

Dr. Timothy M. Bray

Director

Dr. Timothy Bray serves as the Director of the Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Bray joined the faculty at UT Dallas in 2002, after serving as Associate Bureau Chief for Strategic and Operational Research for the Illinois State Police. He holds a Ph.D. in Criminology from the University of Missouri – St. Louis.



Dr. Bray's research at the Institute has focused on the strategic use of data and information to improve the quality of life in our urban centers. Since its founding in 2005 and move to UT Dallas in 2008, the Institute has developed a diverse base of skills that bring advanced research and analytics to meet the needs of public service. The research team has extensive experience with local administrative data (often in a variety of disjointed formats and schema), as well as secondary demographic data (including the census, American Community Survey, and Public Use Micro Sample data). They also make regular use of surveillance and risk datasets, including raw survey responses to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), emergency room and hospital discharge data, and academic performance data.

The Institute has also developed a variety of original data collection tools and processes to document and assess the impact of grant-funded initiatives. These tools include both qualitative and quantitative expertise. The team has developed focus group techniques for a variety of audiences with diverse socioeconomic and educational backgrounds. They have developed training and implementation curricula for door-to-door survey collection, landscape and physical condition scans of geography, and the use of standardized instruments to assess program performance.

In addition, the Institute offers a regular training program on deliberate program design focused on helping organizations clearly identify the intended results of their program. This more detailed understanding permits a meticulous review of their programmatic design (theory of change, logic model, and implementation plan), to ensure that their activities are adequately mapped to the intended results, and identify opportunities for data to inform day to day progress toward those goals.

In Dallas, the Institute has worked closely with city and county governments, school districts, non-profit and for-profit companies of all sizes, and grass-roots organizations to bring research and rigorous analysis to solve complex problems.

Dr. Bray teaches in the Public Policy and Political Economy and Social Data Analysis and Research programs at UT Dallas, specializing in quantitative methodology courses for graduate students. He also teaches Communities and Crime, Correlates of Crime, and a specialized Urban Issues Workshop, which exposes graduate students to substantive issues facing Dallas today.

He lives with his wife Michelle and their 5 daughters in North Texas, where he and Michelle are active in many civic and philanthropic initiatives.