



Jan 2024-
June 2025

Institute of Public Policy (IPP)

Harry S Truman School of Government
and Public Affairs



Institute of Public Policy
University of Missouri

Director's Welcome

Welcome to the MU Institute of Public Policy's January 2024 through June 2025 Update.

We've been keeping very busy. Some highlights from the past 18 months include: The Institute received extensive training for data visualization using Power BI, a software platform that allows us to automate contractor reports associated with several of our annual contracts; with the Truman School, IPP co-hosted the 2024 Lu Lectureship (Fragmentation in Local and State Government Policymaking); and, we initiated new faculty research collaborations with the MU College of Education and are continuing to build a new Child Welfare policy area.

This fall, IPP is launching a new IPP Faculty Fellows Program. It will support research collaborations between MU faculty and the MU Institute of Public Policy. What makes this initiative distinctive is that it creates an opportunity for research centered on university and state government collaborations. Applications will be invited this fall and the program will formally get underway during academic year 2026-2027. Stay tuned for updates!

IPP also bid farewell to several staff members and welcomed new ones. In December 2024, Wayne Mayfield, PhD and Associate Director of Research retired from the University. We miss Wayne dearly! To fill the gap in IPP's education policy area, in August 2024 we welcomed Elizabeth Knight, a new PhD from MU's Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. Other staff changes include the internal promotion of Nana Adjoa Aikins, MPA to Research Specialist Lead and the addition of Trinity Stewart, MPH to the Missouri Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and Liana Willis, a doctoral student in Public Administration, to the Foundational Public Health Services Gap Analysis project.

Best wishes for the coming year and thank you for your support of the MU Institute of Public Policy.

Sara Gable, PhD
Director, MU Institute of Public Policy

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IPP Staff July 2025

From Left to Right:

Back Row:

Sara Gable, Jacob Hansen,
Elizabeth Knight, Rachel
Dicke, Ryanne Despain

Front Row:

Syrus Duffy, Trinity Stewart,
Nana Adjoa Aikins, Emily
Johnson



IPP Staff

Nana Adjoa Aikins, MPA

Research Specialist II
Research Specialist Lead
(As of March 31, 2025)
Policy Area- Health

Anna Bain

Student Administrative Assistant
(2024-2025)

Ryanne DeSpain, MPP

Research Specialist Lead
Policy Area- Education

Rachel Dicke, PhD

Senior Research Analyst
Policy Area- Education, Community,
Economic Development, Health

Syrus Duffy, MPA

Research Specialist II
Policy Area- Health

Sara Gable, PhD

Director

Jacob Hansen, MPA

Research Specialist II
Policy Area- Community

Emmie Harcourt, MPA

Research Specialist Lead (2023-2025)
Policy Area- Health

Emily Johnson, MS

Associate Director, Operations and Senior
Research Analyst
Policy Area- Community and
Economic Development

Elizabeth Knight, PhD

Senior Research Analyst
Policy Area- Education



Rachel Dicke presenting at the Consortium of University of Public Service Organizations annual meeting (April 2025, Wichita, KS)

Jill Lucht, MS

Research Project Analyst Lead (2023-2025)
Policy Area- Health

Wayne Mayfield, PhD

Associate Director, Research (2019-2024)
Policy Area- Education

Trinity Stewart, MPH

Research Specialist II
Policy Area- Health

IPP Student Research Assistants

Anna Bain, BJ Strategic Communications, May 2025

Sam Byerly, undergraduate, Computer Science and Statistics

Luke Duffy, undergraduate, Journalism

Jiwoong Jung, PhD Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, August 2024

Elizabeth Knight, PhD Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, August 2024

Louisa Lehmann, undergraduate, Mathematics and Economics double-major

Lindsey Linkous, MPA Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, May 2025

Bethany Moore, BA Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, May 2024; current MPA student

Abigail Naneworter, MPA Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, May 2025

Abigail Adediran, current PhD student, MU Department of Communication Science

Hang Qi, PhD Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, May 2025

Cayley Schmitt, MPA Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, May 2024

Lauren Sconce, current MPA student, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs

Hannah Shupert, BA Political Science with minors in Sociology and Leadership and Public Service, May 2024

Jonathon Zars, BA Economics, May 2024

Elizabeth Taylor, current PhD student, MU School of Social Work



Hannah Shupert (Amherst, MA)

IPP could not fulfill our contractual obligations without the hard work and dedication of student research assistants. Through their involvement, students learn valuable research skills including conducting literature reviews, gathering data through surveys, interviews, and focus groups, performing data management and analyses, designing data visualizations and dashboards, and assisting with manuscript preparation. We extend our gratitude to all of the students who supported IPP from January 2024-June 2025.

Presentations

- Botts, M., Dicke, R., Hansen, J., & Summers, L. (April 2025). *Serving Vulnerable Populations*. [Panel discussion]. Consortium of University Public Service Organizations, Wichita, KS.
- Daro, A. M., Welch, G. W., Belcher-Badal, K., & Mayfield, W. (June 2024). *Utilizing state workforce registries and target surveys to investigate workforce well-being*. Poster presentation at the Administration for Children and Families' National Research Conference on Early Childhood, Arlington, VA.
- Dean, P., Duffy, S., Linkous, L., & Qian, C. (April 2025). *How CUPSO Members Tackle Complexity and Uncertainty to Support Data-Informed Policy Decisions*. [Panel discussion]. Consortium of University Public Service Organizations, Wichita, KS.
- Dicke, R. (April 2025). *How the Institute of Public Policy Pivoted to Power BI After the University of Missouri Discontinued their Tableau Server*. [Poster]. Consortium of University Public Service Organizations, Wichita, KS.
- Duffy, S., Walcott, E., & Marshall, S. (April 2024). *Collaborative approaches to intractable challenges*. [Panel discussion]. Consortium of University Public Service Organizations, Amherst, MA.
- Johnson, E. (Nov 2024). *Childcare Licensing in Missouri Research Overview*. Presentation to the Missouri Public Policy Coalition (Zoom), Columbia, MO.
- Johnson, E. & Dicke, R. (Nov 2024). *Missouri Childcare Licensing 2024: Research Release*, Presentation for United WE (Zoom), Columbia, MO.
- Johnson E. (Dec 2024). *Pay for Success Evaluation Design panel discussion*. Panel discussion at the Second Chance Act Conference 2024, Philadelphia, PA.
- Linkous, L. & Lucht, J. (June 2024). *Fighting Food Insecurity in Missouri*. Presentation to Community Health Worker ECHO (Zoom), Columbia, MO.
- Lucht, J. (March 2024). *Foundational Public Health Services Gap Analysis Project*. Presentation to the Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence (Zoom), Columbia, MO.
- Mayfield, W., & Patrie, J. (November 2024). *No imagination required: Afterschool data*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Missouri School-Age Community Coalition, Lake Ozark, MO.
- Moore, B., Dicke, R., Gable, S., Nickell, A., & Anderson, B. (May 2025). *Kinship Caregiver Access to Cash and Other Supports by Legal Relationship with Kinship Child*. [Poster]. Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.
- Short, P. & Lucht, J. (March 2024). *Patient Education Regarding Medication Adherence*. Presentation to Community Health Worker ECHO (Zoom), Columbia, MO.
- Shupert, H. (April 2024). *Identifying, Connecting, and Preparing Future Public Servants Through Student Organizations*. [Lightening Talk]. Consortium of University Public Service Organizations, Amherst, MA.

Publications

- Dicke, R., Johnson, E., Schmitt, C., Mayfield, W., & Gable, S. (in press). Challenges encountered during the initial child care licensing process in one midwestern state. *Early Childhood Education Journal*.
- Endersby, J. W., Ritchey, M. L., & Brothers, N. L. (2024). State task forces and interest groups: Organized group participation on advisory commissions. *MU Institute of Public Policy Issue Brief*. <https://truman.missouri.edu/ipp/publications/state-task-forces-and-interest-groups-organized-group-participation-advisory>
- Gable, S., & Fozi, A. M. (2024). Prevalence of number, number relations, and number operations indicators in State Early Learning Standards. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 52, 1841-1852. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-023-01524-5>
- Gable, S., Holliday, A., Zars, J., Simelus, S., Nickell, A., & Anderson, B. (2024). Intergenerational conflict, contact with biological parents, and child functioning in kinship caregiver families. *Children and Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2024.107581>
- Haselswerdt, J., Ressel, K., Harcourt, E., Gable, S., & Quinn, K. (2024). Provider capacity during Medicaid expansion and a public health emergency. *The American Journal of Managed Care*, 30(12). <https://www.ajmc.com/view/provider-capacity-during-medicaid-expansion-and-a-public-health-emergency>
- Kapp, J. M., Underwood, B., Ressel, K., & Quinn, K. (2024). Practice Perspectives on Care Coordination in Rural Settings. *Professional Case Management*, 29(1), 4-12. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37603454/>
- Mayfield, W. A., Tiwari, M., Knight, E. M., Ralson, J. A. S., DeSpain, R. , & Gable, S. (2025). Participation in the Missouri Parents as Teachers Parent Education Program and third grade math and English language arts proficiency. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 70, 234-242. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2024.10.005>
- Olajire, A., & Benton, M. (2024). Narratives, Sensemaking, and Didactic Relationships in Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship Education. *Journal of Medical Education and Curricular Development*, 11. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23821205241235007>
- Taylor, E., Zars, J., Tiwari, M., Hansen, J., Schmitt, C., & Gable, S. (2025). Community reentry program characteristics associated with outcomes over five years for individuals on probation and parole. *Justice, Opportunities, and Rehabilitation*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10509674.2024.2443899>

Funders & Partners

City of Columbia, Boone County, and Heart of MO United Way

Boone Indicators Dashboard

Missouri AfterSchool Network

Statewide Evaluation of Afterschool Programs

MO Department of Corrections

Community Reentry Project Evaluation (Year 15), Pay for Success Initiative and Evaluation

MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Preschool Development Grant: Birth to 5 Program Performance Evaluation; Educator Preparation Programs Annual Performance Report and First Year Teacher, Administrator, and Specialist Surveys; Survey with Parents of Students with Special Education Needs; School Climate and Culture Survey; and, Vocational Rehabilitation Qualitative Research

MO Department of Health and Senior Services

MO Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project Evaluation (Year 13 and 14); Gap Analysis to Implement the Foundational Public Health Services Model in Missouri

MO Department of Social Services and MU Center for Health Policy

No Kid Hungry Missouri Evaluation

MO Department of Social Services and Human Services Research Institute

Kinship Navigator Program Model Implementation

MO Foundation for Health and MU Center for Health Policy

Medicaid Expansion Evaluation Project

MO Foundation for Health and ParentLink (MU College of Education and Human Development)

Kinship Caregiver Needs Assessment

National Workforce Registry Alliance

ECE Workforce: Focus on Home-Based Providers

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and MU Department of Human Development and Family Science

Show-Me Healthy Relationships Program Evaluation

United Women's Empowerment

MO Child Care Licensing Study and Occupational Licensing Research

Walton Foundation and MU Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis

Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Effectiveness (ERRE) Project

IPP Staff July 2025

Director, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs

Lael Keiser, PhD

Professor, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs

Institute of Public Policy

Director

Sara Gable, PhD

Associate Director, Operations

Emily Johnson, MS

Research Specialist Lead

Nana Adjoa Aikins, MPA

Ryanne Despain, MPP

Administrative Support

Anna Bain, BJ

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Elizabeth Knight, PhD

Research Specialist II

Jacob Hansen, MPA

Syrus Duffy, MPA

Trinity Stewart, MPH

Graphic Design

Mia Jefferson, BA

The Institute of Public Policy conducts independent, non-partisan research and analysis to inform public policy and benefit all Missourians.

Accountability

We value accountability to ensure careful evaluation and assessment of policy issues.

Collaboration

We value inter-disciplinary collaboration among academic and government institutions to share the Institute's talents and resources with the broader community.

Engagement And Outreach

We value engagement and outreach and are committed to sharing knowledge to promote understanding of public policy.

Mutual Respect

We value the inherent dignity of every person and strive to maintain an environment where each person can express thoughts and opinions within a climate of civility and mutual respect.

Integrity

We provide honest, complete, and professionally-presented information with a commitment to ethical conduct.

Research

We value the advancement of knowledge about public policy issues through academic, practice-centered research.