

For audio, select

**Join Audio Conference by Computer**

or

Call: 1-470-869-2200 (U.S. toll)

Meeting ID: 149 128 3432

Having Trouble?

Email Ben at [bgoodrich@coffa.org](mailto:bgoodrich@coffa.org)

# Welcome to



The webinar will begin momentarily.

Your line has been muted.

# COSSA HEADLINES

A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy

☐ This Month's HEADLINES

☐ This Month's DEEP DIVE:  
**The Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) with Dr. Monica Feit**

☐ This Month's HOMEWORK:  
Actions you can take this month

July 9, 2020



Wendy Naus  
Executive Director  
COSSA



Monica Feit  
Deputy Executive Director  
National Academies of Science,  
Engineering and Medicine  
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
and Education

# Questions

Use the chat box to ask a question.



More opportunities for Q&A at the end.



# This Month's Headlines



## CONGRESS

- Congress moving ahead on FY 2021 appropriations
  - More: <https://www.cossa.org/policy/>
- Funding for DOD Social Science Research Restored in House and Senate Defense Authorization Bills
  - More: <https://www.cossa.org/2020/07/07/funding-for-dod-social-science-research-restored-in-house-and-senate-defense-authorization-bills/>
- *RISE Act* Would Provide Relief Funding for Federally Funded Scientists
  - More: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7308>
- Policing Research Bill Introduced as Congress Continues Focus on Police Reform
  - More: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7252?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hr+7252%22%5D%7D&s=2&r=1>

## EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Federal Research Agencies Release Guidance on OMB's Administrative Flexibility Changes
  - More: <https://www.cossa.org/2020/07/07/federal-research-agencies-release-guidance-on-ombs-administrative-flexibility-changes/>



## EXECUTIVE BRANCH (cont.)

- Sethuraman Panchanathan Confirmed as Next NSF Director
  - More: <https://www.cossa.org/2020/06/23/sethuraman-panchanathan-confirmed-as-next-nsf-director/>
- White House Announces Policy on International Students
  - More: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2007-01.pdf>
- NIMHD Seeking Research Applications Addressing COVID-19 Consequences on Vulnerable Populations
  - More: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-237.html?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-237.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

## COMMUNITY

- SEAN Releases Rapid Consultation on Evaluating Types of COVID-19 Data
  - More: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/societal-experts-action-network>

## COSSA

- “Why Social Science?” Features Experts on Policing
  - More: [www.whysocialscience.com](http://www.whysocialscience.com)



WASHINGTON UPDATE  
Subscribe for more news: [www.cossa.org/washington-update](http://www.cossa.org/washington-update)

# Questions

Use the chat box to ask a question.



More opportunities for Q&A at the end.



Deep Dive



## Deep Dive Discussion on the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN)



Today's Guest:

**Monica Feit**  
Deputy Executive Director  
National Academies of Science,  
Engineering and Medicine  
Division of Behavioral and Social  
Sciences and Education



# Societal Experts Action Network

## Facilitating Rapid and Actionable Responses to COVID-19 Questions

Monica Feit, Deputy Executive Director  
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

COSSA Headlines  
July 9, 2020

## National Academies' Response to COVID-19

- COVID-19 Resource Page  
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/topics/covid-19-resources>
- Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Threats
- Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN)
- Fast track consensus studies





## Standing Committee

- Requested by OSTP, HHS/ASPR
- Chaired by Harvey Fineberg, 27 members
- Rapid expert consultations (11)
- Telephonic consultations
- Fast-track consensus studies
  - Committee to Provide Guidance to K-12 Education on Responding to COVID-19 (collaboration with DBASSE)
  - Committee on Data Needs to Monitor the Evolution of SARS-CoV-2



# Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN)

- Designed to link decision-makers with social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) researchers who can provide guidance on pressing issues related to COVID-19
- Funded by NSF/SBE Directorate
- Affiliated with NASEM Standing Committee
- Evaluation to determine broader applicability

# SEAN Key Features

Structure **Executive Committee** (8 members) will oversee SEAN  
**Advisory Group** (20+ members) will link to decision-makers, SBE  
institutions, survey research, comms

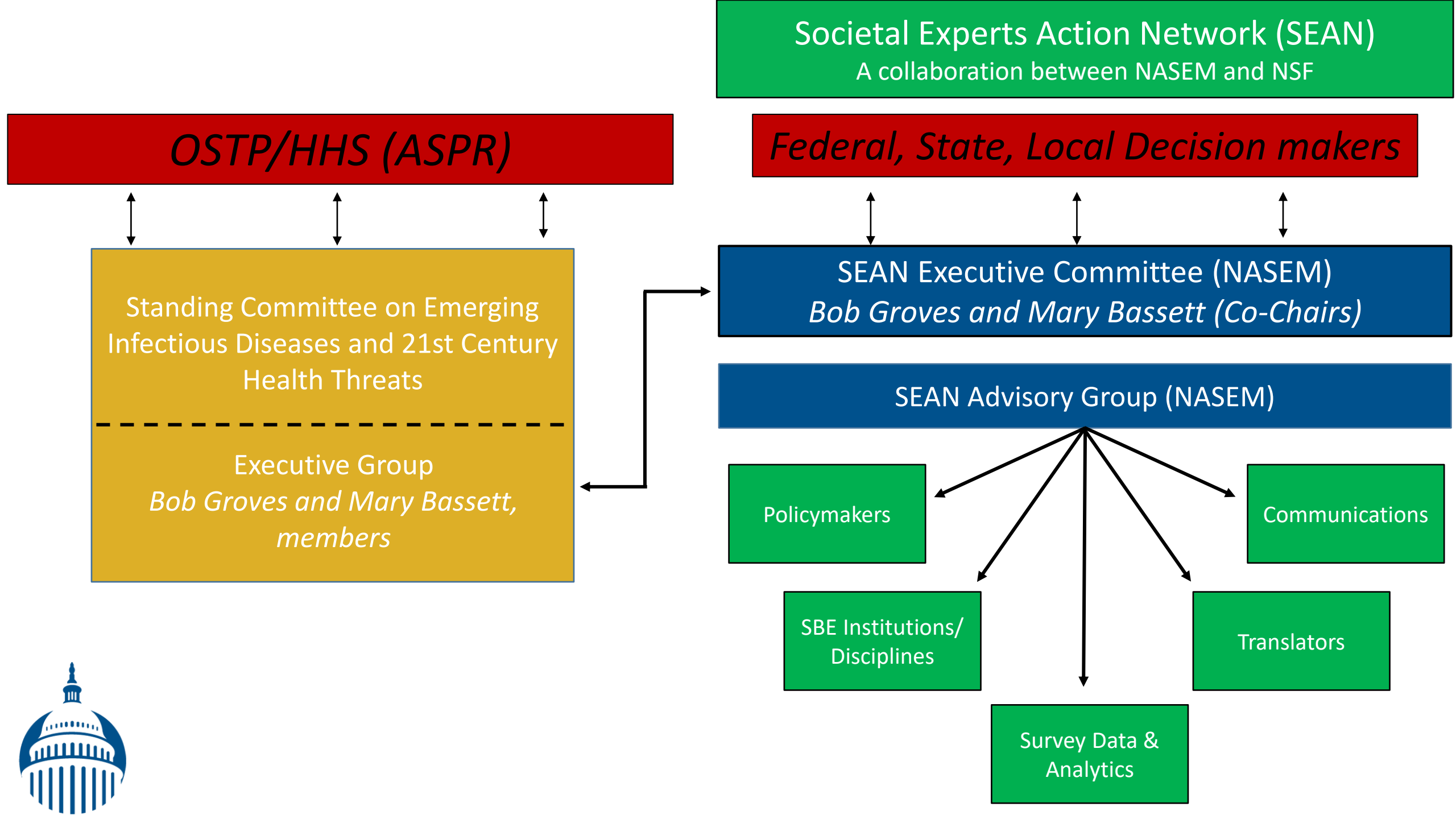
Outreach Federal, state, and local decision-makers

Responses Drawing on wider network of experts and organizations,  
responses will be short, written for a policy audience

Dissemination Responses will be shared with decision-makers and, when  
possible, disseminated more broadly

# Executive Committee

- Mary T. Bassett, Harvard University (co-chair)
- Robert M. Groves, Georgetown University (co-chair)
- Dominique Brossard, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Janet Currie, Princeton University
- Michael Hout, New York University
- Arati Prabhakar, Actuate
- Adrian E. Raftery, University of Washington in Seattle
- Jennifer Richeson, Yale University



JUNE  
2020

## EVALUATING DATA TYPES

A Guide for Decision Makers using Data to  
Understand the Extent and Spread of COVID-19

Authors: Adrian E. Raftery, University of Washington\*  
Janet Currie, Princeton University\*  
Mary T. Bassett, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health\*\*  
Robert Groves, Georgetown University\*\*

This rapid expert consultation was produced through the **Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN)**, an activity of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. SEAN links researchers in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences with decision makers to respond to policy questions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. This project is affiliated with the National Academies' Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats.

SEAN is interested in your feedback. Was this rapid expert consultation useful? For further inquiries regarding this rapid expert consultation or to send comments, contact [sean@nas.edu](mailto:sean@nas.edu) or (202) 334-3440.























# SOCIETAL EXPERTS ACTION NETWORK

**SEAN is a network of experts in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences poised to assist decision makers at all levels as they respond to COVID-19.**



**TABLE 1**

**Assessment of Data Types by Criteria for Reliability and Validity**

	Representativeness	Bias	Uncertainty, Measurement & Sampling Error	Time	Space
<b>Number of confirmed cases</b>					
<p><i>Key Implication for Decision Making:</i> This measure is readily available, but is likely to be a substantial underestimate of the prevalence of the disease in a population given that most people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, and even among those who are symptomatic, not all are tested. As the volume of testing expands to include populations with less severe symptoms and asymptomatic individuals, this measure will be increasingly useful for determining the prevalence of COVID-19.</p>					
<b>Hospitalizations</b>					
<p><i>Key Implication for Decision Making:</i> Data on hospitalizations are typically available quickly at the local level, although the completeness of reporting may vary from day to day. These data reflect only the most severe cases of infection, but changes in the number of hospitalizations likely reflect similar changes in the total number of infections within a community. Note patients requiring hospitalization were exposed several weeks previously.</p>					
<b>Emergency department visits</b>					
<p><i>Key Implication for Decision Making:</i> In some jurisdictions, data on emergency department (ED) visits are available at the local level in close to real time. The reason for the visit can be reported either as a syndrome (e.g., “influenza-like illness”) or as a specific diagnosis (e.g., “COVID-19”). These data are most useful in the early stages of an outbreak or to assess resurgence, though it should be noted that patients with symptoms were exposed up to 2 weeks earlier.</p>					
<b>Reported deaths</b>					
<p><i>Key Implication for Decision Making:</i> Reported COVID-19 deaths are affected by the accuracy of cause-of-death determinations and reflect the state of the outbreak several weeks previously because of the long course of COVID-19 infection. Sometimes lags in reporting of data also occur.</p>					



### Reported deaths



*Key Implication for Decision Making:* Reported COVID-19 deaths are affected by the accuracy of cause-of-death determinations and reflect the state of the outbreak several weeks previously because of the long course of COVID-19 infection. Sometimes lags in reporting of data also occur.

### Excess deaths



*Key Implication for Decision Making:* Compared with the other data reviewed here, excess deaths are the best indicator of the mortality impacts of the pandemic. However, because of the possibility of death misclassification, these data represent a mix of confirmed COVID-19 deaths and deaths from other causes.

### Fraction of viral tests that are positive



*Key Implication for Decision Making:* This measure is readily available, but is likely to be a substantial underestimate of the prevalence of the disease in a population given that most people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, and even among those who are symptomatic, not all are tested. As the volume of testing expands to include populations with less severe symptoms and asymptomatic individuals, this measure will be increasingly useful for determining the prevalence of COVID-19.

### Prevalence surveys (representative)



*Key Implication for Decision Making:* : Representative prevalence surveys are the best strategy for understanding the prevalence of a disease in any given population at a specific point in time. Such surveys can be undertaken for specific populations (e.g., workplace, nursing home, jails and prisons). Although they require undertaking a special study rather than using routinely collected data, many public health agencies have this capacity. There will be some time lag involved, however, in mounting and interpreting such a survey.

Data source usually meets this criterion.

Data source may or may not meet the criterion, and questions related to that criterion should be asked.

[nationalacademies.org/SEAN](https://nationalacademies.org/SEAN)

The National Academies of  
SCIENCES  
ENGINEERING  
MEDICINE

# Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN)

Facilitating Rapid, Actionable Responses to COVID-19 Questions Based in Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

## What is SEAN?

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented decision-makers at all levels of government with critical, complex questions including best practices for tracking progress against COVID-19, assessing community risks from resuming economic activities, and promoting mental health and resilience in our communities. These questions—and many more—can be answered with evidence and expert advice from the social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences.

Organized by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, with support from the National Science Foundation, the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) links decision-makers with SBE researchers who can provide **evidence-based expert guidance that supports local, state, and federal policies and responses related to COVID-19.**

## How can SBE sciences help?

Nearly every major challenge emerging from the current pandemic requires **understanding the causes and consequences of people's behavior**. SBE sciences can help decision-makers understand and weigh risks, as well as make informed decisions in the face of uncertainty. These fields bring a methodical approach to pursuing knowledge, including:

- Collecting reliable data
- Seeking discovery about causes of problems
- Analyzing evidence and guiding practical decisions

This process can identify challenges resulting from COVID-19 and guide decision-making by state and local leaders.

## How can SEAN help?

SEAN was established as a public resource to assist decision-makers. **Pressing questions related to COVID-19 that officials at various levels of government are facing can be posed by contacting SEAN at [sean@nas.edu](mailto:sean@nas.edu).** The network is poised to answer questions such as:

- How can communities address loneliness and social isolation during times of social distancing?
- How can governments improve forecasts of local social and economic activities during the process of re-opening?
- How can communities increase compliance with masks, social distancing and other protective behaviors?
- How can safety decisions and practices avoid reinforcing existing inequities in education instruction and facilities?

## Areas of Expertise

- Economics
- Education and learning
- Healthy development and aging
- Risk communication
- Community resilience
- Equity
- Statistics and modelling
- Human-systems interaction
- Other topics within social, behavioral, and economic sciences

## Resources

- Written Consultations
- Briefings
- Fact Sheets
- Survey Data and Analysis



For more information on SEAN, please visit our [website](#) or contact us:

# Possible Next Topics

- Effective contact tracing
- Maximizing compliance with mitigation strategies
- Environmental and natural disasters and COVID-19
- Homelessness/eviction issues
- Mitigation strategies in correctional facilities
- Vaccine hesitancy

Thank you

[www.nationalacademies.org/sean](http://www.nationalacademies.org/sean)

[mfeit@nas.edu](mailto:mfeit@nas.edu)

[sean@nas.edu](mailto:sean@nas.edu)

# Discussion



Let's hear from you!

If using computer microphone: **raise your hand!**

**Step 1: select "participants"**

**Step 2: select "raise hand"**

**(may be in sidebar)**

**Step 3: after you're unmuted, ask your question!**

If using telephone audio: **put your question in the chat box!**



# Homework Assignment



- Tell Congress to support funding for social science agencies in FY 2021  
<https://www.cossa.org/advocacy/take-action>
- Share examples of social science research related to COVID-19, policing with COSSA  
<https://www.cossa.org/share-your-story>



# CSSA HEADLINES



A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy

## Next Month:

- AUGUST'S HEADLINES
- DEEP DIVE TBD

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

AUGUST 13, 2020



## Recordings of Past Headlines Available @

[www.cossa.org/resources/headlines](http://www.cossa.org/resources/headlines)



### PREVIOUS DEEP DIVE TOPICS:

- June 20: A Conversation on Police Violence
- May 20: A Conversation with an Epidemiologist
- April 20: Communication Strategies in an Emerging Public Health Crisis
- March 20: White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Updates
- Feb 20: The Trump Administration's FY 2021 Budget Request
- Jan 20: 2019 Policy Wrap-Up and a Look Ahead
- Dec 19: Understanding Threats to U.S. Research Security
- Nov 19: 2020 Census
- Oct 19: USDA's Economic Research Service
- Sept 19: Social Science at NSF: What's New and What's Next
- Aug 19: How and Why to Advocate from Home
- July 19: 2020 Census and the Citizenship Question
- June 19: Policy Updates from COSSA
- May 19: National Academies' Decadal Survey of Social Science Applications for Intelligence Analysis
- April 19: FY 2020 Social Science Budgets – Part II
- March 19: FY 2020 Social Science Budgets – Part I
- Feb 19: Evidence-Based Policymaking and the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018
- Jan 19: COSSA's 2019 Legislative Agenda and Advocacy Resources



# COSSA HEADLINES

A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy



Find this useful?

- Tune in** each month – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
- Tell your colleagues to **sign up for COSSA Member Messages and Alerts**— MEMBERS ONLY (*email Julia at [jmilton@cossa.org](mailto:jmilton@cossa.org)*)
- Encourage other organizations and universities to **Join COSSA** (*email Wendy at [wnaus@cossa.org](mailto:wnaus@cossa.org)*)
- Send us your ideas** for DEEP DIVES (*email Ben at [bgoodrich@cossa.org](mailto:bgoodrich@cossa.org)*)



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Wendy Naus

Executive Director

Email: [wnaus@coffa.org](mailto:wnaus@coffa.org)

Visit Us:

[www.coffa.org](http://www.coffa.org)

[www.whysocialscience.com](http://www.whysocialscience.com)



@COSSADC ★ #WhySocialScience



@SocialScienceAssociations