

BOLD THINKERS DRIVING REAL-WORLD IMPACT

# Healthcare Access and Quality

Social Determinant of Health

## **Pursuing Equity**

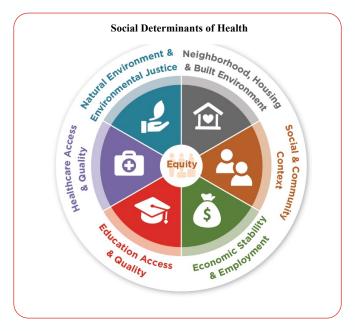
At Abt, we recognize that health and well-being are shaped by a multitude of structural and systemic factors and historical inequities. The environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. We must address these social determinants of health to improve equity and promote well-being for all.

Many people in the United States do not have geographic or financial access to the health care services they need, or do not receive high quality, evidence-based screenings and care. Abt supports federal, state, and philanthropic clients with tailored research-based, systems-focused, and digital solutions to improve health by helping people get timely, high-quality health care services they need.

### **Examples of Our Work**

### Evaluating the Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) Model

The prevalence of opioid use disorder (OUD) among pregnant women and the incidence of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) due to in-utero exposure to opioids have soared over the past two decades. The CMS Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) Model coordinates clinical care and social services to improve care quality and maternal and infant outcomes while reducing costs. We are conducting case studies to understand how each state's model works, and an impact analysis to measure the MOM Model's effect on health outcomes and cost of care.



## 12-Plus Year Collaboration with NYC's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

New York City's (NYC) diverse population of 8 million comes from a variety of countries, speaks multiple languages, has varying degrees of mobility and literacy, and lives in a variety of dwelling types. In an era of declining public participation in surveys and continued interest in methodological rigor, NYC's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) contracted Abt to provide innovative solutions to help reach the city's unique populace.

Since 2008, Abt has conducted numerous studies for DOHMH—including the Community Health Survey (CHS) and the New York City KIDS Survey—and we have completed nearly 140,000 interviews with adult NYC residents. Throughout the evolution of the KIDS Survey, Abt has



worked with DOHMH to develop and continuously improve a health surveillance study that provides critical prevalence estimates on the health, emotional development, and behavior of children, as well as measures of household and socio-environmental conditions that directly impact children in NYC. We have helped DOHMH enhance studies' results and implement improvements to survey design, from sampling and weight evaluations to overhauling the geographical designs.

#### Developing the National Health Service Corps Pipeline Readiness Technical Assistance Initiative

Over 100 million Americans live in areas with limited access to healthcare. The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) provides loan repayment to health care professionals who are addressing needs for accessible primary care, dental, and mental health services in the most underserved communities. Abt is helping the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to build NHSC clinicians' capacity for resiliency, increasing their understanding of social determinants of health, and providing resources and tools to better engage the communities they serve. This program intends to improve retention rates of medical professionals, the quality of services provided, and access to care.

### Analyzing the Effectiveness of Federally Funded Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs

Abt, in partnership with the Peabody Research Institute of Vanderbilt University, used metaanalytic techniques to systematically analyze and summarize the findings generated by 40-plus evaluations of Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) programs funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. The study looked at how various program components and strategies affected participant outcomes. It also examined whether TPP interventions work better for some youth populations than for others. The study's results showed that programs delivered in classrooms are less effective than programs delivered in other settings. The results offer some direction for program developers, implementers, and evaluators, and will help to guide funding decisions by federal, state, and local entities.

### **Expanding Evidence on Replicable Recovery** and Reunification Interventions for Families

The child welfare system has seen recent increases in children entering foster care where parental substance use disorder (SUD) is a contributing factor, due in part to the depth of the opioid crisis. Some parents with SUD have limited access to treatment and recovery support services, which makes preventing foster care entry and reunification with their children more challenging. Abt is identifying promising interventions that use recovery coaches, and we're assessing the feasibility of replicating and evaluating such interventions for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Our work will help ACF build high-quality evidence on the effectiveness of recovery coaches in preventing foster care, and improving family reunification and parental SUD recovery outcomes.

### For More Information

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Abt Associates uses data and bold thinking to improve the quality of people's lives worldwide. From increasing crop yields and combatting infectious disease, to ensuring safe drinking water and promoting access to affordable housing—and more—we partner with clients and communities to tackle their most complex challenges.

