

# MONTHLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2020



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Making academic scholarship available and accessible to decision makers and the public is at the heart of our work at IPI. Therefore, we work closely with our community partners across the state to understand how best to translate our research findings into reports and platforms that enable the research to be actionable, thus resulting in more impact.

Over the four years since launching IPI, I've come to better understand the research needs of Idaho's decision makers. What has become evident is their need for more dynamic reporting. As a response IPI is now developing interactive dashboards and applications to complement our reports. A great example is the [Boise State COVID-19 dashboard](#) we co-created with Boise State's [Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute](#) that we update and improve weekly. This month we released an [interactive map](#) and [dynamic financial model](#) to accompany our report [Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure: Moving Idaho Forward](#). We also launched a [map of eviction rates](#) across Idaho's 44 counties.

Dynamic reporting also enables IPI to update findings as new data becomes available. In some cases, we are streamlining this through utilizing APIs (application program interfaces) for projects like the Peer Counties Analysis discussed in this update. In the coming months IPI will be using APIs for IPI's annual [By the Numbers](#) dashboard. We look forward to sharing the updated platform.

As we plan future research, we look forward to incorporating these and other innovative reporting methods to increase the reach, accessibility, and impact of our research.

**BEST,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vanessa Fry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'V'.

**DR. VANESSA CROSSGROVE FRY**

# PROJECT LIST

## PROPOSAL STAGE

- Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey (sponsor, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Juvenile Detention Program Evaluation (sponsor, Ada County)
- Out of School Youth (sponsor, Idaho Workforce Development Council)
- Peer Counties Analysis (sponsor, Ada County)
- Public Opinion Survey (sponsor, Ada County Highway District)
- Statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Assessment (sponsor, Idaho Housing and Finance)

## PENDING

- A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in Informal STEM Learning (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Accessing Independence by Leveraging Partnerships to Catalyze a Smart and Connected Region - Caldwell, Idaho (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Modeling Resilience Through a Community Lens: Discovering Data, Creating Tools, and Connecting People Who Make Resilience Possible (sponsor, National Science Foundation)

## ONGOING SPONSORED

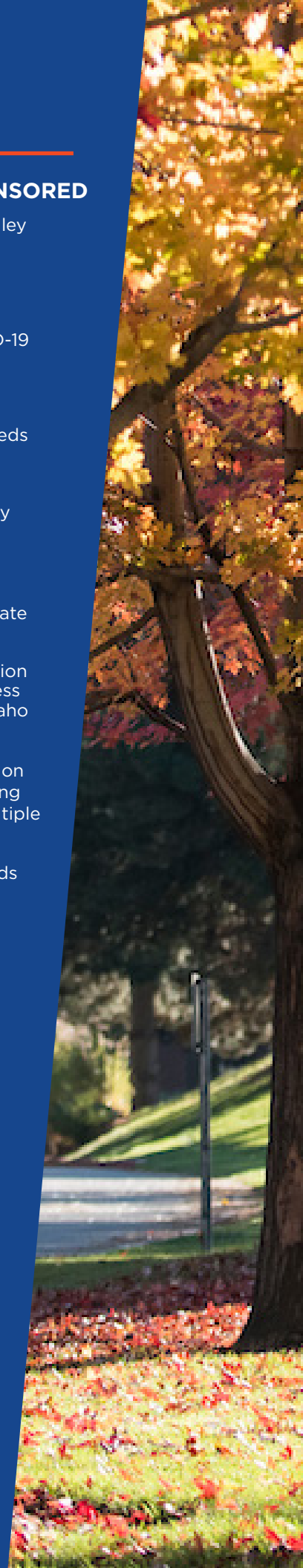
- Communities of Excellence Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)
- Idaho Public Education Policy Review (sponsor, yes. every kid.)
- Lincoln County Community Health EMS Cost Benefit Analysis (sponsor, Idaho Health and Welfare)
- Literacy Intervention Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)
- New Path Community Housing Evaluation (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Master of Environmental Management Needs Assessment (multiple sponsors)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Health and Welfare)
- Streamflow Data and Climate Vulnerability Survey (sponsor, Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center)
- West Central Mountains Regional Creative District (sponsor, Idaho Commission of the Arts)

## ONGOING UNSPONSORED

- Annual Treasure Valley Survey
- Annual Statewide Survey
- Boise State's COVID-19 Dashboard
- CityGo
- Industry Cluster Needs Assessment
- State of Local Governments Survey

## ENDING

- Census Response Rate Reporting
- Idaho Public Television Attitudinal Awareness Survey (sponsor, Idaho Public Television)
- Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure: Moving Idaho Forward (multiple sponsors)
- MPA Employer Needs Assessment
- Statewide Eviction Study





# STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

## MPA LOCAL OPTION TAXES PROJECT

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Boise Elevated, a Boise-based non-profit organization, is interested in learning more about local option sales tax implementation across the country. Currently, Idaho law only allows resort cities with a population of less than 10,000 to request voter approval for a local option sales tax.

The students focused on this project will use secondary data to answer the questions:

1. Which states and localities allow and use local option sales taxes?
2. How have local option sales taxes been implemented in other states?
3. What are the funds from local option sales taxes used for in other states?
4. What are the challenges to local option sales tax implementation?
5. Does fringe effect occur with local option sales tax implementation?

The project team will ultimately create an in-depth report answering the research questions and a data set of other states, counties, and cities that use local option sales taxes.



# PROJECT UPDATES

## MEM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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Team: Mackenzie Moss, Vanessa Fry, Matthew May

IPI is conducting a needs assessment for the Boise State School of Public Service (SPS) to determine the need for a Master of Environmental Management (MEM) program at Boise State. The project is currently in the data collection phase, as interviews with peer programs across the country are underway, and a survey to potential employers of MEM students is in the field. The next phases of research will include a survey to PhD programs, and a follow-up interview with key employers. The team is working closely with SPS faculty to enable the school to make informed decisions regarding the next steps of program development.

## PEER COUNTIES COMPENSATION ANALYSIS

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Team: Vanessa Fry, Lantz McGinnis-Brown, Benjamin Larsen

IPI is helping Ada County use data from the U.S. Census Bureau to feed a clustering algorithm that will help identify similar peer counties across the U.S. The project will enable Ada County to compare the outcomes of policies implemented in other counties to Ada County's outcomes. It will also help Ada County identify and learn from best practices in other counties.

## CENSUS RESPONSE RATES

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Team: Gabe Osterhout

IPI's analysis of the 2020 Census, a series of takeaway notes published on IPI's website, wrapped up with the conclusion of the decennial count. The Census Bureau estimates that 99.9% of Idaho households have been enumerated. Since March, when the project first started, IPI's research has been frequently referenced and quoted in the local media. The full summary of Idaho's count and an interactive dashboard of response rates are located [here](#).

# NEWS

[“IPI Director Presents to Boise Metro Chamber”](#) Idaho Policy Institute News, October 19, 2020.

[“APA Idaho Awards Mountain Home with Outstanding Plan Award”](#) Idaho Policy Institute News, October 15, 2020.

[“Boise State study gives new data-driven look at evictions in Idaho”](#) Boise Dev, October 26, 2020.



# MONTH IN REVIEW

## APA IDAHO AWARDS MOUNTAIN HOME WITH OUTSTANDING PLAN AWARD

October 7, the [American Planning Association Idaho Chapter](#) awarded the [Outstanding Plan Award](#) to the City of Mountain Home's [2020 Comprehensive Plan](#). Idaho Policy Institute staff Vanessa Fry, Lantz McGinnis Brown, Gabe Osterhout, and Ana Costa worked extensively on the plan in close collaboration with [Horrocks Engineers](#) and city staff. IPI's work included conducting a survey of Mountain Home residents, creating a [dynamic dashboard](#) of the results, and developing new [land use maps](#).

## IPI DIRECTOR PRESENTS TO BOISE METRO CHAMBER

October 15, 2020, Dr. Vanessa Fry, Interim Director at Idaho Policy Institute, presented the findings of the report [Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure: Moving Idaho Forward to Boise Metro Chamber's Transportation Committee](#). Dr. Fry also presented the results at the [Idaho Walk Bike Alliance Annual Transportation Conference](#) on October 29th. An [infographic](#) covering the report's major findings has been widely shared across the state. The full report, dynamic financial model, and interactive policy map are available on [IPI's webpage](#) dedicated to the project.



## GET IN TOUCH



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