

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education



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One of seven program units of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE) serves to advance the frontiers of the behavioral and social sciences and facilitate their applications to public policy. With expertise drawn from a broad range of disciplines, activities in DBASSE address such challenging issues as workforce productivity, crime reduction, environmental decision making, national security, healthy development of children and youth, public understanding of science, the governance of complex institutions, applications of learning sciences to education, and the use of data for research and policy.



DBASSE provides expert, independent advice through authoritative consensus study reports, which range from targeted studies to comprehensive reviews of many scientific literatures. DBASSE consensus studies:

- Evaluate government programs;
- Provide advice on statistical methods, surveys, and research designs;
- Inform education policy and practice;
- Apply behavioral and social science to defense and national security issues;
- Improve economic measurement and data sources;
- Explore behavioral and social science issues as they relate to health and development;
- Advise regulatory agencies;
- Propose priorities for scientific research;
- Inform government spending decisions;
- Examine legal, environmental, and societal issues through a behavioral and social science lens; and
- Provide international perspectives on policy.

In addition to helping decision-makers better understand the scientific issues embedded in key national policy questions, DBASSE advances science by identifying necessary research and data improvements. DBASSE also convenes experts with differing perspectives to discuss timely issues via **workshops, symposia, and roundtables**. Such events range from 25 to 500 participants or more and often result in published proceedings. In these ways, DBASSE fosters an awareness of the best cutting-edge science and facilitates its use in decisions about public policies and programs.

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