Institute of Public Policy (IPP)

Truman School of Government and Public Affairs

University of Missouri - Columbia

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

MU Institute of Public Policy
University of Missouri

Director's
Welcome

Welcome to the MU Institute of Public Policy's 2023 Annual Report! As of September 1, 2023, I began my second three-year term as Director. The first three-year term passed in the blink of an eye. I am fortunate to serve as Director of the Institute. My colleagues are dedicated professionals and we work on interesting and timely projects.

The highlight of this year's Annual Report is our staff. 2023 was a big year for the Institute. Three staff moved on to new positions and, as you will see on pages 3 and 4, seven new staff were hired. Mark Benton, PhD and former IPP Senior Research Analyst is now Assistant Research Professor in the MU Department of Public Health; Kristi Ressel, MPH and former IPP Senior Research Analyst is now Doctoral Candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs; and, Manda Tiwari, PhD and former IPP Data Analyst and Assistant Teaching Professor of Economics is now Assistant Professor of Economics at Western Illinois University.

In total, there are 11 of us currently working at IPP. Four staff members are fully remote (Kansas City, St Louis, and Athens, OH) and seven are here in Columbia, with five working a "hybrid" arrangement (one day in the office and four days from home) and two in the office full-time. IPP clearly embodies the modern work place.

Thank you for your interest and support of the MU Institute of Public Policy.

Best,
Sara Gable, PhD

2023 STAFF

From Left to Right:

Back Row:
Emmie Harcourt, Ryanne DeSpain, Emily Johnson, Jacob Hansen, Nana Adjoa Aikens, Jill Lucht

Front Row:
Wayne Mayfield, Syrus Duffy, Rachel Dicke, Mia Jefferson, Sara Gable

* Denotes new staff members

* Nana Adjoa Aikins, MPA

Nana Adjoa Aikins is a Research Specialist II at the Institute of Public Policy. She received her Master of Public Affairs degree in 2022 from the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. She received her undergraduate Bachelor of Commerce (Management) degree from the University of Cape Coast, in her home country Ghana. Her current research interest is focused on Education, Health, and Economic Development policies and programs. Nana is driven by her commitment to positively create impact through research and data analysis. She thoughtfully approaches issues with a compassionate and data-driven perspective to developing solutions.

Ryanne DeSpain, MPP

Ryanne DeSpain is a Research Specialist Lead at the Institute of Public Policy. Ryanne received her BS in Elementary Education from the University of Missouri in 2016 before working as a 4th grade teacher in Moberly, Missouri for three years. She received her MPP in Education Policy from Vanderbilt University in 2021. Before joining IPP, Ryanne worked with Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a Data Specialist. Her interests include program evaluation, data visualization, policy analysis and implementation, and qualitative and quantitative approaches to analyzing educational issues.

* Rachel Dicke, PhD

Dr. Rachel Dicke is a Senior Research Analyst at the Institute of Public Policy, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs. She received her PhD from the University of Missouri in Political Science. Her research for IPP focuses on early childhood care and education, and economic development, particularly issues that impact women's employment. Her research capacities include survey design and analysis, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and program evaluation.

* Syrus Duffy, BA

Syrus Duffy is Research Specialist II at the Institute of Public Policy. Syrus is nearing completion of his Master of Public Affairs degree at the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs. Syrus earned his BA in History with a minor in Political Science from Truman State University. He has been a research assistant in the College of Education at Michigan State University and the Institute of Public Policy. In his current role, Syrus supports the long-standing Missouri Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program evaluation team and the new Foundational Public Health Services Gap Analysis project.

Sara Gable, PhD

Sara Gable is Director of the Institute of Public Policy. She completed her BS and MS in Family and Human Development at Utah State University and her PhD in Human Development and Family Studies at Penn State University. Her academic career began as a post-doc in the Department of Psychology at the University of Missouri and she has remained at the University ever since, first as a faculty member and State Extension Specialist in the former College of Human Environmental Sciences and now as Director of IPP. In her role as a State Extension Specialist, Sara supported Missouri's child care workforce with evidence-based professional development with programs that she developed such as Child Care Program Administration: Everything BUT the Children and Healthy Plants/Healthy Bodies, a preschool plant science and nutrition education program. Her research addresses the etiology and outcomes of excess weight that persists across childhood; national and state policy for child care and the child care workforce; and, most recently, young children's early mathematical development and states' Early Learning Standards for Math. From 2016-2019, Sara was Faculty Fellow in the MU Office of Research and Economic Development and provided leadership for the university's internal funding programs. Sara is committed to conducting research and applied work that aims to improve child care and early education for families with young children.

* Jacob Hansen, MPA

Jacob Hansen is a Research Specialist II for the Institute of Public Policy, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. Mr. Hansen holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri, as well as undergraduate degrees in History and Political Science from Westminster College. His current research interest is focused on community policy areas within Missouri, particularly the reentry into society of individuals under probation and parole.

Emmie Harcourt, MPA

Emmie Harcourt is a Research Specialist Lead at the Institute of Public Policy. She earned her BA in anthropology and MPA from the University of Missouri. Prior to earning her master's degree as a mid-career student, she worked in the donor relations department at MU, as grants coordinator for The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, and conducted a community food assessment in rural Oregon as an AmeriCorps member. While completing her MPA, she worked as a graduate research assistant with IPP, assisting with a study on Medicaid expansion in Missouri. Emmie's research interests include environmental, health, and food policy as well as program evaluation. She currently serves as Principal Investigator on the Missouri Teen Pregnancy Prevention evaluation project.

Mia Jefferson, BA

Mia Jefferson received her BA in Art emphasising in Graphic Design from the University of Missouri- Columbia. Her work aligns to strategic communication, advocacy, and aesthetics. With focus areas surrounding branding, layout, photography and more, she will continue developing her skills through her careers as both volleyball trainor and full creative designer.

Emily Johnson, MS

Emily Johnson is the Associate Director of Operations at the Institute of Public Policy, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. She received her Master's Degree in Politics and Government with a concentration in Community and Economic Development from Illinois State University. Since joining the Institute of Public Policy, she has worked on various evaluation, management, and training projects. Emily has extensive experience working with state, local, and nonprofit agencies to conduct process, impact, and capacity evaluations, design and conduct surveys, conduct needs assessments, convene focus groups and community input forums, provide technical assistance, facilitate strategic planning sessions, and provide training.

Jill Lucht, MS

Jill Lucht is a Research Project Analyst Lead at the Institute of Public Policy (IPP), Truman School of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. Her current role focuses on fiscal and capacity analysis for Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) in the process of adopting Missouri's Foundational Public Health Services Model. Jill comes to IPP with extensive experience in health policy analysis and project management, including work related to Missouri's health care workforce, Medicaid claims analysis, and health equity. Additional areas of interest include food and agricultural policy, community economic development, and local governance. Her research capacities include survey design, administration and analysis; secondary data analysis; focus groups; and community process facilitation. Jill holds a Master's in Rural Sociology from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor's in Rural Sociology and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin.

Wayne Mayfield, PhD

Wayne A. Mayfield is Associate Director of Research at the Institute of Public Policy. He received his BA in Spanish from Grinnell College and completed his MA and PhD in Counseling Psychology at the University of Missouri (MU). His academic career began as a Clinical Assistant Professor in MU's School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. He then worked at the Project Construct National Center, where he helped revise the Project Construct early childhood framework for curriculum and assessment. As a Senior Research Analyst at MU's Center for Family Policy and Research, he worked on a number of early care and education projects and supported the development of a quality rating and improvement system for Missouri's child care programs. He has worked with the National Workforce Registry Alliance for the last fifteen years by combining data from early childhood and school-age workforce registries and producing descriptive reports of the workforce to help guide policy efforts. While working at MU's Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis, he oversaw the Missouri KIDS Count project, worked with Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on a number of survey projects, and became Missouri's statewide evaluator for federally funded afterschool programs. In his role as IPP's Associate Director, he has continued to work with DESE as PI on projects that helped to support and evaluate its federally awarded Preschool Development Grants. His professional interests include measurement and evaluation, particularly in the early childhood and youth development arenas.

Student Research Assistants

For Calendar Year 2023

IPP could not fulfill our contractual obligations without the hard work and dedication of student research assistants. Through their involvement, students learn valuable research skills including conducting literature reviews, gathering data through surveys, interviews, and focus groups, performing data management and analyses, designing data visualizations and dashboards, and assisting with manuscript preparation. We extend our gratitude to all of the students who supported IPP during 2023.

*Denotes May 2023 graduates

Abigail Antesana
(MPA student, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs)

Aida Bilali Ka
(PhD student, Health Management and Informatics)

*MacKenzie Cooper
(BA, Department of Art History and Archaeology)

Syrus Duffy
(MPA student, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs)

*Emmie Harcourt
(MPA, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs)

*Amelia Holliday
(MSW, School of Social Work)

Jiwoong Jung
(PhD student, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs)

Elizabeth Knight
(PhD student, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis)

Jada Mulholland
(Undergraduate, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs)

Abigail Naneworter
(MPA student, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs)

Abigail Olajire
(PhD student, Department of Communication)

*Lukas Parrish
(Bachelor of Journalism and BA, Political Science)

Hang Qi
(PhD student, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs)

Cayley Schmitt
(MPA student, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs)

*Hannah Shupert
(BA, Political Science with minors in Sociology and Leadership and Public Service)

Jonathon Zars
(Undergraduate, Department of Economics)

Presentations & Publications

Benton, M. & Landgrave, M. (forthcoming). How can the police avoid earning distrust? Exploring the associations of police distrust among African Americans. *Journal of Social Equity and Public Administration*.

Gable, S., & Fozi, A. M. (2023). Prevalence of number, number relations, and number operations indicators in State Early Learning Standards. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-023-01524-5

Gable, S., Holliday, A., Zars, J., Nickell, A., & Anderson, B. (March, 2023). *Intergenerational conflict, contact with birth parents, and child functioning in kinship caregiver families*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Greever-Rice, T. K., Lucht, J. R., Quinn, K. J. (May 2023) *Innovations in health care workforce analysis: A state perspective*. Presentation at 2023 Association of American Medical Colleges Health Workforce Research Conference. Washington, D.C.

Haselswerdt, J., Ressel, K., Harcourt, E., & Quinn, K. (October, 2023). *Medicaid expansion: A mixed methods study of the provider perspective*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the American Evaluation Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Haselswerdt, J., Ressel, K., Harcourt, E., & Quinn, K. (November, 2023). *Medicaid expansion: A mixed methods study of the provider perspective*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Atlanta, GA.

Kapp, J.M., Dicke, R.D., Winjum, D.W., Stilley, J., & Schlemper, S. (2023). *Final evaluation report for Missouri's overdose data to action program*. Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Lucht, J. R., & Davidson, B. (May 2023). *Next steps in transforming health in Missouri: FPHS and accreditation support*. Presentation at the spring regional meeting of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Center for Local Public Health Services, Jefferson City, MO.

Lucht, J. R. (April 2023). *Social determinants of health*. Presentation to the Community Health Worker ECHO (Zoom), Columbia, MO.

Mayfield, W. A., Knight, E., Shupert, H. (September, 2023). *Preliminary results from the No Kid Hungry Missouri evaluation*. Presentation at the board meeting of the Family and Community Trust, Columbia, MO.

Mayfield, W. A. (September, 2023). *Participation in the Missouri Parents as Teachers Parent Education Program and associations with academic outcomes*. Panel presentation at the third annual P20W Research Roundtable, Columbia, MO.

Mayfield, W. A. (October, 2023). *The 2023 PER Report: Workforce trends with a focus on home-based care*. Keynote presentation at the annual meeting of the National Workforce Registry Alliance, Omaha, NE.

Mayfield, W. A., & Patrie, J. (November, 2023). *Results from the statewide afterschool evaluation 2022-23: What do the data tell us*? Presentation at the annual meeting of the Missouri School-Age Community Coalition, Lake Ozark, MO.

Funders & Partners

City of Columbia, Boone County, and Heart of MO United Way
Boone Indicators Dashboard

Missouri AfterSchool Network
Statewide Evaluation of Afterschool Programs

MO Department of Corrections
Community Reentry Project Evaluation (Year 15), Pay for Success Initiative and Evaluation

MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Preschool Development Grant: Birth to 5 Program Performance Evaluation; Educator Preparation Programs Annual Performance Report and First Year Teacher, Administrator, and Specialist Surveys; Survey with Parents of Students with Special Education Needs; School Climate and Culture Survey; and, Vocational Rehabilitation Qualitative Research

MO Department of Health and Senior Services
MO Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project Evaluation (Year 13); Foundational Public Health Services Gap Analysis and Cost Estimate Study

MO Department of Social Services and MU Center for Health Policy
No Kid Hungry Missouri Evaluation

MO Foundation for Health and MU Center for Health Policy
Medicaid Expansion Evaluation Project

MO Foundation for Health and ParentLink (MU College of Education and Human Development)
Kinship Caregiver Needs Assessment

National Workforce Registry Alliance
2023 Partners in Employment Reporting (PER) Dataset and Early Care and Education Workforce Briefs

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and MU Department of Human Development and Family Science
Show-Me Healthy Relationships Program Evaluation

US Health Resources and Services Administration, MU Office of Health Outreach, Policy, and Education, and MU Center for Health Policy
Innovative Model to Increase Primary Care Physicians for Rural and Underserved MO

United Women's Empowerment
MO Child Care Licensing Study

Director, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs
Lael Keiser, Professor, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs

Institute of Public Policy

Director
Sara Gable, PhD

Associate Director, Operations
Emily Johnson, MS

Associate Director, Research
Wayne Mayfield, PhD

Research Project Analyst, Lead
Jill Lucht, MS

Senior Research Analyst
Rachel Dicke, PhD

Research Specialist Lead
Emmie Harcourt, MPA
Ryanne Despain, MPP

Research Specialist II
Nana Adjoa Aikins, MPA
Syrus Duffy, BA
Jacob Hansen, MPA

Administrative Support and Graphic Desgin
Mia Jefferson, BA

IPP MISSION & VALUES

The Institute of Public Policy conducts independent, non-partisan research and analysis to inform public policy and benefit all Missourians.

Accountability
We value accountability to ensure careful evaluation and assessment of policy issues.

Collaboration
We value inter-disciplinary collaboration among academic and government institutions to share the Institute's talents and resources with the broader community.

Engagement And Outreach
We value engagement and outreach and are committed to sharing knowledge to promote understanding of public policy.

Inclusion, Diversity, And Equity
We are committed to inclusion, diversity, and equity in our organizational practices, research, and service delivery.

Integrity
We provide honest, complete, and professionally-presented information with a commitment to ethical conduct.

Research
We value the advancement of knowledge about public policy issues through academic, practice-centered research.

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