

August 1, 1951

THE DETROIT AREA STUDY

The Detroit Area Study is a research facility at the University of Michigan for continuing research in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. It has three primary objectives:

- (1) To provide a research facility through which basic research can be conducted by social scientists at the University of Michigan
- (2) To provide an agency for training graduate students of the social sciences in basic research techniques
- (3) To make available social science data of value to the Detroit community

The Study will center about an annual survey taken in the Detroit Metropolitan Area.* This survey will obtain two types of data:

- (1) Basic social science data collected every year as part of a continuing program for studying social trends and as a framework for specific studies
- (2) Data collected about a specific research problem in which members of the faculty have a special interest

During the first year of its operation, the major research problem of the Study will be "Participation in Community Affairs." The extent of both political

*The definition of the Detroit Metropolitan Area followed by the United States Bureau of the Census is to be used in the Study. It is composed of the counties of Oakland, Wayne and Macomb.

activity and of participation in organized groups of various kinds will be investigated for a cross section of the population of Metropolitan Detroit.

In addition, it is expected that data will be obtained in this and succeeding years on occupation, family composition, ethnic background, income, labor force status, place of origin of migrants, and other basic socio-economic characteristics of the population.

The staff of the Study will consist of a Director, an Assistant Director, and three half-time graduate assistants. In addition, various aspects of the field work will be done by approximately 30 first-year graduate students through a formal training course offered by the Sociology Department and connected to the Study. The students will take approximately 500 of the interviews in the annual survey. The remaining interviews will be taken by the professional field staff of the Survey Research Center of the University.

The Study will work in close relationship with the Survey Research Center. The Center will house the Study and provide expert consultive services and special survey materials.

The basic operation of the Study, including an 800 interview annual survey, is financed from a grant to the University by the Ford Foundation to foster research training in the behavioral sciences.

It will be possible to expand the size of the survey sample for the city as a whole or for particular local areas, if there is an interest in greater detail of results by agencies in the Detroit area. This can be done at a relatively small cost, since the basic research operation is already financed.

All information obtained in the Study will be available to the public.

The Study is under the general supervision of a faculty committee consisting of Professor Samuel Eldersveld, Political Science Department; Professor Amos Hawley, Sociology Department; Professor Daniel Katz, Psychology Department; Professor Daniel Suits, Economics Department. Professor Ronald Freedman, of the Sociology Department, is Director of the Study.

The Study will have an Advisory Council of members of the Detroit Community.