

# Benjamin A. Cohen, Ph.D.

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I am a social scientist with over 15 years of experience in all facets of research design, data collection, evaluation, analysis and reporting. I am well-versed in creating research designs that answer complex questions and evaluation systems that logically fit stakeholders' goals for improving programs and processes. My experience includes both small scale projects and large data collection systems for multiple actors.

## Education

Ph.D.	2005, University of Maryland, College Park. Education Policy/Research Focus: teacher induction programs; logistic regression
M.A.	1996, University of Maryland, College Park. Education Foundations.
Teaching Certification	1992, Pennsylvania State University, University Park. Social Studies.
BS	1991, Drexel University. History/Politics. Int'l Honor Society in History

## Professional Experience

Center for Schools and Communities, Camp Hill, PA  
Director of Evaluation, May 2004 to present.

Responsible for the management, design and quality of several evaluation, data collection and analysis projects. Develops and analyzes quantitative and qualitative datasets from field, survey and administrative data collection systems. Supervised staff. Co-authors proposals and co-leads organizational and strategic development. Develops the Center's first *Research Brief* series and an internal evaluation review system. Project experience includes:

*US Department of Education*: Evaluated parent involvement resource centers (PIRC); school-based emergency planning and a university-based ESL certification program

*US Department of Agriculture*: Monitored and analyzed direct certification process to provide food stamp benefits to eligible children and families

*Highmark Foundation*: Monitored and evaluated statewide school-based bullying prevention program (Olweus)

*Heinz and Noyce Foundations*: Performed research and evaluation of afterschool programs and STEM programs based in afterschool settings

*Pennsylvania Department of Education*: Monitored and analyzed statewide data collection system for pregnant and parenting teens

*Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare*: Developed data collection system to monitor and evaluate a home visiting program for special needs children

*Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources*: Monitored school-based environmental education efforts

*Penn State University*: Developed and analyzed longitudinal data for student teachers in field experiences at multiple sites across Pennsylvania

*United Way of New York City*: Developed statistical neighborhood profiles to help target a reading intervention program

Temple University – Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA  
Adjunct Professor. Fall 2008.

Taught graduate level research methods course in School of Education.

American Institutes for Research (AIR), Washington, DC  
Research Analyst, March 1999 to March 2003.  
Research Associate, March 1997 to March 1999.

Conducted a wide range of activities related to the planning and implementation of a large national survey of public school teachers. Designed questionnaires, developed statistical reports, conducted statistical analysis, oversaw and supervised projects and staff. Specific project experience at AIR included:

*Schools and Staffing Survey.* Served as a survey development specialist and analyst on most aspects of survey design and data analysis. Developed questionnaires. Conducted cognitive interviews, focus groups and related survey research; prepared Office of Management and Budget (OMB) packages and reports.

*Disclosure Risk.* Developed and conducted a series of analyses aimed at determining the risk of releasing data that could identify individual respondents to the 1999-2000 Schools and Staffing Survey.

*Statistics in Brief.* Conceptualized, planned and conducted analysis of National Education Longitudinal Survey (NELS) 2000 data in a small secondary study of postsecondary attainment.

*National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL).* Reported on technical aspects of the NAAL for lay audience.

National Association of State Boards of Education, Alexandria, VA.  
Policy Intern, Fall 2000.

Conducted research and analysis of alternative certification policies nationwide for publication as a NASBE "Issues in Brief" report.

Walter R. McDonald and Associates, Rockville, MD.  
Research Assistant, 1995-1997.

Developed for publication several national reports on child abuse and neglect. Provided on-site technical assistance to States on data quality. Validated databases. Analyzed large national datasets.

## Professional Skills

Research Design. Designs descriptive, quasi-experimental and experimental research projects. Plans interviews and focus groups for studies that require descriptions of process or best practices. Well-versed in designing questionnaires and logic models and conducting thorough literature reviews.

Data Collection and Analysis. Develops online and paper survey systems, co-develops databases and larger data collection systems and coordinates data collection at numerous program sites. For some projects, writes data collection protocols and conducts data collection training, to maximize efficiency and minimize attrition. Utilizes multivariate regression and ANOVA, among other methods, to analyze data. Routinely cleans and restructures complex datasets. For qualitative data, designs interview protocols and collaborates with researchers in reviewing patterns in textual data to develop reliable constructs and themes. Prepares IRB packages. Holds CITI training certificate on human subjects research.

Management. Coordinates data collection, analysis and reporting activities for up to half a dozen simultaneous projects while supervising up to four staff. Authors proposals regularly. Monitors project budgets. Extensive experience supervising staff.

Subject Knowledge: Has knowledge of novice teacher preparation, bullying prevention, afterschool programming, pregnancy prevention, elementary STEM education, parent involvement, home visiting, ESL teacher certification, and the national school lunch program.

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## Computer Skills

Uses a variety of analysis software, including over 15 years using SPSS/PASW to perform a variety of data processing and statistical analysis tasks. Uses HLM to perform multilevel analyses, and qGIS for geospatial analysis tasks. Use Wesvar and nVivo. Very proficient in the Microsoft Office Suite. Experience with STATA, SAS and R.

## Teaching

Taught in inner city, suburban and overseas locations, as well as a breadth of subject matter, including social studies, art appreciation and graduate-level applied statistics. Across eight teaching positions taught elementary, secondary and graduate students.

## Employment History

<b>2004-Present</b>	Director of Evaluation, Center for Schools and Communities.
<b>2008</b>	Adjunct Professor. Research Methods; Temple University-Harrisburg.
<b>2002-2007</b>	Independent consultant. Clients included American Institutes for Research (Washington, DC), Pennsylvania State Education Association (Harrisburg, PA), Bank Street College of Education (New York, NY), SRI International (Menlo Park, CA) and the National Association for State Boards of Education (Alexandria, VA).
<b>1997-2003</b>	Research Analyst, American Institutes for Research. Research Associate, American Institutes for Research.
<b>2002</b>	Teaching Assistant, Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) course offered by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland and University of Michigan.
<b>1995-1997</b>	Research Assistant, Walter R. McDonald and Associates.
<b>1994</b>	Teacher, Sylvan Learning Systems, Ballou Senior High School, Washington, DC.
<b>1993</b>	Instructor, Close Up Foundation.
<b>1992</b>	Teacher, Gymnazium Velka Okruzna, Slovak Republic.
<b>1990</b>	Instructional Intern, Philadelphia Museum of Art.

## Selected Publications

- Cohen, B. (2016) Teaching STEM in Afterschool: Correlates of Instructional Comfort. *Journal of Educational Research*. DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00220671.2016.1253537>
- Cohen, B. (2015). STEM in Out-of-School Time Programs. *Research Brief No. 7, March 2015*. Camp Hill: Center for Schools and Communities.
- Cohen, B. (2011). Addressing Obesity in Rural Pennsylvania. *Research Brief No. 4, April 2011*. Camp Hill: Center for Schools and Communities.
- Hynes, K., Miller, A., and Cohen, B. (2010). *The Pennsylvania Older Youth Out-of-School Time Study; A Practitioner's Guide to Promising Practices for Recruitment and Retaining Older Youth*. Camp Hill: Center for Schools and Communities.
- Cohen, B. and Molnar-Main, S. (2010). Olweus Bullying Prevention Program: Fidelity and School Characteristics. *Research Brief No. 2, May 2010*. Camp Hill: Center for Schools and Communities.
- Cohen, B. and Molnar-Main, S. (2009). Understanding Bullying Prevention Implementation. *Research Brief No. 1, November 2009*. Camp Hill: Center for Schools and Communities.
- Cohen, B. (2005). Enhancing the 'Learning Profession': Improving New Teacher Retention with Teacher Induction. Doctoral dissertation. University of Maryland, College Park.
- Roach, V. and Cohen, B. (2002). *Moving Past the Politics: How Alternative Certification Can Promote Comprehensive Teacher Development Reforms*. Alexandria, VA: NASBE.
- Seastrom, M.; Henke, R.; McGrath, D. and Cohen, B. A. (2002). *Qualifications of the Public School Teacher Workforce: Prevalence of Out-of-Field Teaching 1987-88 to 1999-2000*. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, 2002.

- Cohen, B. Zukerberg, A., and Pugh, K. W. (2000). "Improving Respondent Selection Procedures in School Establishment Surveys: Implications from Cognitive Interviews from the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)," in *Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1998 and 1999 ASA and AAPOR Meetings* Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1996). *Detailed Case Data Component Working Paper 1: 1993 Case Data from the States to HHS*. National Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

## Selected Conferences / Presentations

- American Education Research Association. Washington, DC. April 2016. Division K. Presentation of, "Growing Self-Efficacy and Collaboration: How School Context Relates to Student Teaching Outcomes." (with Jane Wilburne)
- American Evaluation Association Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX. November 2010. Presentation of, "Implementing Bullying Prevention."
- International Bullying Prevention Association Annual Conference. Pittsburg, PA. November 2009. Presentation of, "Getting OBPP Done – Correlates of Bullying Prevention Program Fidelity."
- American Evaluation Association Annual Meeting. November 2008. Presentation of, "Contextual Variance in Educators' Perceptions of School Violence" (with Beth Edwards).
- Eastern Evaluation Research Society. Absecon, NJ. April 2007. Presentation of, "The Role of Third Party Evaluations: See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil?" (with Virginia Roach, Sharon Dannels and Linda LeMasters).
- American Education Research Association. San Francisco. April 2006. Division L. Presentation of, "Moderators of Induction Support in Texas – Analysis of TxBESS Data," (with Edward Fuller).
- American Education Research Association. Montreal, Canada. April 2005. Division K. Presentation of, "Enhancing the Learning Profession: New Teacher Induction and Teacher Turnover."
- American Education Research Association. New Orleans, LA. May 2002. Division K. Presentation of, "Painful Beginnings? What National Data Say About Teacher Induction."
- American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL. August 1999. Presentation of, "A New National Data Set: Schools and Staffing Survey 2000," (poster session).
- American Association of Public Opinion Research. St. Petersburg, FL. May 1999. Presentation of, "Improving Respondent Selection Procedures in School Establishment Surveys: Implications from Cognitive Interviews From the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)."
- American Education Research Association. Montreal, Canada. April 1999. Division F. Presentation of, "From 'Muscular Christianity' to the 'Cult of Efficiency:' Inter-developments of Ideology and Violence Reflected in the Portrayal of Teachers in Three American Novels."
- Eleventh National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Washington, DC, September 1996. Presentation of, "Trends in Child Abuse and Neglect Data: National and State Implications for Policy and Practice."

## Community Service

- Holy Spirit Hospital: Provided an art activity for patients as a palliative experience.
- Hampden Township: Co-develops ordinances to address economic, social and aesthetic issues in the community.

## Personal Interests

- Drawing and Cycling

## Professional Affiliations

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| American Evaluation Association           | Eastern Evaluation Research Society (Board Member) |
| American Educational Research Association | American Association of Public Opinion Researchers |