



SOUTHEASTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER

The Southeastern Social Science Research Center (SSSRC) provides communities in the Florida Parishes with research analysis and reporting services, using the latest technology and faculty expertise. The mission is to provide research, education, and support for regional and local development, specializing in survey research methodologies and participatory, community-based research approaches for improving human lives.

An important component of SSSRC's role is assisting economic and social development by documenting specific concerns of residents. The SSSRC solicited views of 5,000 randomly selected residents in five area parishes to produce the Florida Parishes 2008 Quality of Life Survey. The subsequent report provides area elected officials, decision makers, and community leaders with valuable, objective social science data to be used to help build stronger, safer, and more economically viable communities.

Other studies are based on self-reported data from individuals themselves. All types of studies are useful, but it is especially valuable to obtain opinions based on participants' specific geographic, political, and social contexts said Bonnie Lewis, SSSRC director. Southeastern's Quality of Life study achieved this goal by directly asking participants to respond to specific questions about life in their parish of residence. Quality of life was measured by rating problems and assessing services available in each parish, with the pencil-and-paper survey being completed in residents' own homes.

The Southeastern Social Science Research Center is a division of Southeastern Louisiana University's College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Activities include regional quality of life studies, community outreach and development services, survey research education and training, and political polling.

PHOTO: Bonnie Lewis, director of the Southeastern Social Science Research Center, makes a suggestion to student pollster Sudarshan Dhakal.