Seeing Is Believing:

**Visualizing Data for Evidence-Based Policymaking and Program Implementation   
in Health and Social Service Agencies**

October 1, 2019

Although many industries have increasingly turned to data science to make informed business decisions, social service organizations and government agencies have been slower to fully embrace the potential of current and emerging data science methods. The challenges are real. How do you make highly technical data accessible and action-oriented for nontechnical audiences? How can you showcase insights in a way that is intuitive and engaging? What’s really needed are innovative ways to visualize data that help tell a story, inform decisions, and make an impact.

As part of [Data Week DC](https://www.dataweekdc.com/), join Mathematica for a mini-hackathon, where we will shine a light on how data visualization techniques can help service providers, program administrators, policymakers, and the public unearth new insights to make evidence-based decisions. We’ll walk through two data visualizations created by Mathematica that help demonstrate the implications of proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program’s eligibility rules and that highlight the unique ways in which the opioid crisis poses health risks for women of child-bearing age. We’ll then turn you loose to prototype your own approaches to the same policy and program issues, using real data. Are you up to the challenge of developing a visualization that showcases a fresh perspective on data, opens up new feedback loops, informs policy, and improves program implementation for the public good?

**Agenda**

**3:00 p.m. Welcome**  
[*Lauren Amos*](https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-people/staff/lauren-amos)*, senior researcher, Mathematica*

**Presentation:** [**SNAP Data Visualization**](https://www.mathematica.org/dataviz/impact-of-bbce-proposal-on-snap-caseloads) **and Intro to Data Sets**[*Sarah Lauffer*](https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-people/staff/sarah-lauffer)*, senior research programmer, Mathematica*

**Presentation:** [**S.T.Op NextGen Dashboard**](https://www.mathematica.org/dataviz/stopping-the-transmission-of-opioids-to-the-next-generation-stop-nextgen) **and Intro to Data Sets**[*Aparna Keshaviah*](https://www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-people/staff/aparna-keshaviah)*, senior statistician, Mathematica*

**3:15 p.m. Your Challenge and Mini-Hack**  
*Lauren Amos*

*Space is available in both the Conference Center and Caucus Room. Subject Matter Experts will be making rounds to answer questions and provide feedback.*

**4:40 p.m. Hack and Tell**

**5:00 p.m. Reactions**  
[*Gina Hijjawi*](https://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/leadership-staff/H/gina-hijjawi.html)*, senior program officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*[*Dr. Steven Daviss*](http://drdaviss.com/)*, president and cofounder, FUSE Health Strategies LLC* [*Dr. Kevin Dorrance*](https://www.transformcareinc.com/Team.html)*, chief executive officer, TransformCare*[*Dr. Diane Seibert*](https://www.usuhs.edu/national/faculty/diane-seibert-phd-faanp-faan)*, associate dean of academic affairs, Uniformed Services University*

**5:15 p.m. Data Drinks at the** [**Wunder Garten**](https://www.wundergartendc.com/)

Featured Participants

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **[Lauren Amos](https://www.mathematica.org/our-people/staff/lauren-amos)** is a senior researcher at Mathematica and serves on the Board of Directors of [Data Community DC](http://www.datacommunitydc.org/about). She has 20 years of experience in program evaluation, technical assistance, and design research supporting federal, state, and local education agency efforts to improve disparities and disproportionality in the public education, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems. Amos has a Ph.D. in the learning sciences from Northwestern University and a B.A. in public policy studies and English from Duke University. |
|  | [**Steve Daviss**](http://drdaviss.com/)is a physician double boarded in psychiatry and in psychosomatic medicine. Daviss is the president and cofounder of FUSE Health Strategies LLC, a consulting group with expertise in behavioral health policy, regulation, and information technologies focusing on parity and patient-centered integration of mental health and addiction services within primary care settings, including patient-centered medical homes. He is the past chair of the department of psychiatry at Baltimore Washington Medical Center. |
|  | [**Kevin A. Dorrance**](https://www.transformcareinc.com/Team.html), retired U.S. Navy Captain, is president and founder of TransformCare, Inc. He has a deep knowledge of hospitals, hospital systems, health care, and health, as well as a track record of transforming clinical systems. In his roles as physician and transformational health care leader, he has worked with our nation’s heroes and military veterans, using a holistic approach to solve the multidimensional problems caused by chronic pain, mental illness, addiction, crime, poverty, and homelessness. Dorrance earned his medical degree from Uniformed Services University. |
|  | [**Gina Hijjawi**](https://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/leadership-staff/H/gina-hijjawi.html) joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a senior program officer for Research-Evaluation-Learning, in April 2018. With her deep commitment to bridging systemic gaps in children’s health and social services, she values “the opportunity to advance understanding of how child- and family-serving systems, environments, and policies can support the healthy development and well-being of all children, especially children and families at high risk of falling through the cracks when in need of services across different systems.” She hold a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Virginia. |
|  | [**Aparna Keshaviah**](https://www.mathematica.org/our-people/staff/aparna-keshaviah) is a senior statistician at Mathematica who works at the developmental cusp of emerging public health topics. She has almost two decades of experience leading the design and analysis of randomized controlled trials to evaluate health treatments and screening approaches. Her research is transdisciplinary in nature, spanning the fields of public health, medicine, environmental health, social science, and the humanities. Keshaviah holds a master’s degree in biostatistics from the Harvard School of Public Health. |
|  | [**Sarah Lauffer**](https://www.mathematica.org/our-people/staff/sarah-lauffer) is a senior research programmer at Mathematica. She specializes in data cleaning and analysis, working primarily with annual nutrition assistance data. She provides statistical programming support and leadership for tasks involving data manipulation and assessment. Lauffer, who joined Mathematica in 2015, has authored annual reports on the characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households and participants and helped draft annual reports on trends in SNAP participation rates. She holds a B.A. in economics and public policy from the University of North Carolina. |
| Diane Seibert | [**Diane C. Seibert**](https://www.usuhs.edu/national/faculty/diane-seibert-phd-faanp-faan)is professor and associate dean for academic affairs in the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University. Throughout her career, Seibert has served in a variety of different leadership positions. She held leadership roles as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force and has held elected leadership positions in Sigma Theta Tau International, nursing’s international honor society. An accomplished academician, Seibert has authored more than 40 professional papers, books, and books chapters; has given numerous national and international presentations; and has served on editorial boards for referred journals. |