The Julian Samora Research Institute (JSRI) conducts research on different aspects of Latino/a communities, including social, economic, educational, and political issues. Its primary areas of research are gaps between service delivery systems and Latino/a community needs, health disparities, and Latino/a entrepreneurship. JSRI is also committed to the development of Latino/a human capital, including leadership development, empowerment, and education.

JSRI transmits its findings to academic institutions, government officials, community leaders, and private-sector executives; and provides technical expertise and support to Latino/a communities for the purpose of developing policy responses to local problems.
JSRI Publications

Working Papers Series:
Empirical studies, theoretical analyses, and policy discussions that address the changing role of Latino/as in relation to economic, political, religious, educational, and social institutions.

Occasional Papers Series:
A mix of policy- and best practice-oriented scholarly papers of value to Latino/a communities.

Reports Series:
Original empirical research on Latino/as in the Midwest conducted by JSRI’s research associates.

Demographic Reports Series:
Demographic and socioeconomic profiles including estimates and projections of Latino/a population growth in Michigan, the Midwest, and the United States.

Program Highlights

Latino Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project:
A multiyear integrated research and outreach initiative that examines the needs of Latino/a farmers, provides learning opportunities in farm management, and enables service providers to enhance their capabilities to work with Latino/a farmers.

North Central Education/Extension and Research Activity (NCERA 216):
An interstate initiative that encourages and fosters multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach to the growing Latino/a and immigrant populations across communities and cities in the Midwest.

Latino Farmers and the Adoption of Technology:
A three-pronged project that includes research on the motives Latino/a farmers have for adopting new and appropriate technologies. The extension component will familiarize project participants with technologies appropriate for sustainable small- and medium-sized farms. The education component will teach them how to do farm financial analysis and apply for credit.

IUPLR/JSRI/Census Information Center:
A partnership between the U.S. Census Bureau, the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR), and JSRI. The goal is to provide Latino/a and other underserved local communities, IUPLR centers, and institutes census data that can be used for planning and decision-making.

MI Música: A Study of Tejano Music in Michigan and the Midwest:
This study considers the emergence of Texas-Mexican musical community in the Midwest, a byproduct of Tejana/o labor migration to the region beginning in the 1950s. The project combines oral history with archival research to produce a range of publications and presentations.

Childhood, Adolescent, and Young Adult Obesity:
The objectives of this project are to examine inequalities in weight status (BMI and obesity) among school-age youths (ages 11-17 years) and how community, family, social, and physical environments influence obesity and weight.

Scholarship Opportunities

Julian Samora Endowed Scholarship:
Awarded to two current MSU students (one graduate and one undergraduate) engaged in scholarly activities focused on Latino/as in Midwestern communities.

P Lea Martinez Endowed Scholarship:
Awarded to a current MSU graduate student conducting research on health issues among Latino/as.