



CARES Data Portfolio

The Center for Assessment, Research, and Educational Safety (CARES) is a university research center focused on providing high-quality research in the prevention of violence in educational and workplace settings. Since 2019, CARES has specialized in collecting large-scale survey and interview data across four major research initiatives.

Survey of Assessment Culture

Since 2005 | National and International Scope | 7,000+ Participants

Since 2005, the Survey of Assessment Culture has served as the nation's leading survey to guide higher education leaders in developing their institutions' culture of assessment. Three parallel surveys are available to researchers: the Faculty Survey of Assessment Culture, the Administrators Survey of Assessment Culture, and the Student Affairs Survey of Assessment Culture. Since 2013, over 7,000 participants have completed the survey, with several institutions completing the surveys multiple times to track longitudinal change. Both quantitative survey data and qualitative open-ended responses are available for analysis.

Texas Educators' Safety Needs Assessment

2020 | Statewide Census of a Texas educators | 28,000+ Respondents

In 2020, the Office of the Governor of the State of Texas invited CARES to complete a statewide assessment of higher education and K-12 educators' needs regarding safety as part of Governor Abbott's School and Firearm Safety Action Plan. This census-style survey sought responses from over half a million educators in ten employment categories at both the higher education and K-12 levels. Every K-12 teacher, principal, counselor, school police chief, and superintendent, as well as every higher education professor, university counselor, dean of students, college and university police chief, and university president in the state was invited to participate. Over 28,000 respondents completed the survey, which generated both quantitative and qualitative data. Additionally, interviews were conducted with participants in this study. The results offer the most comprehensive review of educators' perspectives on safety in the state's history.

COVID-19's Influence on Higher Education

2020-2021 | National and Texas Focus | 3,000 Responses

Funding from the Greater Texas Foundation allowed CARES to survey and interview academic advisers in Texas about the ways in which COVID-19 would influence academic advising in higher education. Concurrently, CARES researchers collected data from higher education practitioners beyond just advisers across the nation and from various program types to examine how COVID would influence higher education more broadly. Approximately 3,000 quantitative and qualitative survey responses and many hours of transcribed interview data are available for analysis.

Special Education Students and Crisis Preparedness

2025 | Texas School Safety Center Partnership | 1,900 Participants

In 2025, CARES partnered with the Texas School Safety Center to survey K-12 special education directors, general education classroom teachers, counselors, principals, and school-based law enforcement officers to learn what their needs are pertaining to supporting special education students in school safety contexts. Approximately 1,200 educators and 700 law enforcement officers provided quantitative and qualitative survey data. Transcribed interview data are also available for analysis.

CARES faculty also have access to other locally-collected data sources and national datasets.

Data Access and Collaboration

CARES datasets represent comprehensive collections of quantitative survey data, qualitative open-ended responses, and interview transcripts spanning violence prevention, institutional assessment, pandemic impacts, and specialized student populations. These data are available for collaborative research and analysis. For inquiries regarding data access or research partnerships, contact the Dr. Matthew Fuller.

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