

# UI Public Policy Center: Who we are and what we do

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March 25, 2012



## In this presentation

- **UI Public Policy Center**
  - Mission/History
  - Goals
  - Examples of research



## UI Public Policy Center

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### Our Mission

To provide policymakers with information to make their lives and communities thrive in sustainable ways through academic research.



## UI Public Policy Center

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### **Goals:**

- Conduct externally funded academic research to inform policymakers/public
- Assist UI interdisciplinary researchers in identifying funding and conducting their research
- Engage policymakers and the public in scholarly dialogue
- Provide students with a stimulating environment and opportunities from which they can learn and grow



## Structure of PPC

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- In Vice President for Research Office
- All faculty have joint appts. in Dept.
  - Some partial paid appts.
  - Some secondary (courtesy)
  - Almost all are active in some way
- Tenure through Home Dept. with PPC involvement annually for reviews
  - Joint review committees for key reviews
- Funding from release salaries from grants
  - No operating budget
- Participating in “Cluster Hires” (interdisciplinary)



## History

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- 1987-Founded by Prof. David Forkenbrock (URP)
  - Transportation research program
- 1990-Health Policy
- 1996-Human Factors and Vehicle Safety
- 2007-Damiano named Director
- 2008-Social Science Policy
- 2009-Housing and Land Use Policy
- 2010-Environmental Policy
- 2010-Iowa Social Science Research Program



## **1) Conducting Research to Inform Policy**

1. Environmental (Jon Carlson)
2. Health (Pete Damiano)
3. Housing and Land Use  
(Jerry Anthony)
4. Human Factors and Vehicle Safety  
(Dan McGehee)
5. Social Science (Karen Heimer)
6. Transportation policy (Paul Hanley)
7. ISRC (Kevin Leicht)



## **PPC Research Activity 2010-2011**

- **36 grants and contracts**
  - \$22.6 million (\$5.2 million pending)
- **45 publications**
  - 30 journal articles published/in press
  - 6 research reports (monographs)
  - 7 research abstracts
  - 2 books or chapters
- **42 student employees**



## Scholarship types

- Peer reviewed publications
- Research monographs
- Research reports
- Policy briefs



## PPC Publications 2007-11



## 2) Support Interdisciplinary Research/Scholarship

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- Grant and data collection support through the activities of the ISRC
- Collaborative research between faculty with appointments at the PPC and others on campus
  - Scholar in residence program
- Sharing state government contacts and associated data
- Informal advice provided to research faculty, staff and students on projects
- Collaboration on symposia and speakers



## ISRC

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### Primary goals:

- Grant identification and application assistance for faculty and graduate students
- Primary data collection assistance through the survey research center



## ISRC

ISRC Activity	AY 10-11	AY 11-12 (to date)	Scheduled
Grants Supported	34	30	7
Funding Searches	8	10	-
Bids Prepared for Data Collection Projects	16	27	-
Phone Surveys Fielded	6	4	2
Web Surveys Fielded	3	4	2
Other Surveys Fielded (Mailed, Mixed Mode, Focus Group)	—	1	1
Survey Instrument Consults	1	1	—
Qualtrics On-line Survey Consults	N/A	10	—
Data Access Consults	15	20	—
Statistical Software Consults	10	23	—



## 3) Engage Policymakers and Public in University dialogue

- **Forkenbrock Series on Public Policy**
  - Symposia
  - Speakers
  - Policy Matters class for undergrads/public
  - Legislative Lunch and Learn Series



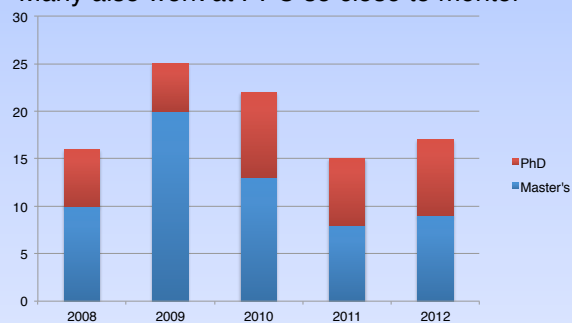
## Forkenbrock Series Symposia

- 2008-Transportation Finance and Economics
- 2008-Subprime Housing Crisis
- 2009-Living with Floods
- 2009-Medical Homes
- 2009-Energy and Climate Change
- 2010-12: Policy Matters Class
- 2010-Health Care Reform
- 2010-Balance Lives
- 2011-Senior College-Health Care
- 2011-Lectures: Robert Reich, Frances More Lappe
- 2011-Political Discourse
- 2012-Legislative Lunch and Learn



## Student Involvement

- 43 students employed by PPC
- Significant student mentoring
  - Many also work at PPC so close to mentor





## Examples of Research Activities

### Environmental Policy Research



## Environmental Policy Program

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### Goals:

- Promote policy-relevant research on local, regional, national and global environmental problems
- Facilitate interdisciplinary research by fostering collaboration among UI researchers with a shared interest in understanding and developing solutions to environmental problems
- Leverage campus-wide environmental research expertise so that the “whole is greater than the sum of the parts.”



## Current PPC Staff

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- **Jonathan Carlson**
  - Director, Environmental Policy Research Program
  - Professor and Victor & Carol Alvarez Fellow in Law, University of Iowa College of Law
  - Interests: International water law
- **Scott Spak**
  - Assistant Professor, Urban and Regional Planning
  - Interests: Atmospheric studies and climate change
- **Aaron Strong**
  - Assistant Professor, Urban and Regional Planning
  - Interests: Environmental economics



## Current or recent research

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- **Climate engineering governance (Carlson)**
  - What legal norms, principles, and institutional mechanisms should be used to control activities that seek to combat climate change through deliberate manipulation of Earth's climate or biological systems?
- **Biking, obesity, air pollution, and the economy (Spak)**
  - How are biking, obesity, air pollution, and the economy related? Scott Spak and others show how we can improve America's health, reduce air pollution and save the country \$8 billion a year by switching from cars to bikes for short trips around town.
- **Economic growth and the environment (Strong)**
  - Aaron Strong is focused on understanding the important relationship between economic growth and changes in environmental quality. The environment provides many ecosystem services that support human wants. Strong and his collaborators have shown that sustaining those services may require more deliberate policy intervention than previously believed.



## Examples of Research Activities

### Social Science Policy Research



## Social Science Policy Research, UI Faculty Affiliates

**Karen Heimer**, Sociology, Professor

- Research areas: criminology, victimization, criminal justice, race and gender

**Phuong Nguyen**, Urban & Regional Planning, Asset Prof

- Research areas: education finance, urban finance, transportation finance

**Kevin Leicht**, Sociology, Professor

- Research areas: work, organizations, social science research methodology and data

**Fred Boehmke**, Political Science, Associate Professor

- Research areas: legislation, empirical modeling of political phenomena

**Carolyn Hartley**, Social Work, Associate Professor

- Research areas: intimate partner violence, legal responses to violence against women



## Selected Current Social Science Policy Studies

### Crime and Violence

- **Violent Victimization in the U.S.: The Vulnerability of Minorities and Women over Time**, Karen Heimer and Joseph Lang, funded by National Science Foundation
  - o Study of victimization risks of blacks and Latinos over time period 1973-2010, with attention to how economic shifts over time have affected experiences with violence
  - o Study of how women's exposure to violence by strangers, nonstrangers and intimate partners has changed between 1980 and 2010
- **Patterns of Imprisonment in the U.S.**
  - o Studies of how changing demographics and economic factors affect changes in imprisonment in the 50 states, late 1970s through present
- **Services to Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence**, Carolyn Hartley, funded by the National Institute of Justice
  - o Study of the role of civil legal services for improving outcomes for battered women.



## Selected Current Social Science Policy Studies

### Inequality, Opportunity, and Politics

- **Flood Recovery**, Kevin Leicht, et al., funded by NSF
  - o Study of the enduring effects of home displacement on the reading and math learning of 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in the Cedar Rapids area
- **Survey Methodology and Data**, Kevin Leicht, funded by National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health
  - o Examines ways to take advantage of the wealth of data supplied by remote sensing devices, environmental quality assays, and measures of the built environment in assessing overall quality of life;
  - o Another study focuses on the protection of respondent confidentiality in social science research where data are increasingly precise
- **Indirect Effects of Legislation**, Fred Boehmke



## Selected Current Social Science Policy Studies

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- **Public Finance**

- Education Finance, Phuong Nguyen
  - Studies of the effects on school spending and student performance of public policies, e.g., education finance reform, tax limit repeal, adoption of school budget referendums, military base closures, and school district income taxes.
- Urban Finance & Economics, Phuong Nguyen
  - Projects look at school quality capitalization into house values, fiscal decentralization and poverty, municipal responses to state aid changes.
- Transportation Finance, Phuong Nguyen, funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation
  - Study of benefits and costs of paratransit, state financing of highways



## Examples of Research Activities

### Health Policy Research



## **Health Policy Research Program**

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### **Health Services Research**

- Access to care
- Quality/outcomes of care
- Cost of care



## **Areas of Research**

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1. Impact of Health Care Reform
2. Quality of care/performance measurement/ health plan assessment
2. Public programs including Medicaid and IowaCare
3. Access to primary care
4. Maternal and child health
5. Dental health services research



## Health Policy Research funding

### 1. State

- Iowa Dept. of Public Health (IDPH)
- Iowa Dept. of Human Services (IDHS)

### 2. Federal

- NIH, AHRQ, CDC

### 3. Foundation

- The Commonwealth Fund
- Wellmark Foundation



## Data Sources

### • Primary data collection

- Written surveys (sometimes over 10,000 per year)
- Telephone surveys
- Focus groups

### • Secondary data

- Medicaid/IowaCare claims/enrollment files
- Delta Dental claims/enrollment files



## **The 2010 Iowa Child and Family Household Health Survey**

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### **Methods of survey**

- **Population-based household telephone survey**
  - 2400 families with children in Iowa
  - Plus a separate oversample of minority children
- **Interviews completed by UNI Center for Social and Behavioral Research**
- **About 180 questions**
  - average 22 minutes to complete



## **Study Collaborators**

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- **Third Household Health Survey**
- **Joint effort of**
  - Iowa Department of Public Health
  - Child Health Specialty Clinics
  - University of Iowa Public Policy Center
  - Other partners in IDPH and state





## **Purpose of overall study**

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- 1) To assess the health and well-being of children and families in Iowa
- 2) To identify the number of children with special health care needs in Iowa and their well-being
- 3) To assess the health insurance coverage of children in Iowa and features of the uninsured
- 4) To assess the health and well-being of racial and ethnic minority children in Iowa



## **Survey topics**

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- Demographics of Iowa families with children
- Functional health status
- Insurance coverage
- Access to care



## Survey topics-broader determinants of health

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### Child well-being

- Child care
- School performance
- Family environment
  - Parenting stress
  - Substance use



## Survey topics-broader determinants of health

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### • Special emphasis on early childhood issues

- Behavioral Health
- Parenting Education
- Child Care Arrangements
- Literacy

### • Other issues

- Tobacco
- Alcohol and drug use
- Medical home
- Nutrition and obesity
- Gambling



## **Impact of ACA on Safety Net in Iowa**

**Supported by the Commonwealth Fund**



### **Major Goals**

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- Assist policymakers and safety net providers to plan for change-financial and organizational
- Conduct large scale strategic planning effort not otherwise possible
- Using national and state-level experts with academic assistance to evaluate the potential impacts of ACA on states
- Identify opportunities for integration and coordination in the health care delivery system.



## **Emphasis on primary care**

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1. Medical
2. Preventive
3. Dental
4. Mental health
5. Pharmacy



## **Background**

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ACA creates changes and opportunities for safety net providers-currently uncertain environment

- Increasing public and private coverage
- Funds for FQHCs
- Establishment of ACOs
- Funds for HIT, HIE, EHRs and meaningful use
- Funds for prevention
- Medical home development



## Background

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### Why Iowa:

- 1. Iowa Safety Net Network was established**
  - Legislatively mandated organization that already brought all safety net providers together into a loose confederation
  - Made communication and collaboration much easier
- 2. IowaCare program for low income, uninsured adults**
  - Adults up to 200% FPL
  - Provides experience with population that will be Medicaid eligible in 2014
- 3. Experience of PPC Iowa Primary Care Association and Safety Net Network**



## Objectives

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- Determine the current funding, expenditures, and infrastructure of the health care safety net at the state level, using Iowa as an example.
- Evaluate the potential implications of PPACA on funding, expenditures and infrastructure of safety net-related activities at the state level.
- Develop strategies for improving integration and coordination of safety net providers and organizations within the health care delivery system using Iowa as a model for change.



## PPC Policy Research

- Effectively conducting policy research in a variety of important interdisciplinary areas
- Provide policymakers with background information
  - Not advocacy
  - May include policy recommendations in reports
  - May be involved in program development
  - May be involved in advisory groups (close)
- Support social science and interdisciplinary research on campus
- Engage policymakers and public in fruits of academic research
- Provide valuable opportunities for students

