

About Us

The Applied Research and Program Evaluation Team enables education and health and human service organizations to make data-driven decisions to enhance program quality and capacity. We bring a track record of innovative and rigorous approaches to address our clients' analytics and assessment needs. We draw upon a team of professional researchers and subject matter advisors whose primary goal is to meet the needs of our clients.

Our team offers deep quantitative and qualitative research skills across a range of areas, including:

- ▶ Early education and care
- ▶ K-12 education
- ▶ Higher education
- ▶ Economic and workforce development
- ▶ Public health
- ▶ Behavioral health
- ▶ Youth services
- ▶ Child welfare
- ▶ Long-term care
- ▶ Intellectual and developmental disabilities services.

Our dedicated team works with federal, state, and local agencies, quasi-public agencies, non-profit and for-profit organizations to address changes and challenges. Our services move beyond research to supporting clients as they plan, implement and monitor their capacity to use data to guide their programs' growth while ensuring quality.

The UMass Donahue Institute

Established in 1971, the UMass Donahue Institute is a public service, research, and economic development arm of the University of Massachusetts. Our mission is to apply theory and innovation to solve real world challenges and enable our clients to achieve their goals and aspirations. We serve clients in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors in the Commonwealth and throughout the nation and the world. For more information: www.donahue.umassp.edu.

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Applied Research and Program Evaluation

Providing research and evaluation expertise that supports programmatic and system-wide decision making.



UMASS DONAHUE INSTITUTE
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Our Services

Program Evaluation studies the effectiveness and impact of a program as it aligns to its goals. Evaluation results are used to inform program expansion, guide process improvements and determine program retirement. Rigorous evaluation begins with thoughtful planning, rooted in an understanding of the program, its theory of action, and its expected inputs, outputs, and outcomes. We collaborate with clients to develop research designs and evaluation plans, implement the studies, synthesize and interpret the results, and develop recommendations based on the insights gained.

Applied Research explores practical questions regarding needs, trends, implementation, root cause, and potential outcomes. We design studies in collaboration with clients to discover answers to these practical questions that lead to policy reform, informs system-wide transformation, and provides insights for program innovation. Our applied research approach includes qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods designs that include secondary data sources such as existing literature and program or population data, with primary data collection through surveys, on-site interviews, structured observations, as well as workshops and focus groups.

Monitoring provides decision makers with up-to-date information on the function and status of their constituency or program. Our reports combine expert analytics and data visualization to place relevant, at-a-glance information at clients' fingertips. We partner with clients to identify the information required, the most user-friendly means to display it, and the cadence in which reports are generated.

Advisory Services provide the expertise required to deliberately plan, execute, and effectively apply research and evaluation results. Our subject matter advisors provide consultation to enhance clients' capacity in proposal writing, study design and implementation, and data management and analysis. We support clients as they grow their internal capacity to conduct evaluation and research that guides their organizations' vision and mission.

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