The Mississippi Urban Research Center was authorized through Mississippi Senate Bill 2720, which was passed by the Mississippi Legislature in 1983. Its operation was funded by legislative appropriation in July 1994. Since that time, the Center has established itself as a leader in providing specialized assistance to address the unique problems facing Mississippi’s urban communities and their leaders, including policymakers and grassroots stakeholders, through research, interpretation and dissemination.

**HISTORY**

The Mississippi Urban Research Center conducts basic and applied research into problems and public policy and makes research data available to policymakers, public bodies and officials, urban planners, service providers, private groups, and the lay community. The center offers consultation and general advisory services concerning urban issues and their solutions and instructional and training programs.

Its commitment to building better urban communities and 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.

**MISSION**

The Mississippi Urban Research Center conducts basic and applied research into problems and public policy and makes research data available to policymakers, public bodies and officials, urban planners, service providers, private groups, and the lay community. The center offers consultation and general advisory services concerning urban issues and their solutions and instructional and training programs.

Its commitment to building better urban communities and 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.

**To Contact MURC:**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

Mississippi Urban Research Center
Jackson State University
P. O. Box 17309
Jackson, MS 39217

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS**

Jackson Medical Mall
350 West Woodrow Wilson Avenue
Suite 2200-B
Jackson, MS 39213

**TELEPHONE**

601-979-1400

**FAX**

601-979-8818

**TOLL-FREE**

1-866-JSU-MURC (578-6872)

**WEB SITE**

jsums.edu
The Mississippi Urban Research Center, an entity of Jackson State University, is located in the capital city of Jackson, Mississippi. Housed in the Jackson Medical Mall, MURC operates as a unit of the JSU College of Public Service.

MURC consists of Research and Contractual Services units and provides the following tailored services:

- Basic and applied research, policy analysis, consultation and general advisory services which contribute to current practices and provide insight on solutions to urban problems
- Census data research and training for urban planners, policymakers, service providers, as well as the academic and lay communities
- Dissemination of research findings and program information via newsletters, an online peer-reviewed journal, research reports and presentations.
- Focus group facilitation services
- Needs assessment and analysis
- Program evaluation tailored specifically for proposed and current projects
- Statistical Analysis Laboratory
- Telephone/Mail Survey Research Laboratory

The goal of the Mississippi Urban Research Center is to improve the quality of urban life through its varied services.

The Research unit’s foci include the topics of public policy and health disparities that are currently of interest to policymakers and that will assist with developing the best solutions to urban issues of current and imminent priority.

Many of MURC’s research initiatives involve the RAND Gulf States Policy Institute. Additionally, the Research unit houses the U. S. Census Information Center (CIC) and serves as an urban issues repository and clearinghouse.

Research publications on cutting edge topics are produced for dissemination to policymakers and are available to the general public. Periodically, the Online Journal of Rural and Urban Research issues a call for papers, enabling the publication of timely research from scholars in a variety of disciplines. The MURC Digest features a research article in each issue that delves into a single topic, thereby, furthering MURC’s mission of solving pressing urban problems.

MURC conducts training for JSU faculty, staff and students on accessing and utilizing data and services of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

ICPSR, a unit within the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, offers a data repository of over 34,000 datasets for non-ICPSR members and 62,000 datasets for members.

Data topics such as aging, criminal justice, demographics, education, health, mental health, instruction, race and ethnicity and terrorism are available.

The Contractual Services unit provides consultation and services to the JSU campus community, as well as for-profit and non-profit entities, including businesses, community and professional organizations, governmental agencies and school districts.

Services offered include: needs assessment and analysis, program evaluation tailored specifically for proposed and current projects, a Statistical Analysis Laboratory and a Telephone/Mail Survey Research Laboratory.

Upon consultation with the client to determine the goals and/or objectives of a project, a package of services which may include a needs assessment, program evaluation, or any of the various services MURC offers that may be required to achieve the stated outcomes can be designed and tailored to meet the client’s specific needs.