

# SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE FOR A STRONG RECOVERY

## A Resource Guide for Policymakers



The pandemic has laid bare the fundamental need for informed responses, both short- and long-term, to deep-seated issues of social justice, economic inequities, and sustainability in the face of global climate change. People—their behavior, institutions and cultures—*must be* at the center of the scientific equation if we are to mobilize evidence-based policy solutions to address these challenges. Insights from the social and behavioral sciences are informing near-term solutions to challenges caused and exacerbated by the pandemic. In addition, research is helping to guide decision making that will build a stronger post-pandemic future.

## Strategies & Best Practices Backed by Science



### COVID-19 VACCINATION

- **Communicating COVID-19 Vaccine Efficacy and Effectiveness** (Societal Experts Action Network, NASEM) »[More info](#)
- **Communication, Hesitancy, Equity** (National Institutes of Health) »[More info](#)
- **Strategies for Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines** (Societal Experts Action Network, NASEM) »[More info](#)



### STOPPING THE SPREAD

- **Critical Findings on COVID-19** (NASEM) »[More info](#)
- **COVID-19 on College Campuses: Testing Strategies and Encouraging Protective Behaviors** (Societal Experts Action Network, NASEM) »[More info](#)



### MENTAL HEALTH

- **Stress in America: A National Mental Health Crisis** (American Psychological Association) »[More info](#)



### STEM WORKFORCE

- **Voices from the Field: The Impact of COVID-19 on Early Career Scholars and Doctoral Students** (American Educational Research Association, Spencer Foundation) »[More info](#)
- **Impact of COVID-19 on the Careers of Women in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine** (NASEM) »[More info](#)



### DISASTER RESPONSE

- **Emergency Evacuation and Sheltering During the COVID-19 Pandemic** (Societal Experts Action Network, NASEM) »[More info](#)



### CHILD & YOUTH WELLBEING

- **Child Care and COVID-19: Investing in Early Educators and Program Sustainability** (Society for Research in Child Development) »[More info](#)
- **COVID-19 Job and Income Loss Jeopardize Child Well-Being: Income Support Policies Can Help** (Society for Research in Child Development) »[More info](#)
- **A Decade Undone: Youth Disconnection in the Age of Coronavirus** (Measure of America, Social Science Research Council) »[More info](#)



### ADJUSTING TO POST-COVID LIFE

- **Surveillance and the 'New Normal' of Covid-19: Public Health, Data, and Justice** (Public Health, Surveillance, and Human Rights Network, Social Science Research Council) »[More info](#)
- **Fairer Tomorrow: Solutions to the Issues Highlighted by COVID** (Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University) »[More info](#)

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## Data About Your Community

*State-level data from federal sources to help answer policy questions.*



### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- ✓ What percentage of people in my state are expecting to lose income this month?
- ✓ How many people are facing eviction or food insecurity?
- ✓ What percentage of my state's employees are teleworking due to the pandemic?

»<https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/hhp/#>



**Household Pulse Survey**  
Census Bureau



### VACCINATION RATES & HESITANCY

- ✓ Who in my state is waiting for a COVID vaccine and willing to receive one?
- ✓ How many people are unlikely to get a vaccine if one is available?
- ✓ What are the primary concerns of those who are hesitant to get vaccinated?

»<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/household-pulse-survey-covid-19-vaccination-tracker.html>



**Household Pulse Survey**  
Census Bureau



### HEALTH CARE ACCESS & MENTAL HEALTH

- ✓ How many people in my state are experiencing anxiety and depression?
- ✓ How many people lack access to mental health care?
- ✓ What percentage of people have delayed getting necessary medical care?

»<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/health-care-access-and-mental-health.htm>



**Household Pulse Survey**  
National Center for  
Healthcare Statistics



### SMALL BUSINESSES

- ✓ When do small businesses in my state expect operations to return to normal?
- ✓ How many small businesses require employees to show proof of vaccination?
- ✓ What percentage of businesses have requested aid from federal, state, or local programs?

»<https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data>



**Small Business Pulse Survey**  
Census Bureau



### RETURNING TO THE CLASSROOM

- ✓ How many students are attending school virtually, in-person, or through hybrid instruction?
- ✓ What is the attendance rate across different learning modes?
- ✓ What percentage of teachers are vaccinated?

»<https://ies.ed.gov/schoolsurvey>



**Monthly School Survey**  
Institute of Education  
Sciences