

*The National Academies of*  
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**DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION**

*The Board on Children, Youth, and Families*

*Committee on National Statistics*

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**COMMITTEE ON BUILDING AN AGENDA TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF  
CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY HALF IN 10 YEARS**

**Greg Duncan, Ph.D.** (*chair*), is distinguished professor of education at the University of California, Irvine. Duncan spent the first 25 years of his career at the University of Michigan, working on and ultimately directing the Panel Study of Income Dynamics project. He held a faculty appointment at Northwestern University between 1995 and 2008. Dr. Duncan's recent work has focused on assessing the role of school-entry skills and behaviors on later school achievement and attainment and the effects of increasing income inequality on schools and children's life chances. Dr. Duncan was President of the Population Association of America in 2008 and the Society for Research in Child Development between 2009 and 2011. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2010. Dr. Duncan earned a B.A. in economics from Grinnell College and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan. He has an honorary doctorate from the University of Essex.

**J. Lawrence Aber, Ph.D.**, is Willner Family Professor of Psychology and Public Policy at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and University Professor, New York University, where he also serves as board chair of its Institute of Human Development and Social Change and co-director of the international research center "Global TIES for Children". Dr. Aber is the former director of the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University. He is an internationally recognized expert in child development and social policy and has co-edited *Neighborhood Poverty: Context and Consequences for Children* (1997, Russell Sage Foundation), *Assessing the Impact of September 11th 2001 on Children, Youth and Parents: Lessons for Applied Developmental Science* (2004, Erlbaum) and *Child Development and Social Policy: Knowledge for Action* (2007, APA Publications). His basic research examines the influence of poverty and violence, at the family and community levels, on the social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive and academic development of children and youth. Dr. Aber also designs and conducts rigorous evaluations of innovative programs and policies for children, youth and families. Currently, he conducts research on: the impact of poverty and HIV/AIDS on children's development in South Africa (in collaboration with the Human Sciences Research Council); the impact of preschool teacher training quality and children's learning and development in Ghana (in collaboration with Innovations for Poverty Action); and on school- and community-based interventions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Sierra Leone and Lebanon (in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee). He is a member of the Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally; was a member of the Planning Committee for a Workshop on Investing in Young Children for Peaceful Societies: Individual and Structural Transformation; a member of the Planning Committee for a Workshop on Supporting Family and Community Investments for Young Children Globally; a member of the Panel on Research on Child Abuse and Neglect; a member of the Panel on Child Care Policy; and a member of the Panel on the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents. He holds a Ph.D. in Clinical-Community and Developmental Psychology from Yale University.

**Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, Ph.D., MPA-URP**, is Samuel F. and Rose B. Gingold Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, and Director of the Institute for Child, Youth and Family Policy at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. Her research focuses on the social determinants of racial/ethnic inequities in health; the role of social policies in reducing those inequities; and the health and wellbeing of children with special needs. She is Project Director for [diversitydatakids.org](http://diversitydatakids.org), a comprehensive research program and indicator database on child wellbeing and opportunity by race/ethnicity

across multiple sectors (e.g., education, health, neighborhoods) and geographies, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Acevedo-Garcia is an investigator and member of the Steering Committee on the Housing and Children's Healthy Development Study funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the MacArthur Foundation. She was a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on How Housing Matters for Families and Children (2009-2014). Her professional activities include invited presentations at the White House Open Opportunity Project (2016), the National Conference on Housing Mobility (2015, 2012, 2010), the HUD/MacArthur Foundation "How Housing Matters" Conference (2011, 2012), and the White House conference on the Future of Rental Housing Policy (2010). She served on two national expert panels convened by the Centers for Disease Control (Housing and Health, and Social Determinants of Health), and on the expert panel for the award-winning PBS documentary series "Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick?" She is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Social Problems, and Cityscape. Dr. Acevedo-Garcia received her B.A. in public administration from El Colegio de Mexico (Mexico City), and her MPA-URP and Ph.D. in Public Policy with a concentration in Demography from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

**Janet Currie, Ph.D.**, is the Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University and the co-director of Princeton's Center for Health and Wellbeing. She also co-directs the Program on Families and Children at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She has served as the Vice President of the American Economics Association and is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and of the American Academy of Art and Sciences. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the Society of Labor Economists, and of the Econometric Society, and has an honorary degree from the University of Lyon. She is on the Board of Reviewing Editors of Science and has served as the Editor of the Journal of Economic Literature and on the editorial board of the Quarterly Journal of Economics. Her research focuses on health and wellbeing, especially of children. She has written about early intervention programs, programs to expand health insurance and improve health care, public housing, and food and nutrition programs. Her current research focuses on socioeconomic differences in health and access to health care, environmental threats to health, and mental health. Dr. Currie received her Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University.

**Benard P. Dreyer, M.D., FAAP**, is the immediate past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) after serving his term as the 2016 AAP president. Dr. Dreyer is a general and development-behavioral pediatrician who has spent his professional lifetime serving poor children and families. Professor of Pediatrics at NYU, he leads the Division of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics, is Director of Pediatrics at Bellevue Hospital, and also works as a hospitalist. After graduation from NYU School of Medicine and chief residency at Jacobi Hospital, he stayed as Director of Emergency Medicine, starting the first Emergency Medicine Residency in New York State. For over 30 years he led a primary care program at Bellevue, including co-located mental and oral health services and clinics in homeless shelters. His research is focused on interventions in primary care to improve early childhood outcomes, including early brain development and obesity. Dr. Dreyer has been AAP NY Chapter 3 President, and a member of the Committee on Pediatric Research and the Executive Committee of the Council on Communications and Media. He Co-Chaired the AAP Health Literacy Project Advisory Committee, including editing the AAP publication Plain Language Pediatrics. He serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Section on LGBT Health and Wellness and the AAP Leadership Workgroup on Poverty and Child Health. Dr. Dreyer was president of the Academic Pediatric Association (APA), and founded and chairs the APA Task Force on Childhood Poverty and the APA Research Scholars Program. He also hosts a weekly radio show on the Sirius XM Doctor Radio Channel, On Call for Kids. Dr. Dreyer has served on multiple roundtables, committees, and planning committees for the National Academies. Most recently, these include the Roundtable on Health Literacy, the Planning Committee on Implications of Health Literacy for Discharge Instructions: A Workshop; and the Committee on Family Planning. Dr. Dreyer received his MD from New York University.

**Irwin Garfinkel, Ph.D.**, is the Mitchell I. Ginsberg Professor of Contemporary Urban Problems and co-founding director of the Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC). Previously, Dr. Garfinkel was the director of the Institute for Research on Poverty (1975-1980) and the School of Social Work (1982-1984) at the University of Wisconsin. Between 1980 and 1990, he was the principal investigator of the Wisconsin child

support study. His research on child support and welfare influenced legislation in Wisconsin and other American states, the U.S. Congress, Great Britain, Australia, and Sweden. In 1996, Dr. Garfinkel, in conjunction with his wife, Sara McLanahan, the William S. Tod Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University, initiated the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study. A social worker and an economist by training, he has authored or co-authored over 200 scientific articles and 16 books and edited volumes on poverty, income transfers, program evaluation, single parent families and child support, and the welfare state, including, most recently, *Wealth and Welfare States: Is America Laggard or Leader?* Dr. Garfinkel was a member of the committee for the Workshop on Design of the National Children's Study Main Study and the Panel on Data and Methods for Measuring the Effects of changes in Social Welfare Programs. Dr. Garfinkel holds a Ph.D. in Social Work and Economics from the University of Michigan.

**Ron Haskins, Ph.D.**, is a senior fellow and holds the Cabot Family Chair in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution, where he co-directs the Center on Children and Families. He is also a senior consultant at the Annie E. Casey Foundation and was the president of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management in 2016. Haskins is the co-author of *Show Me the Evidence: Obama's Fight for Rigor and Evidence in Social Policy* (2015) and the author of *Work over Welfare: The Inside Story of the 1996 Welfare Reform Law* (2006). Beginning in 1986, he spent 14 years on the staff of the House Ways and Means Committee and was subsequently appointed to be the senior advisor to President Bush for Welfare Policy. In 1997, Haskins was selected by the National Journal as one of the 100 most influential people in the federal government. He and his colleague Isabel Sawhill were recently awarded the Moynihan Prize by the American Academy of Political and Social Science for being champions of the public good and advocates for public policy based on social science research. Haskins was recently appointed by Speaker Paul Ryan to co-chair the Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission. Ron Haskins has a B.A., M.A and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Hilary Hoynes, Ph.D.**, is a professor of economics and public policy and holds the Haas Distinguished Chair in Economic Disparities at the University of California Berkeley. From 2011-2016 she was a co-editor of the leading journal in economics, the *American Economic Review*. Hoynes specializes in the study of poverty, inequality, food and nutrition programs, and the impacts of government tax and transfer programs on low income families. Current projects include evaluating the effects of access to the social safety net in early life on later life health and human capital outcomes, examining the effects of the Great Recession on poverty and the role of the safety net in mitigating income losses, and estimating the impact of Head Start on cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes. Her work has been published in leading journals such as the *American Economic Review*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *American Economic Journal*, *Economic Policy* and *Econometrica*. Currently, Dr. Hoynes is a member of the American Economic Association's Executive Committee, the Federal Commission on Evidence-Based Policy Making, and the advisory committee of the Stanford Institute for Economic Research. In 2014, she received the Carolyn Shaw Bell Award from the Committee on the Status of the Economics Profession of the American Economic Association. In addition to her faculty appointment, Hoynes has research affiliations at the National Bureau of Economic Research, the UC Davis Center for Poverty Research and the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Previously, she sat on the Advisory Committee for the National Science Foundation, Directorate for the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences and the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research Program and was Co-Editor of the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.

**Christine James-Brown, B. A.**, became president and chief executive officer of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) in April 2007, assuming the leadership of the nation's oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization. Ms. James-Brown came to CWLA from United Way International (UWI), where she had served since 2004 as the organization's fifth President and CEO. As President and CEO, Ms. James-Brown was responsible for the efforts of the worldwide network of United Way nonprofit member organizations spanning six continents and five regions and serving communities in 45 countries and territories. Before her leadership role at UWI, for 10 years she served as President and CEO at United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania (UWSEPA) in Philadelphia. During her decade of leadership at UWSEPA, Ms. James-Brown guided Philadelphia's largest private nonprofit organization for health and human services. She has served as a member of the boards of the School District of Philadelphia, Community College of Philadelphia, the Samuel S. Fels Fund, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Citizens Bank,

Public/Private Ventures, and the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission. She worked at the New York City Department for the Aging, Special Project on Crime Against the Elderly and the New York City Foundation for Senior Citizens. Ms. James-Brown has received numerous awards and recognition throughout her career, including the National Council of Negro Women's Mary McLeod Bethune Award, B'nai B'rith's Humanitarian Award and Operation Understanding's Distinguished Community Leadership Award. In 1996, James-Brown received an honorary doctorate from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ms. James-Brown holds a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Rutgers University.

**Vonnie C. McLoyd, Ph.D.**, is the Ewart A. C. Thomas Collegiate Professor of Psychology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, at the University of Michigan. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1978 and was promoted to associate professor in 1984 and professor in 1988. She was also affiliated with the Center for Human Growth and Development as associate research scientist (1988-91), research scientist (1991-98), and senior research scientist (1998-2002). Dr. McLoyd's scholarship helped shape the field of developmental psychology as her interests evolved from traditional developmental psychology to a more expansive and creative view of the field. Focusing on how a child develops socially and how social interactions influence cognitive development, Dr. McLoyd came to recognize the ways in which the environment and social context, especially race, ethnicity, and poverty, influence development. Her work has helped change the perspective of the field and has led to a widespread recognition of how socio-environmental factors influence the health, wellbeing, and developmental experiences of children, adolescents, and their families. Most notable among the many honors Dr. McLoyd has received is a MacArthur Fellowship, which was awarded in 1996. She has also received the Reuben Hill Award from the National Council on Family Relations, a Faculty Scholar Award in Child Mental Health from the William T. Grant Foundation, and a minority-group scholar fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation. Other scholarly activities include participation in the MacArthur Network on Transition to Adulthood, the Council of the Foundation of Child Development, and the Advisory Board of the National Center for Children in Poverty. She was a member of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families; the Chair of the Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships Dissertation and Postdoctoral Review Panel on Psychology and a member of the Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships Predoctoral Review Panel on Psychology. Dr. McLoyd received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Michigan.

**Robert Moffitt, Ph.D.**, is the Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Economics at Johns Hopkins University, where he has worked since 1995. He also holds a joint appointment at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Prior to assuming his positions at Hopkins, he was professor of economics at Brown University, where he taught for 11 years. He has also been a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Maryland, and worked for several years at Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. He is also a fellow of the Econometric Society, a Fellow of the Society of Labor Economists, a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences, a recipient of a MERIT Award from the National Institutes of Health, a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and past president of the Population Association of America. He has served as chief editor of the *American Economic Review*, co-editor of the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, chief editor of the *Journal of Human Resources*, and as chair of the National Academy of Sciences Panel to Evaluate Welfare Reform. His research interests are in the areas of labor economics and applied microeconometrics. Dr. Moffitt has served on multiple committees and panels including the Division Committee for the Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, the Panel on Data and Methods for Measuring the Effects of Changes in Social Welfare Programs, and the Panel to Evaluate Microsimulation Models for Social Welfare Programs. Dr. Moffitt holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University.

**Cynthia Osborne, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor and director of the Center for Health and Social Policy at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. She is also the director of the Child and Family Research Partnership, an in-house research group that conducts rigorous research on policy issues related to young children, adolescents and their parents. Her teaching and research interests include social policy issues, poverty and inequality, family and child well-being, and family demography. Dr. Osborne has extensive experience leading long-term evaluations of state and national programs, with the aim of helping organizations understand what works, and how to ensure sustainable implementation of effective policies. Her work includes evaluations for the Texas Home Visiting Program, the largest home visiting program in the country; for critical child welfare programs of the Texas Department of Family and Protective

Services; and for key child support programs of the Texas Office of the Attorney General. She previously was director of the Project on Education Effectiveness and Quality, an initiative that measured state educator preparation programs' influence on student achievement. Dr. Osborne holds a Ph.D. in demography and public affairs from Princeton University.

**Eldar Shafir, Ph.D.**, is the Class of 1987 Professor of Behavioral Science and Public Policy at Princeton University, the Inaugural Director of Princeton's Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science and Public Policy, and co-founder and scientific director at ideas42, a social science R&D lab. He studies decision-making, cognitive science, and behavioral economics. His recent research has focused on decision-making in contexts of poverty and on the application of behavioral research to policy. He is Past President of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Council on Behavioural Science. He was a member of President Barack Obama's Advisory Council on Financial Capability. He has received several awards, most recently a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the William James Book Award. He was named one of Foreign Policy Magazine's 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2013. He edited the book, "The Behavioral Foundations of Public Policy," (2012), and co-authored, with economist Sendhil Mullainathan, "Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much," (2013). He received his Ph.D. in Cognitive Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Timothy M. (Tim) Smeeding, Ph.D.**, is the Lee Rainwater Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He was director of the Institute for Research on Poverty from 2008–2014. He was the founding director of the Luxembourg Income Study from 1983–2006. Dr. Smeeding's recent work has been on social and economic mobility across generations, inequality of income, consumption and wealth, and poverty in national and cross-national contexts. He is also a member of the American Pediatrics Association Taskforce on Child Poverty. His books include: SNAP Matters: How Food Stamps Affect Health and Well Being (Stanford University Press, 2015); Monitoring Social Mobility in the 21st Century (Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 2015); From Parents to Children: The Intergenerational Transmission of Advantage (Russell Sage Foundation, 2012); The Handbook of Economic Inequality (Oxford University Press, 2009); Poor Kids in a Rich Country: America's Children in Comparative Perspective (Russell Sage Foundation, 2003); and The American Welfare State: Laggard or Leader?, (Oxford University Press, 2010). Dr. Smeeding is a member of the NAS Standing Committee on the American Opportunity Study, and has served on the Division Committee for Behavioral, Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE), and multiple planning, steering and other committees in the past for the National Academies. Dr. Smeeding received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Don E. Winstead, Jr., B.A.**, founded Don Winstead Consulting, LLC, a Tallahassee, Florida health and human services consulting practice in 2011. He brings over three decades of state and federal experience in all phases of health and human services policy and practice to the firm. From March 2009 through December 2010, he served as Special Advisor to the Governor for the implementation of the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Working in coordination with the Governor's Federal Stimulus Working Group, he was responsible for overseeing and tracking the distribution of Florida's federal stimulus dollars and ensuring taxpayers had access to the information needed to hold government accountable for its use of the funds. He also served as the Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families, with responsibility for a wide range of human services. He began his career as a front-line caseworker and has worked in a variety of direct service, administrative and managerial positions ranging from Social Worker to Deputy Secretary. He was proud to serve as Deputy Secretary for a total of eight years, serving four Secretaries and three Governors. From late 2001 to early 2005, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this capacity he was a key advisor on human services policy and was responsible for policy development, research and evaluation related to welfare reform, supports for low-income families, and services for families, children and youth. He is a nationally recognized expert on federal funding issues and has negotiated ground-breaking federal waivers in welfare reform and child welfare. He is one of only five recipients of the American Public Human Service Association Distinguished Service Award. He is a member of the advisory board for the National Poverty Centers and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Child Trends, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center that studies children at all stages of development. He holds a B.A. in English from the University of South Florida.