



2022–23 Annual Report

Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center

University of Maine

Our Mission

As a trusted Policy Center, we inform public policy processes and societal decision-making through timely research and applied public policy activities focused on critical issues facing Maine and the nation.

Our Vision

We serve as the state’s premier resource for applied public policy research and engagement.

Our Values

In the spirit of the Honorable Margaret Chase Smith, we strive to advance a tradition of independent, objective research designed to support effective, transparent, and equitable policy processes. The Policy Center values open communication grounded in civility and a willingness to engage respectfully across differences. We value inclusive communication that aims to advance relationships among policymakers, community leaders, students, faculty, and staff of the University of Maine.

Key Performance Indicators for 2022-23

- External Grants & Contracts: \$2,660,691
- MCS Library Funding from MCS Foundation: \$401,530
- Philanthropy and Gifts: \$95,334
- Number Full-Time Equivalent Staff & Faculty: 18
- Number Graduate Students Supported: 9
- Number Undergraduate Students Supported: 1

Policy Center Research

Reflecting the expertise of current staff, we have three major research areas:

♦ Public Health and Substance Use Disorder

Representative projects include the Grand Challenge; University of Maine System Substance Use Disorder Collaborative; Rural Drug and Alcohol Research Program and Violent Death Surveillance; Multi-Indicator Surveillance of Substance Use Disorder in Maine and Northern New England.

♦ Economic Development

Representative programs include EDA University Center (a collaborative effort with the School of Economics and the Muskie School, University of Southern Maine); Local Data Pilot Project in Washington County; and an Economic Development Strategy for Piscataquis County, Maine.

♦ Transportation Safety, Mobility, and GHG Emissions

Representative programs include Maine Vehicle Registrations and Fuel Economy Program, Maine household travel estimation and re-conceptualizing rural travel demand post COVID.

Policy Center Programs

Distinguished Maine Policy Fellows

Our 2022-23 program included one day-long campus residency of Maine State Speaker Ryan Fecteau. Speaker Fecteau's visit involved collaborations with research centers and academic units across campus, including the Ferland Engineering Education & Design Center Site, Foster Center for Innovation Tour, and others. Due to COVID-19, the Fall 2021 residency was canceled.

- Led by Samantha Warren, University of Maine System, and Jonathan Rubin.

Faculty Fellows Program

This program trains faculty from the UMaine System’s 7 campuses in leadership and communication skills to improve research and teaching outcomes. We provide participants with a broader perspective of the UM System to enable fellows to better communicate the importance of the UM System, its research, and its education benefits to Maine citizens and organizations. This program has not run since COVID. We are hoping to run this program in 2023-24.

- Led by Samantha Warren, University of Maine System, and Jonathan Rubin.

MCS Lectureship on Public Affairs

Speakers of national status in the field of civic and public life were invited to campus to deliver a lecture to the UMaine community. This lecture series was endowed in 1989 by the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation in honor of Senator Smith’s contributions to Maine and the nation. We did not identify a speaker for 2022-23.

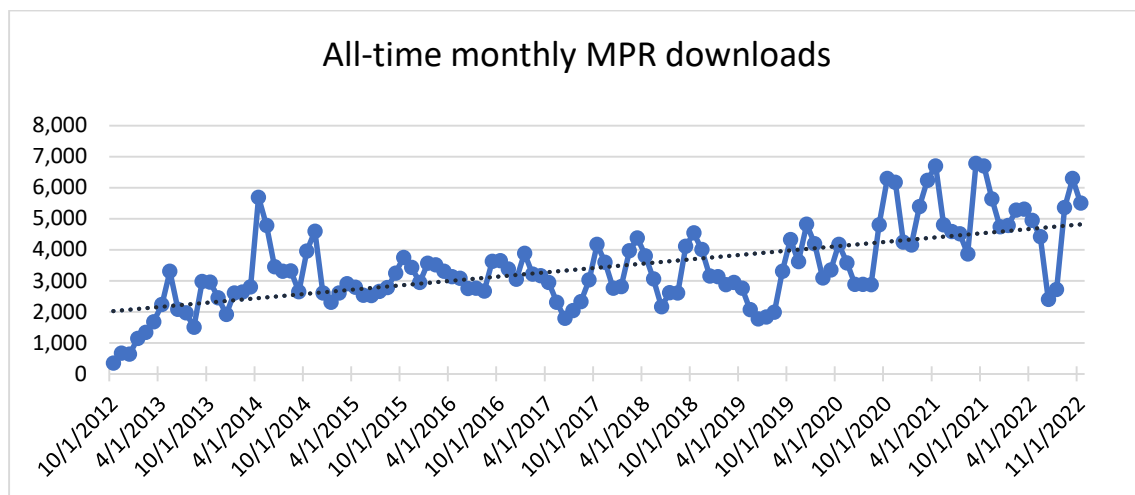
- Led by Jonathan Rubin.

Maine Policy Review

[Maine Policy Review](#) is our flagship peer-reviewed publication. Its reach is remarkable for a regionally focused journal. In the last year, MPR articles were downloaded more than 54,000 times, with 419,521 downloads since 2013. MPR published two general issues in FY2022. Of the authors in these two issues, approximately 60% were faculty, staff, or students from University of Maine System campuses, and 40% were from Maine state government and Maine-based nonprofits, private businesses, or other colleges and universities. MPR has begun work on a special issue on “Our Shared Ocean,” completely funded by the Broad Reach Fund. Authors include college and university faculty, marine-related research organizations and state government researchers, and industry and community groups leaders. Response to the call for submissions was extremely high. MPR has increased its fundraising efforts through an annual appeal letter and increased electronic newsletters. For the calendar year 2022, donations from individuals were at the highest level in more than a decade.

- Led by Barbara Harrity, Joyce Rumery, and Linda Silka.

All-time Monthly MPR Downloads



Maine Policy Matters

[Maine Policy Matters](#) is our official podcast that uses articles and commentaries from *Maine Policy Review* as a starting point; the podcast explores the policy issues in Maine. Seasons 2 and 3 were released in FY 2022-23, following the academic calendar year. MPM has its strongest listenership in Maine, which is expected of a podcast centered on Maine policy issues. The podcast has, however, accumulated listenership across the country and worldwide with a total of 1,900 listeners.

- Led by Joyce Rumery, Jayson Heim, Barbara Harrity, and Kathryn Swacha.

Margaret Chase Smith Library

[The MCS Library](#) is supervised by and works with the Policy Center, but has its own director, David Richards, who also reports to the **MCS Foundation**. The 2022-23 academic year marked the 40th anniversary of the Margaret Chase Smith Library. For the first year since the onset of the pandemic, visitors could participate in field trips, meetings, and special events without having to wear masks. Staff put on many book events, including discussions and author talks, and brought regular programming to a local afterschool project as well as to a nearby retirement home. The Library also offered programs in conjunction with the Town of Skowhegan's bicentennial celebration. The Library created 3 exhibits, organized 3 special events (Margaret Chase Smith Appreciation Day, the Leeke Shaw Lecture on International Affairs, and the Maine Town Meeting), presented 7 outreach programs, hosted 11 groups, offered 22 book events, hosted 23 school groups, fielded 145 research requests, and served over 900 students, teachers, and judges at 6 National History Day in Maine events.

Maine Government Summer Internship Program

Our internship program provides full-time, paid summer internships in state, municipal, regional, and county governments to students from Maine or attending Maine colleges. In 2022, 142 applied, and 52 were selected to fill internships; in 2023, 133 applied, and 48 were selected to fill internships.

- Led by Peggy McKee.

Maine NEW (National Education for Women) Leadership (NEWL)

Our NEWL program celebrated its 14th annual residential Institute at Schoodic Institute in Winter Harbor from June 8–15. Eighteen students from the following institutions participated this year: Bates College (2), Bowdoin College (2), Brown University (1), Husson University (1), Kennebec Valley Community College (2), Southern Maine Community College (2), Thomas College (1), University of Maine (2), UMA (2), UMF (1), UMM (1), and UMPI (1). NEWL alums include students from 17 states and 12 countries with students from the following countries participating this year: Angola, Congo, and Turks and Caicos. Alums serve in various elected local and state positions and work in government, education, and industry.

- Led by Mary Mahoney-O'Neill.

Maine Policy Scholars Program

This program engages and supports one undergraduate scholar and a faculty advisor from each of the University of Maine System campuses. The program is funded by the **Maine Community Foundation**. For the first time since before the pandemic, the Policy Scholars Program saw the participation of students from all seven UMS campuses. All seven scholars participated through the entire year, publicly presenting their final policy recommendations at the annual graduation ceremony in April. We were fortunate enough to have MCSPC Director Jonathan Rubin, UMS Board of Trustees member the Hon. Emily Cain, the Hon. John Martin, and past Scholar Eve Fischer join graduation as panel members, asking the scholars thoughtful questions about their research. One of the 2022-2023 scholars was selected to receive a continuation scholarship, and one scholar is pursuing publication in the Journal of Digital Innovation, Finance, and Entrepreneurship.

- Led by Jamie Wren.

Margaret Chase Smith Library Research Scholarship

The MCS Library Research Scholarship supports up to two UMaine undergraduate or graduate students to use the archival or museum collections of the MCS Library in Skowhegan, Maine. The scholarship was not awarded in 2022.

Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship

The Policy Center awarded a \$3,500 scholarship to Jordan Fountain, UMaine junior from the College of Education and Human Development. Fountain will examine screen-time usage in preschool classrooms and the role public policy could play in establishing appropriate use for screened devices in early childhood programs.

- Led by Peggy McKee.

Growing and Expanding Partnerships

- The Policy Center is supporting a new policy institute created by the Maine Legislature with two years of trial funding. The IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) Legislative Research Institute was directed by Megan Bailey, MCS Policy Center until she left UMaine. The policy institute has strong research support from Andrew Crawley, School of Economics, with support from students and other faculty. The Institute collects and analyzes information related to workforce training and cost drivers for training, research and development, student debt, and economic advancement in the state, makes policy recommendations to the legislature, and conducts targeted research for the legislature.
- The Policy Center joined CAPRA (Consortium for Aging Policy Research and Analysis), a partnership between UMaine's Center on Aging, the MCS Policy Center, and the University of Southern Maine's Catherine Cutler Institute, to further our ability to conduct policy research to address Maine's aging population.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The nonpartisan Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center has always welcomed diverse staff members, and we actively demonstrate a diverse staff population. We have adopted inclusive language for our publications and presentations and ensure our websites and social media posts comply with Section 508 (ICT accessibility).

- Our student programs actively solicit applications from minority and underserved populations.
- The Policy Center frequently responds to requests from minority and underserved populations to help with grants and project opportunities.
- The Policy Center staff regularly share their expertise to advance state and local initiatives to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - ◊ Jonathan Rubin is on the Maine Climate Council’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee.
 - ◊ Work by Megan Bailey and Rachel Bouvier on a Local Data Pilot Project in Washington County aims to research and model the social, economic, and technological frameworks necessary for socio-economic data and analysis to be used locally by focusing on the Downeast communities of Jonesport and Beals.
 - ◊ Marcella Sorg’s public health work focuses on the social determinants of health related to substance use disorder.

External Boards and Commissions (current and recent)

Heim

- **National Council of Teachers of English**, Jayson Heim serves as a member

Richards

- **Maine Historic Preservation Commission**, David Richards serves as a member
- **National History Day in Maine**, David Richards serves as a judge
- **Mid-Maine Global Forum**, David Richards serves as a board member

Nelson

- **BGBB (Brown Girl/Brown Boy) Literacy Foundation**, Kim Nelson serves as a board member
- **Friends of Library**, Kim Nelson serves as a member
- **Maine Library Association**, Kim Nelson serves as a member
- **American Library Association**, Kim Nelson serves as a member

Potter

- **Preservation Section for the Society of American Archivists**, Nicole Potter serves as the Chair
- **Waterville Creates Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Board**, Nicole Potter serves as a member

Rezk

- **Maine Naloxone Steering Committee** Alexander Rezk serves as a co-facilitator of the Committee that oversees the statewide distribution of Narcan (naloxone), 2019-Present
- **Maine EMS Data Committee** Alexander Rezk serves as the University of Maine System representative on the State's EMS Data Committee, 2021-Present
- **Maine Harm Reduction Learning Collaborative** Alexander Rezk serves as the facilitator of the State's harm reduction learning collaborative, Jan 2023-Present
- **Maine Opioid Data Sharing Committee** Alexander Rezk serves as a member, 2020-Present
- **Maine Overdose Data to Action Steering Committee** Alexander Rezk serves as a member, 2019-Present

Rubin

- **Autonomous Vehicle Commission**, Rubin serves as an appointed member, authorized by LD 1724, “An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Develop and Operate Pilot Programs for the Use of Autonomous Vehicles for Public Transportation <https://www1.maine.gov/mdot/autonomous-vehicles>
- **Transportation Infrastructure Durability Center (TIDC)** is the 2018 – 2025 US DOT Region 1 (New England) University Transportation Center (UTC) located at the University of Maine, Jonathan Rubin is on the Management Team
- **Maine Climate Council’s Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**, Jonathan Rubin serves as a member and lead for Human Dimensions group
- **Maine Climate Council’s Transportation Working Group**, Jonathan Rubin serves as a member
- **Maine Climate Council’s Equity Subcommittee**, Jonathan Rubin serves as a member
- **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine**, Jonathan Rubin serves on the Transportation Research Board Committee on Transportation Energy, 2020-26.
- **Transportation Research Record**: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, Jonathan Rubin serves as an Associate Editor.
- **Maine Policy Review**, Journal of the MCS Policy Center, Jonathan Rubin serves as the Publisher

Sorg

- **American Academy of Forensic Sciences**, Marcella Sorg is a Fellow 1989-present
- **National Association of Medical Examiners**, Marcella Sorg serves as an Affiliate Member, 2011-present
- **American Association of Biological Anthropologists**, Marcella Sorg serves as a Member, 1976-present
- **Maine State Accidental Drug Overdose Review Panel**, Marcella Sorg serves as a Panel Member, appointed by the Maine Attorney General, 2021-present
- **Maine Naloxone Steering Committee**, Marcella Sorg serves as co-convener of the committee that oversees the statewide distribution of Narcan (naloxone), 2019-
- **Maine Overdose to Action Steering Committee**, Marcella Sorg and Jamie Wren serve as members, 2018-Present
- **Maine State Police Evidence Response Team**, Marcella Sorg serves as an associate member, 2001-Present
- **Maine State Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup and the Opioid Data Subcommittee**, Marcella Sorg and Jamie Wren serve as members, 2013-Present
- **Maine Opioid Clinical Advisory Committee**, Marcella Sorg serves as a member, 2020-
- **Maine Opioid Coordinating Council**, Marcella Sorg serves as a member, 2020-

- **Maine Opioid Data Sharing Committee**, Marcella Sorg serves as a member, 2020-present
- **University of Maine Hudson Museum**, Marcella Sorg serves as a Cooperating Curator, 2005 present

Soucier

- **The Journal Maine History**, Daniel S. Soucier serves as an editorial board member

Swacha

- **Presidential Award for Research and Creative Activity** (current), Kathryn Swacha serves as a selection committee member
- **Stephen E. King Chair Internship Fellowships committee** (current), Kathryn Swacha serves as Co-Chair and Co-Initiator with Dr. Caroline Bicks

Taylor

- **Maine Archives and Museums**, John Taylor serves as a board member
- **National History Day Executive Council of Coordinators**, John Taylor serves as the Northeast Representative

Wren

- **Maine Suicide Prevention Program Advisory Board**, Jamie Wren serves as an appointed member, 2018-Present
- **Maine Overdose to Action Steering Committee**, Marcella Sorg and Jamie Wren serve as members, 2018-Present
- **Maine State Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup and the Opioid Data Subcommittee**, Marcella Sorg and Jamie Wren serve as members, 2013-Present
- **University of Maine System Substance Use Disorder Collaborative**, Marcella Sorg and Jamie Wren serve as members, 2021-Present

Selected Presentations

Rubin, Jonathan. *Advancing Climate and Transportation Policy Research in Canada and the US*. Université Du Québec À Montréal. September 2022.
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/advancing-climate-and-transportation-policy-research-in-canada-and-the-us-tickets-416866588187?aff=ebdssbd&estsearch>

Rubin, Jonathan. *Sustainable Transportation in Rural and Small Communities: How do we get there from here?* US Climate Alliance.

December 2022.
<https://urbantransitions.org/webinars-2/>

Rubin, Jonathan. *Severity of Lane Departure Crashes in Maine: Examining the Impact of Driver, Roadway, and Weather Factors. A Fresh Look at Crash Characteristics*. January, 2023.

Rubin, Jonathan. *The Economics of Climate Change webinar series: Current impacts on Maine's Economy*. Maine State Chamber of

Commerce & Science in US. January 2023

Miller, Eric. *Naloxone Saturation and the Literature*. Opioid Clinical Advisory Committee. September 2022.

Miller, Eric. *Maine Association of Fire Chiefs Statewide Fire Service Assessment*. Maine Fire Chief's Conference. March 2023.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Maine Overdose Update for March 2023*. Office of National Drug Control Policy Webinar on Opioids and Synthetic Drugs. March 2023.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Maine's Overdose Data and the Fentanyl Epidemic*. College of the Atlantic Twila Tardif class. January 2023.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Cost Report Update*. State Epidemiology Opioid Workgroup. December 2022.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Maine Overdose Update November 2022*. Office of National Drug Control Policy Webinar on Opioids and Synthetic Drugs. November 2022.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Perspectives on Maine's Efforts and Impacts on SUD-ODU Morbidity and Mortality*. Maine Health Access Foundation SUD Funders Group. October 2022.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Unidentified Remains Staceyville*. New England Seminar for the Forensic Sciences. July 2022.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Saves, Spikes and Surges*. Governor's Opioid Summit. July 2022.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Law Enforcement Involvement in Drug Deaths*. Law Enforcement Meeting at Governor's Opioid Summit. July 2022.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Maine's Process of Collecting and Deduplicating Nonfatal and Fatal Overdose Metrics*. Group Meeting with

ONDCP Director Rahul Gupta. September 2022.

Sorg, Marcella H. *Overdose Deaths and Naloxone Distribution*. College of the Atlantic Twila Tardif class. January 2023

Soucier, Daniel S. *The Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative*. Governor Janet Mills' 4th Annual Opioid Summit. July 2022.

Soucier, Daniel S. *Maine's Drug Data Hub: Using Data to Inform, Engage, and Educate the Public*. Governor Janet Mills' 4th Annual Opioid Summit. July 2022.

Soucier, Daniel S. *The Role of OPTIONS Liaisons in Reducing Overdose Through the Co-Response Model*. Governor Janet Mills' 4th Annual Opioid Summit. July 2022.

Soucier, Daniel S. *Maine drug data with a specific focus on methamphetamine*. Maine CDC Methamphetamine Taskforce. January 2023.

Soucier, Daniel S. *Spotlight Presentation: Using GIS to find naloxone in Maine*. Office of National Drug Control Policy Quarterly Meeting for the Northeast. January 2023.

Soucier, Daniel S. *The Maine Drug Data Hub: Who, What, Where, Why*. Maine Overdose Data to Action Steering Committee. January 2023.

Soucier, Daniel S. <i>Hancock County Fire Department Data Collection Pilot Results</i> . Maine Fire Chiefs' Association Professional Development Conference. March 2023.	<i>Lessons from Maine and Massachusetts</i> . Rx and Illicit Drug Summit. April 2023.	Protect Individuals From Substance Use Disorder, Overdose and Deaths: Lessons from Florida and Maine. Rx and Illicit Drug Summit. April 2023.
Daniel, Soucier S. Evolution of State Data Systems to Protect Individuals from Substance Use Disorder, Overdose and Deaths: Lessons from Florida and Maine. Rx and Illicit Drug Summit. April 2023.	Soucier, Daniel S. <i>The Maine Drug Data Hub: Bridging and Integrating Public Health and Public Safety Data Universes</i> . The University of Maine System Substance Use Disorder Research Collaborative, SUD and Overdose Prevention Webinar. May 2023.	Soucier, Daniel S. Spotlight Presentation: <i>Using GIS to find naloxone in Maine</i> . Office of National Drug Control Policy Quarterly Meeting for the Northeast. January 2023
Daniel, Soucier S. <i>Collaboration Works</i> :	Soucier, Daniel S. Evolution of State Data Systems to	

Selected Publications

- Carter, Amy; Soucier, Daniel S.; Haram, Eric; Mazerolle, Sybil; Sauschuck, Michael; Coutu-Farrell, Katherine. “Maine’s Overdose Prevention Through Intensive Outreach, Naloxone and Safety (OPTIONS) Initiative.” *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* 28(Supplement 6):p S326-S329, November/December 2022. | DOI: 10.1097/PHH.0000000000001598
- Carter, A., & Soucier, D. S. (2022, October 10). Public Health and Public Safety Partnerships: Addressing the Overdose Crisis in Maine. *JPHMP Direct*. <https://jphmpdirect.com/2022/10/10/public-health-and-public-safety-partnerships-addressing-the-overdose-crisis-in-maine/%20>
- Johnson, T. R., & Hanes, S. P. (2022). “Conflicts and Communities: Marine Aquaculture and the Blue Economy.” In *Blue Economy* (pp. 52-66). Routledge.
- O’Brien, Peter; Rubin, Jonathan; and Brown, Erin, “Bid Inflation for Highway and Bridge Projects: Challenges & Solutions—A Report to the Maine Department of Transportation” (2022). https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mcspsc_transport/12
- Rubin, Jonathan; McKee, Peggy; and Bailey, Megan, “A Survey of Municipal Winter Road Maintenance in Maine” (2023). https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mcspsc_transport/14
- O’Brien, Peter; Rubin, Jonathan; and Brown, Erin, “Bid Inflation for Highway and Bridge Projects: Challenges & Solutions—A Report to the Maine Department of Transportation” (2022). https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mcspsc_transport/12
- Sarker, Prianka Maria, “The Effects of a Universal Income Transfer on Food Insecurity within Households” (2022). *Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. 3619. <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/etd/3619>
- Sorg, Marcella H.; Soucier, Daniel S.; and others. “Maine Monthly Overdose Report Collection.” https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mcspsc_healthsafety/