial situation?
- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

53. What about your financial prospects? Do you feel that you are better off this year than you were two years ago at this time, about the same, or worse off?
- Better
- Same
- Worse

55. My family has enough money to afford the kind of home we need.
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don’t know

56. We have enough money to afford the kind of food we need.
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don’t know

57. We have enough money to afford the kind of medical care we need.
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don’t know

Personal Feelings
58. Now we have some statements about how you might have felt during the past week. Below, please indicate the number of days in the past week, including today, that:
- You felt sad
- You felt hopeful about the future
- You felt you were as good as other people
- You felt bothered by things that usually don’t bother you
- You felt tense
- You had trouble keeping your mind on what you were doing
- You felt that everything you did was an effort
- You felt fearful
- You talked less than usual
- You felt depressed
- You did not feel like eating, your appetite was poor
- You felt that you could not shake off the blues even with the help of family or friends
- Your sleep was restless
- You could not get “going”

About Yourself
59. Are you:
- Male
- Female

60. Do you think of yourself as:
- Heterosexual/straight
- Homosexual/gay or lesbian
- Bisexual
- Something else
- Not sure

61. As far as you know, are any of your immediate family members, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, or close friends, gay, lesbian, or bisexual?
- Yes
- No
NASIS Trend Data

- Very Happy
- Own Home
- Excellent Health
- Married
- Republican
- Bachelor's Degree
Internship Opportunities

• Undergraduate and Graduate Students
• During the school year, but most typically over the summer
• Work can be tailored to your interests depending on the research being conducted by BOSR at the time
• Frequently work with departments to give credit
Questions?

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University of Nebraska – Lincoln
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