

Education and Workforce Development



For more than 3 decades, RTI International has conducted quality education, survey, evaluation, and analytic research for public- and private-sector clients. Our rigorous studies assess and improve the quality of education programs and practice throughout the United States, with a view to informing public policy and improving educational opportunities and outcomes for children and adults.

Overview

RTI offers state-of-the-art capabilities in all aspects of designing and conducting cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys and administrative record collections. Our researchers are skilled in both quantitative and qualitative methods and have expertise in a diverse range of substantive areas, including policy issues affecting educational outcomes; factors influencing measures from preschool children's skill sets to high school students' learning and development; transition to postsecondary education and the labor market; postsecondary education access, financial aid, persistence, and attainment; and adult education and employability. We provide unbiased, policy-focused research and innovative data tools for educators, policymakers, and the public.

Statistical and Methodological Expertise

Sample Design and Statistical Power Analysis: We design and select probability and purposive samples drawn from a variety of sources to maximize representativeness while minimizing sampling error.

Instrument Design in Multiple Modes: Our innovative methods for developing mail, online, telephone, mobile-friendly, and in-person surveys feature web-based

methodologies and use multiple modes simultaneously. We evaluate instrument quality by conducting pretests, focus groups, cognitive interviews, and usability testing.

Data Collection: RTI operates its own state-of-the-art research operations center, with three shifts, up to 240 networked stations for tracing and interviewing, and a "virtual" call center, which expands our recruitment and capacity capabilities. Data capture services provide receipting, editing, coding, scanning, and data entry with long-term record storage and retention.

Database Design and Management: RTI has experience processing and delivering data files, including weighted restricted and public use data, linked data collected from multiple sources, and data merged with extant databases. Our data processing systems support the construction and variable-by-variable documentation of survey data on a flow basis throughout data collection.

Data Analysis and Dissemination: RTI conducts data analysis using complex survey techniques, descriptive analysis, multivariate methods, and graphical and tabular presentations of findings. Our research reaches a wide audience through customized, engaging online data reporting and analysis tools.

Project Highlights

The **National Postsecondary Student Aid Study** is the only comprehensive, periodic, nationally representative survey that examines how students and their families pay for postsecondary education, the affordability of postsecondary education, and the effectiveness of existing financial aid programs.

The **Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study** follows a cohort of students who enter postsecondary education for the first time during the same academic year. Students are interviewed again 2 and 5 years later to learn more about their postsecondary enrollment, persistence, and attainment; transition to employment; demographic characteristics; and personal and professional goals. The study also includes a 6-year transcript collection.

The **Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study** surveys college graduates to find out about their experiences in the early years since earning a bachelor's degree, including workforce participation and postbaccalaureate education. Transcripts are collected from institutions awarding the bachelor's degree.

The **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System** collects institution-level data to generate information on trends at the national, state, and institutional levels.

Making Pre-K Count is an evaluation of an early mathematics curricular program in low-income preschools across New York City. The study involves a randomized controlled trial of the curriculum, which is evaluated using classroom observations, teacher surveys, and direct child assessments.

The **Evaluation Engine**, a web application developed through a foundation and university partnership, allows states, school districts, and education researchers to perform quasi-experimental impact analyses with statewide longitudinal data systems, without permitting access to confidential underlying data.

The **High School Longitudinal Study** surveys U.S. high school students and their parents, teachers, school administrators, and counselors to understand what home, school, peer, and community factors influence students' learning and development, as well as students' education and career choices in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The study includes a high school transcript collection.

The **Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering**, an annual census of U.S. academic institutions, provides data on the number and characteristics of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in the fields of science and engineering and health.

DataLab offers public access to education data through powerful analytic tools designed to meet the needs of users at all levels of technical expertise. Through DataLab, novice users can find a simple number fast, and analysts can create detailed nested tables or conduct multivariate analyses.

More Information

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