

State
Of the
State
Survey

*Governmental Income Supplements
for Michigan Adults*

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Briefing Paper No. 95-05

Governmental Income Supplements for Michigan Adults

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MSU State of the State Survey

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KEY FINDINGS

The Survey

- The telephone survey of 1,202 adult residents of the state of Michigan was conducted by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research between May 10 and June 20, 1995. This is the third quarterly MSU State of the State Survey (SOSS). It focused on issues related to families, women and children. The sampling error is $\pm 2.8\%$. This briefing paper reports responses to one question only: receipt of governmental income supplements.

The sample is designed to provide representative information for respondents from major regions of the state: Detroit City, Southeast Michigan (excluding Detroit), Southwest Michigan, Central Michigan (West and East), northern Lower Michigan, and the Upper Peninsula. (See attached information sheet for a list of the counties included in each region.) The data reported here are weighted to make the results representative of the adult population of Michigan.

Types of Governmental Income Supplements Received

- **One-quarter of all Michigianians received governmental income supplements in the last year.** The types of governmental income supplements reported were Social Security (16%), Food Stamps (5%), Unemployment Compensation (5%), Workers' Compensation (2%), and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) (2%). Some people received more than one type of supplement. (*Question wording is given below.*) Note that Social Security Income may have been interpreted to mean Old Age, Survivors, Health, and Disability Insurance (OASDHI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Recipients of Governmental Income Supplements

- **Type of supplement received varies with age.** People over 60 years of age are most likely to receive income supplements (67% — primarily Social Security). Ten percent of those in the 40-59 age group receive income supplements, most often Unemployment Compensation. Eighteen percent of those in the 25-39 years of age group receive income supplements, again most often Unemployment Compensation. Twelve percent of those in the 18-24 age group receive income supplements, most frequently Food Stamps. (See Figures 1 and 1A.)
- **Women are more likely to receive income supplements than are men (29% vs. 22%).** A higher percentage of men than women receive Unemployment Compensation, while more women than men receive Food Stamps and AFDC. (See Figures 2 and 2A.)
- **Although percentage receiving supplements is similar for all racial groups, type of supplement differs by race.** Twenty-five percent of white residents receive income supplements; 27% of residents from other racial groups do. A higher percentage of the white than other groups (mostly African American in this Michigan survey) receive Social Security. A higher percentage of people of color than of whites receive Food Stamps and AFDC. (See Figures 3 and 3A.)
- **People who graduated from high school are much less likely to get government income supplements than those who did not graduate.** Residents with less than a high school education are most likely to receive income supplements (56%). Of those whose highest level of schooling was high school graduation, 27% receive income supplements. Less than 22% of people

with higher levels of schooling receive income supplements. Those with less than a high school education are somewhat more likely to receive Food Stamps and Workers' Compensation and less likely to receive Unemployment Compensation than other groups. (See Figures 4 and 4A.)

DISCUSSION

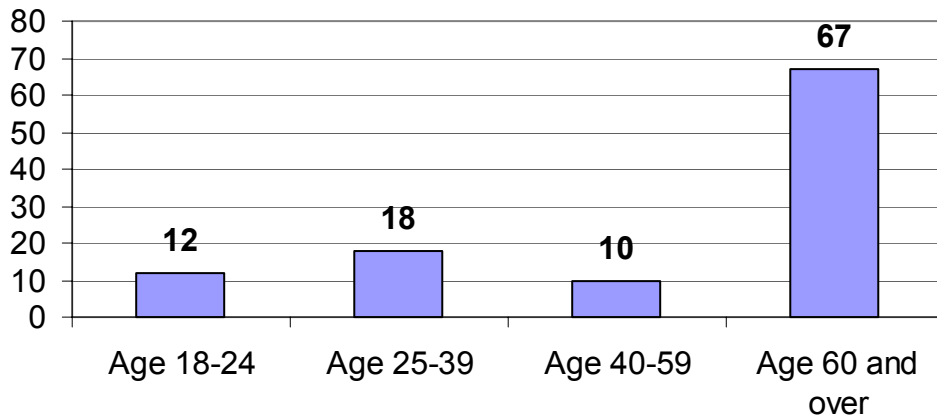
People 60 years of age and over rely heavily on income supplements, particularly Social Security, as a source of income. Social Security provides the primary source of income for many older people in lower income groups. The Social Security system of supporting the elderly is under review because of increasing financial pressure caused by such factors as a declining base of working age persons per retiree and increasing life expectancies. Solving this dilemma is an important policy issue.

Women are more likely to receive income supplements than men, particularly the supplements—such as AFDC and Food Stamps— tied to extremely low incomes. This phenomenon is due to such factors as: (1) greater likelihood of women having custody of children, (2) women being employed in lower paid occupations often with a lack of health insurance, and (3) lack of funding for day care programs. The welfare reforms now being proposed may restructure the traditional sources of support for women and children in poverty.

The similarity between the overall rate of receipt of income supplements by whites and by people of color is deceptive. People of color are more likely to live in poverty and to die younger than white residents, due to such factors as inequalities in opportunities for health care and salary. Such inequities lead to differences in income supplements received. People of color are more likely to receive benefits tied to extremely low income, such as Food Stamps and AFDC, while whites are more likely to receive social insurance benefits such as Social Security.

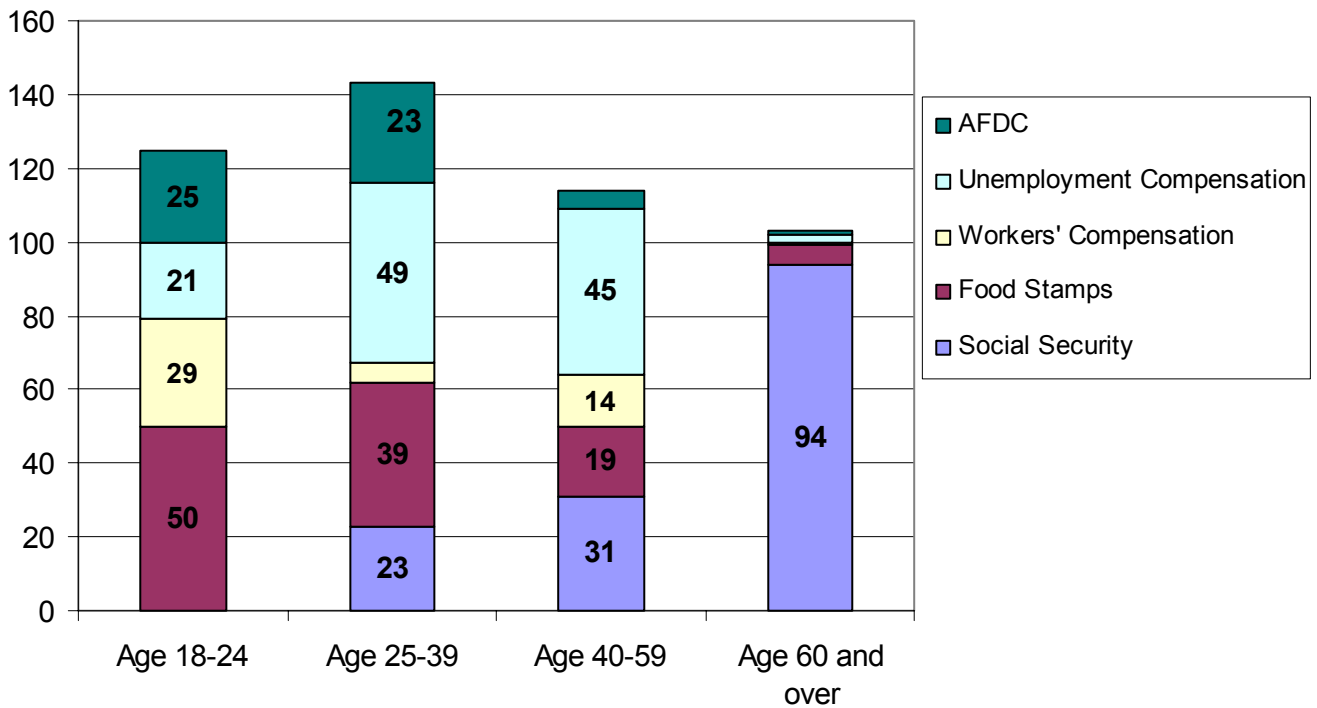
The higher rate of receipt of income supplements by people with less than a high school education emphasizes the importance of education for promoting economic self-sufficiency.

Figure 1. Percent Receiving Governmental Income Supplements by Age Group



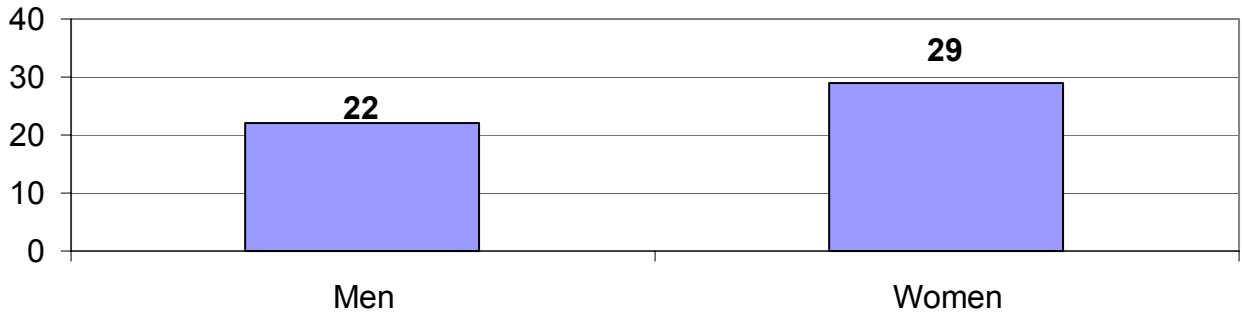
M.S.U. State of the State Survey (SOSS) May-June 1995
 N=1202 Sampling Error=2.8% Michigan State University IPPSR

**Figure 1A. Persons Receiving Income Supplements:
 Percent of Each Type by Age**
 (Totals More than 100% as Some Receive Multiple Types)



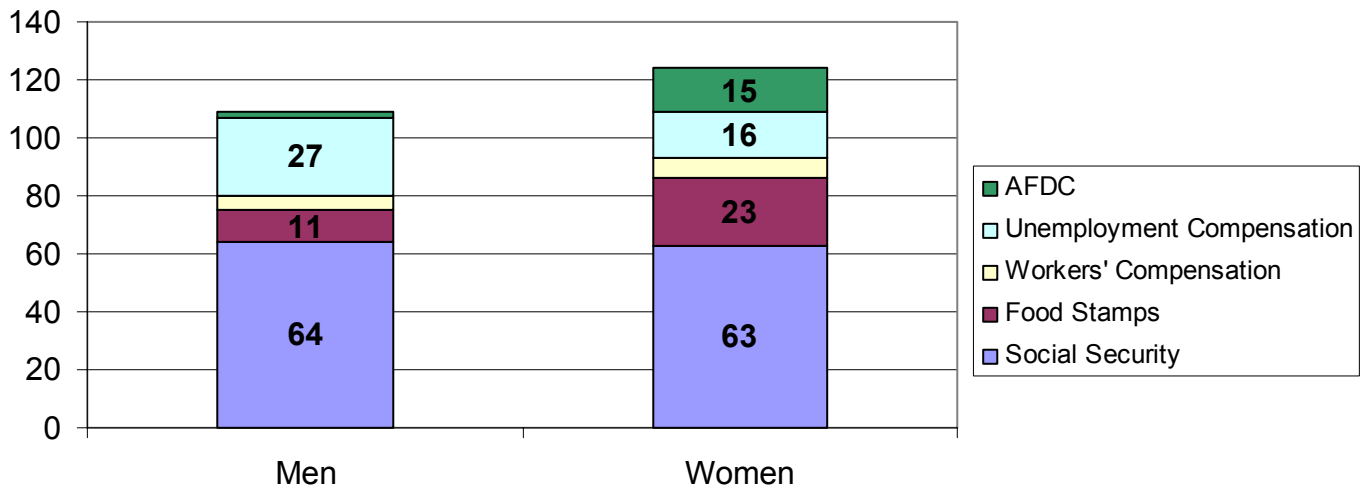
M.S.U. State of the State Survey (SOSS) May-June 1995

Figure 2. Percent Receiving Governmental Income Supplements by Gender



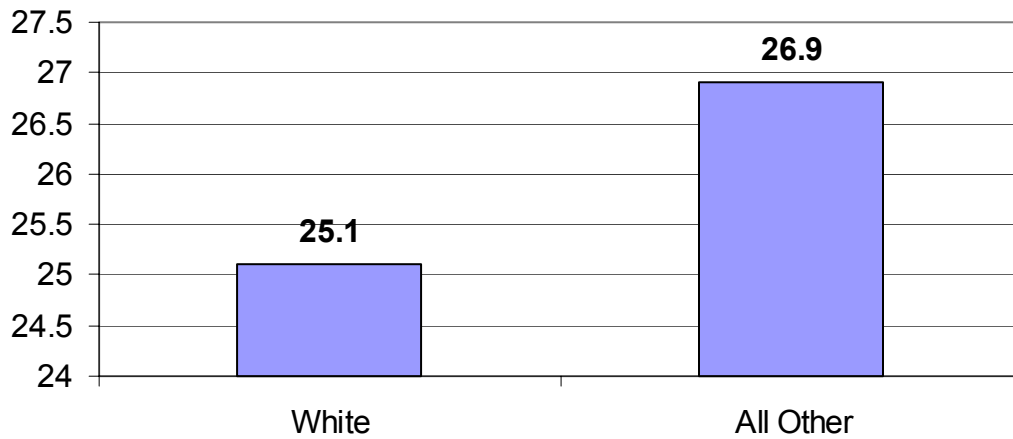
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**Figure 2A. Persons Receiving Income Supplements:
 Percent of Each Type by Gender**
 (Totals More than 100% as Some Receive Multiple Types)



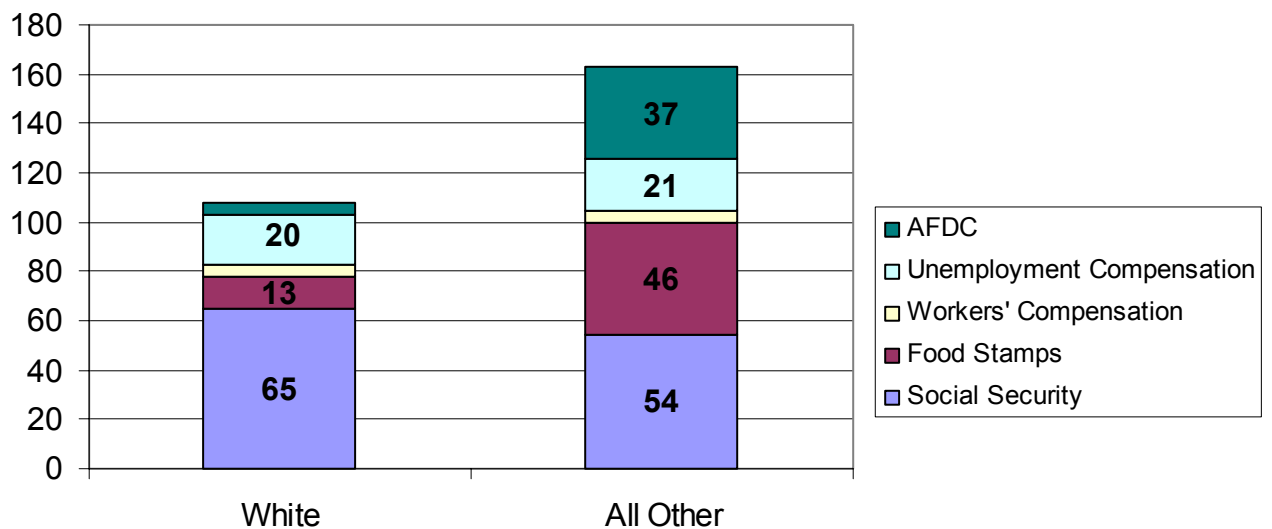
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Figure 3. Percent Receiving Governmental Income Supplements by Race



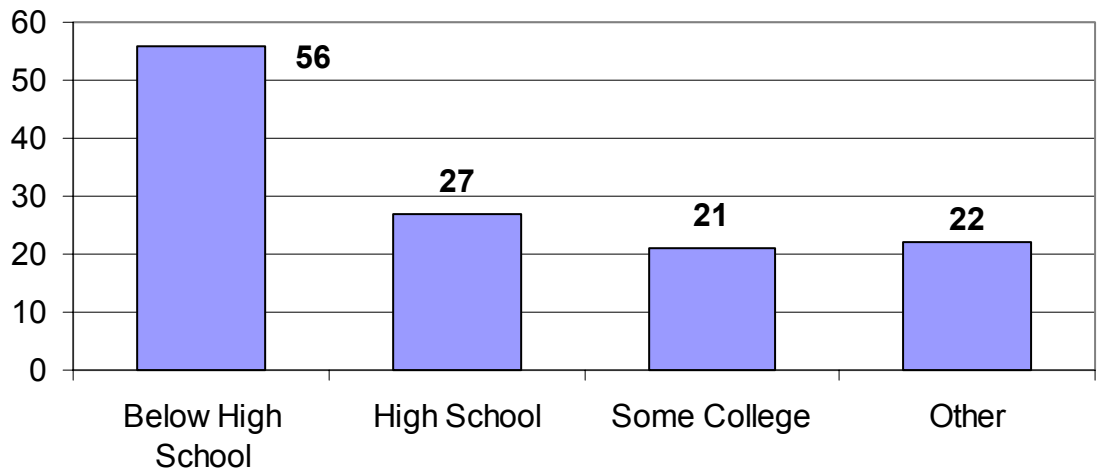
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Figure 3A. Persons Receiving Income Supplements: Percent of Each Type by Race
 (Totals More than 100% as Some Receive Multiple Types)



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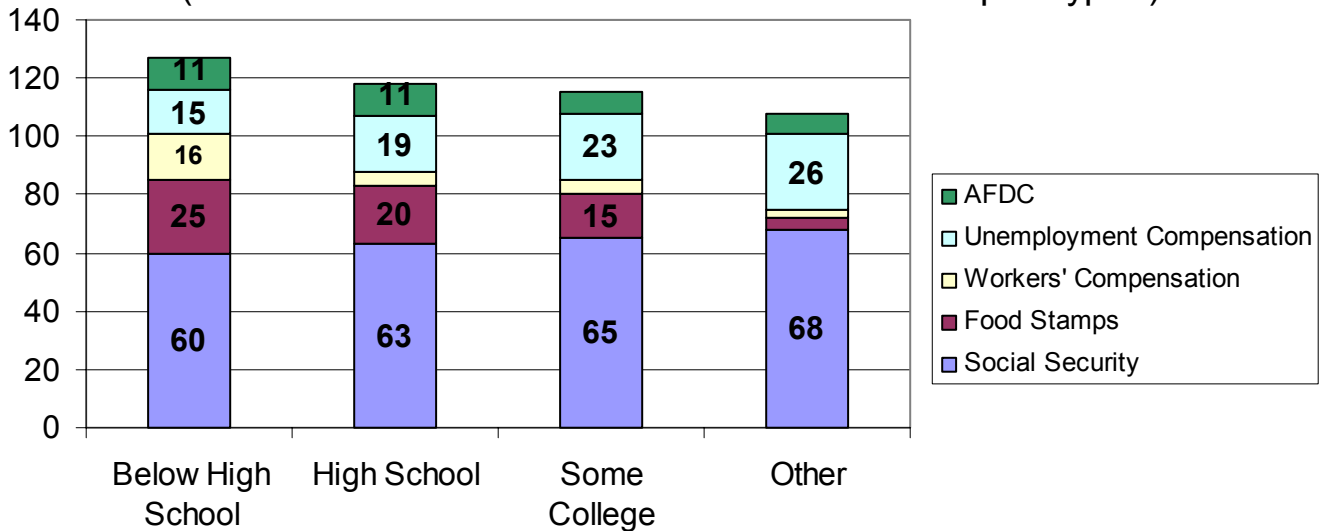
Figure 4. Percent Receiving Governmental Income Supplements by Education



M.S.U. State of the State Survey (SOSS) May-June 1995
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Figure 4A. Persons Receiving Income Supplements: Percent of Each Type by Education

(Totals More than 100% as Some Receive Multiple Types)



M.S.U. State of the State Survey (SOSS) May-June 1995
 N=1202 Sampling Error=2.8% Michigan State University IPPSR

SURVEY QUESTIONS

NOTE: The full wording of questions for the items discussed in this briefing paper is given here. The order in this list conforms with the order of bulleted items in the “Key Findings” section above, not with the order of questions in the survey instrument. Overall, the interviews lasted an average of 23 minutes. The questions about receipt of government income supplements consumed about two minutes of that time.

Q.1. For reasons such as sickness, unemployment, divorce, or retirement, many individuals receive one of the government-sponsored income supplements, such as Social Security, Unemployment Compensation, Workers’ Compensation, Food Stamps, or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). In the past twelve months, did you receive any of these types of income supplements?

a. (In the past twelve months, did you receive ...)

Social Security Income?

b. (In the past twelve months, did you receive ...)

Food Stamps?

c. (In the past twelve months, did you receive ...)

Unemployment Compensation ?

d. (In the past twelve months, did you receive ...)

Workers’ Compensation?

e. (In the past twelve months, did you receive ...)

AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children)?

REGIONAL CATEGORIES

NOTE: These regions are the ones used by Michigan State University Extension Service, except that we treat Detroit City as a separate region.

Detroit: City of Detroit

Southeast: Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, Wayne (excluding Detroit)

Southwest: Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren

West Central: Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa

East Central: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola

Northern L.P.: Alcona, Alpena, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Otsego, Oscoda, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Wexford

U.P.: Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickensian, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft

Background Information

Michigan State University State of the State Survey [MSU SOSS]

What Is MSU SOSS?

The MSU State of the State Survey is a quarterly statewide survey of a random sample of the residents of Michigan. Although dozens of surveys are conducted in Michigan every year, none is designed to provide a regular systematic monitoring of the public mood in major regions of the state. Through SOSS, MSU aims to fill this information gap. SOSS has five main purposes: (1) to provide timely information about citizen opinions on critical issues; (2) to provide data for scientific and policy research by MSU faculty; (3) to provide information for programs and offices at MSU; (4) to develop survey research methodology; and (5) to provide opportunities for student training and research.

Each quarterly round or “wave” of SOSS has a different main theme: (a) January–quality of life, governmental reform, higher education; (b) April–family, women, and children; (c) July–ethnic and racial groups, Michigan communities; (d) October (even numbered years)–politics, the election, and political issues; (odd-numbered years) –health and the environment;

Who Is Conducting SOSS?

The State of the State Survey is administered by the Survey Research Division (SRD) of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), using its computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) technology.

The design and overall planning of SOSS is the responsibility of a 17-person Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Brian D. Silver, Professor of Political Science. The Steering Committee consists of representatives from sponsoring units, which are primarily colleges and other administrative offices within MSU.

Subject to final approval by the Steering Committee, the questionnaire for each wave of SOSS is developed by a Working Group, most of whom also serve as analysts for that wave. The Working Group for the May 1995 wave includes Principal Investigators, a Research Team and an Advisory Council. Members are:

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