HOUSING, COMMUNITIES & ASSET BUILDING
Data & Technical Assistance To End Homelessness

Abt’s groundbreaking research and technical assistance aim to reduce and prevent homelessness in America. We help policymakers and practitioners collect and analyze data on homelessness in their communities to develop a better understanding of who is affected and how investments in housing and services translate into meaningful reductions in the homeless population.

Our technical assistance enables communities to design homeless services systems that meet their needs and preferences, and ensure the most vulnerable people get the help they need.

Our evaluations answer key policy and program design questions, such as “Which housing and services interventions work best for families with children who are experiencing homelessness?” We work closely with federal agencies, foundations and other stakeholders to improve their grantees’ effectiveness. We also help communities and nonprofits build capacity to manage prevention and assistance programs.

Leveraging Local Capacity to Address Chronic Homelessness

Our housing and systems modeling technical assistance helped partners in Indianapolis secure 500 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS and an additional $5 MILLION from a local foundation to provide services and supports.
Providing a Strong Foundation with Stable Housing

Stable, high-quality affordable housing in a safe, low-poverty neighborhood provides a critical foundation for personal well-being, health and advancement. Evidence shows that the homes and neighborhoods we live in affect school performance and behavior among children as well as earnings potential later in life. Housing also is recognized as an important “social determinant” of health, especially for young children who are vulnerable to environmental contaminants, older adults seeking to age in place and people with disabilities who want to live in the community.

Abt’s work explores the many ways in which where we live influences life chances. We conduct leading-edge research and evaluations of initiatives that promote health and well-being among low-income and vulnerable populations, including elderly residents in HUD-assisted housing, veterans experiencing homelessness and people facing opioid use disorder and housing instability. Our research helps to bridge the gap and integrate housing and services. Lessons from our work can inform, refine and scale innovative approaches for better health and sustained community living.

Our expertise includes:
- Administrative data matching
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Implementation and evaluation
- Needs assessment
- Performance measurement
- Policy development and analysis
- Randomized controlled trials (RCTs)
- Regulatory compliance
- Site visits, interviews, surveys and focus groups
- Training and technical assistance

“We need to understand which individuals with opioid use disorder are most likely to experience housing instability—and which housing models work best for people receiving treatment—to address the challenges experienced by those impacted by both opioid use disorders and the experience of homelessness.”

Sue Pfefferle
Associate/Scientist
Building Economic Security

We study the drivers of economic stability—the means by which people can access credit, build financial well-being and thrive. Our insights lead to more effective policies, programs and interventions. We ask how we can help consumers make better purchasing decisions. What is their experience with credit? How can housing counseling support sustainable homeownership? How can financial literacy programs promote asset-building and deliver solid results?

Asset-Building Model Supports Family Self-Sufficiency

Abt’s evaluation of a financial coaching program in Massachusetts found that participating low-income families increased their annual earnings by an average of MORE THAN $6,300.
The Abt Advantage

A safe, healthy home in a stable community undergirds a good life. The right mix of practices and policies extends these conditions to more people. Abt helps shape housing and community revitalization practices and policies.

For more than 40 years, cities, foundations, nonprofits, states and the federal government have counted on us to make a difference.

**We provide guidance and training to address complex problems effectively, from access to public housing to the administration of housing assistance programs.**

**Our evaluations improve local and federal investments, and our quantitative studies measure the impact, helping to chart a path forward to more effective and efficient means of bringing security to more people.**

**Our technical assistance provides communities with cross-cutting guidance and training, facilitates community-wide planning processes and builds local capacity.**

**The goal: to promote healthy and affordable neighborhoods in which people can thrive.**
Bold Ideas. Real Results.

Abt Associates is an engine for social impact, dedicated to moving people from vulnerability to security. Harnessing the power of data and our experts’ grounded insights, we provide research, consulting and technical services globally in the areas of health, environmental and social policy, technology and international development.

Key Focus Areas

- Education
- Environment & Energy
- Food Security & Agriculture
- Governance & Justice
- Health
- Housing, Communities & Asset Building
- Workforce & Economic Mobility

Cross-Cutting Core Capabilities

- Communications & Behavior Change
- Data Capture & Surveys
- Digital Transformations
- Research, Monitoring, & Evaluation
- Technical Assistance & Implementation

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