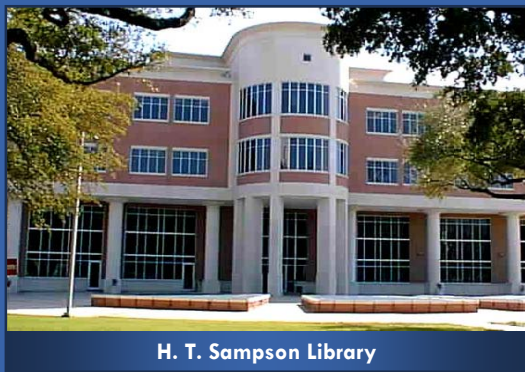


## HISTORY

The Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) was authorized through Mississippi Senate Bill 2720, which was passed by the Mississippi Legislature in 1983. The operation of the Center was funded by legislative appropriation in July 1994. Since that time, the Center has established itself as a leader in providing research-based assistance to address the urban community's unique problems through data research, interpretation and dissemination.



H. T. Sampson Library

## MISSION

The **Mississippi Urban Research Center** is dedicated to improving the quality of life through basic and applied research into problems which plague urban communities and to making available the results of this research to private groups, public bodies and public officials.

The Center fulfills its mission by providing critical data to urban planners, policymakers, service providers and the lay community. Its commitment to improving the quality of life in Mississippi is demonstrated by offering the widest possible dissemination of research and the greatest possible opportunities for public scrutiny and interpretation of collected data.

## FUNDING SOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Delta Health Alliance, Mississippi Legislature, Mississippi State Department of Mental Health, Mississippi State Department of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### To Contact MURC:

#### Mailing Address:

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Jackson State University  
JSU Box 17309  
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Melvin Davis, Ph.D., Executive Director

# Mississippi Urban Research Center

## OVERVIEW

The **Mississippi Urban Research Center** (MURC), an entity of Jackson State University (JSU), is located in the capital city of Jackson, Mississippi. Housed in the Jackson Medical Mall, MURC operates as a unit of the JSU Office of Research Development and Federal Relations. The Center consists of three divisions: Research, Projects and Contractual Services.

Using multidisciplinary approaches and diverse research methods, MURC provides a structure and setting for conducting research, analyzing public policies and managing research data.

The Center serves as a clearinghouse for dissemination of research data on pressing urban life issues in the areas of health, crime and violence, alcohol and other drug abuse, urban education and urban policy. MURC also examines and analyzes these data to make projections regarding policies and initiatives which impact urban life. Relevant data are provided to urban planners, policymakers, service providers, educators and community leaders. Additionally, the Center develops and offers behavioral intervention models, instructional programs, forums, conferences and workshops.

## CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

The Center offers a broad range of evaluation, data collection and analysis services which include:

- ♦ Data Management and Mining
- ♦ Needs Assessment and Analysis
- ♦ Program Evaluation
- ♦ Statistical Analysis Laboratory
- ♦ Telephone/Mail Survey Research Laboratory
- ♦ Urban Issues Data Repository and Clearinghouse

## PROJECTS

While primarily structured to focus on statewide issues, many of the urban concerns that the Mississippi Urban Research Center addresses are consistent with local, state, regional and national public issues.

### African American Prevention Intervention Network



The African American Prevention Intervention Network (APIN) assists African-American-serving community-based organizations (CBOs), health departments and health-department-funded CBOs with adaptation, implementation, quality assurance and evaluation of effective HIV prevention interventions. Specifically, APIN focuses on high-risk seronegative and HIV-positive racial/ethnic minority individuals in the South, and on youths in non-school settings, including lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and questioning youths throughout the nation. APIN builds through a variety of information transfer, skills-building, technical services, technical consultation and technology transfer.

### Delta Health Initiative



The Delta Health Initiative HIV/AIDS Prevention Project provides HIV/AIDS prevention education to community-based organizations (CBOs) in 18 counties in northwest and west central Mississippi: Bolivar, Coahoma, Carroll, DeSoto, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Washington, Warren and Yazoo. The project works to increase the capacity of CBOs to operate more efficiently, improve their organizational infrastructure and offers training to staff on implementing effective HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

### Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition



Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition (MJCPC), formed in 1995 under the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Community Prevention Initiative, is an expansion of Jackson Takes a Stand Community Partnership and is funded by the Mississippi State Department of Mental Health. Through its staff, partnerships and network volunteers, MJCPC provides community organization, training and presentations on substance abuse prevention, life-skills

training to schools, churches, neighborhood associations, business and civic organizations; and referral services which link residents with needed services. Its membership represents individuals from the business community, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement agencies, grassroots, religious, civic and fraternal organizations, health care professionals, state and local government.

## Additional Projects

**Jackson Teen Seat Belt Coalition** brings together individuals, organizations companies and governmental agencies interested in supporting the increase in knowledge, awareness and usage of seat belts by teens in Jackson, Miss.

**Students Involved in Prevention Project** is funded by the Mississippi State Department of Health to implement the Real AIDS Prevention Project (RAPP) on the Alcorn State University, Jackson State University and Tougaloo College. campuses RAPP is an evidenced-based behavioral intervention designed to help sexually active heterosexual women and their male partners reduce their risk of HIV infection.

## RESEARCH

The Research Division's current research foci include: childhood obesity, health disparities, HIV/AIDS, and crime and violence. Many of the research initiatives focusing on these topics involve the RAND Gulf States Policy Institute. Additionally, the division houses the U. S. Census Information Center (CIC) and serves as an urban issues repository and clearinghouse. Research publications include the *Online Journal of Rural and Urban Research* (to be launched in April 2008) and *The Urban Researcher*.



Mississippi Urban Research Center Office Suite