TACKLING THE WORLD’S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES

Additional offices in Africa, Central and Southeast Asia, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa

abtassociates.com
Abt’s global staff of more than 2,500 is working in partnership with our clients in more than 50 countries. The following pages tell our story.

In Memoriam

Walter R. Stellwagen, the second president of Abt Associates, passed away peacefully on March 10 in Evergreen, Colorado following a long illness. He was 86.

Recognized as an outstanding researcher and statistician, Stellwagen was recruited by Clark Abt, president and founder of Abt Associates, in 1971 to lead the firm’s growing portfolio of housing policy experiments after an academic career that included a teaching position at UC Berkeley and positions as a tenured professor at Michigan State University and Pennsylvania State University.

Stellwagen was appointed Abt’s Chief Social Scientist in 1972. He succeeded Clark Abt as the second president of Abt Associates in 1986 and served until his retirement in 1992.
Abt Associates is all about improving people's lives. And we thrive on tackling the world's toughest challenges.

We think boldly, bringing solutions that cross disciplines, methods, geographies and funders—an interconnected approach—because that's what today's challenges require.

Whether it's bringing epidemiologists and climate change scientists together to mobilize against the Zika virus in the U.S. and Latin America; working with foundations, policymakers and practitioners to develop new ways to combat homelessness in American cities; or marshalling innovative technologies to improve land use planning and government services in Indonesia, Abt delivers new perspectives and data-driven results.

At Abt, mission impact is what motivates us, and in these pages, we share 30 examples of our impact worldwide.

Our staff of more than 2,500, working in the U.S. and more than 50 countries, are challenging each other to see, think and act differently. To innovate and discover new solutions to the world’s most pressing issues. To ask, “what if?”

It's an exciting time to be at Abt Associates. Our clients want fresh ideas to help solve their toughest problems, and we are honored to have their trust. We are also honored to have a distinguished Board of Directors, two of whom, Alison Taunton-Rigby and Joseph P. Newhouse, are retiring. We thank them both for 15 years of dedicated service to the company.

With the support of our clients, partners and dedicated staff, we look to the future with optimism and a single purpose: to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people worldwide. It's about mission impact. And it’s the foundation of everything we do.

Stanley J. Lukowski
Chairman of the Board

Kathleen L. Flanagan
President and CEO
Abt Associates—founded in 1965—brings remarkable depth and breadth to its work. Abt is a place where knowledge and ideas flow freely across continents and practice areas. Rigorous research and evaluation drive practice. Collaboration spurs innovation. Known for technical excellence and delivering integrated, actionable solutions, Abt is respected by clients as a trusted partner.

Abt is regularly ranked as one of the top 20 global research firms and was named one of the 40 international development innovators.
OUR MISSION
To improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people worldwide.

TOTAL STAFF
2,500+

45% in U.S.
55% International
56 Languages Spoken

More than 90% of our in-country personnel are from the local country or region.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

389 Presentations
113 Articles
29 Commentaries

HIGHEST DEGREE

14.6% Ph.D./M.D.
37.5% Masters
33.2% Bachelors OR EQUIVALENT

CLIENTS
• U.S. federal, state and local governments
• International governments
• International organizations
• Nonprofit associations and institutions
• Universities and foundations
• Corporations

VALUES
Mission-Driven, Global, Committed to Excellence, Collaborative, Accountable, Balanced.

Abt has made a commitment to reduce the company’s greenhouse gas emissions by more than 80 percent by 2050.

How can we protect against the rapidly spreading Zika virus? What are the smartest ways to restore the environment after a disaster? How can we apply the best available evidence to help end homelessness? Abt is on the frontlines of today’s most pressing issues, and our responses to these challenges demonstrate the capabilities that clients value most: extraordinary depth and breadth that crosses disciplines and geographies, forward-thinking approaches that connect and excite, and a laser focus on using evidence to drive impact.

ARTICLES REFERENCED ABOVE:
miamiherald.com/opinion/editorials/article71956862.html
nytimes.com/2015/10/06/business/bp-settlement-in-gulf-oil-spill-is-raised-to-20-8-billion.html
latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-homeless-count-20160504-story.html
Zika is an insidious virus. It generally spreads through mosquitoes, and those affected may not have any symptoms. But it can have potentially devastating consequences for pregnant women and their fetuses.

Abt Associates is mobilizing its epidemiologists, infectious disease experts, public health practitioners, data analysts, economists, environmental scientists and communications and technology experts in addressing Zika.

We have a long history of working in the U.S. and abroad to help health care workers address the challenges of pandemic diseases, including conducting state-of-the-art surveillance, quickly moving from research to application and using technology to make data collection and analysis smarter and faster. With the Zika virus rapidly spreading in the Americas and the Pacific region, along with an increase in cases of microcephaly and other health issues among infants and Guillain-Barré syndrome in adults, Abt can provide multi-prong solutions to respond to this public health emergency immediately.

An Integrated Approach

Building on our deep expertise in vector control with the PMI Africa Indoor Residual Spraying project in 18 countries, Abt is undertaking an assessment of mosquito and vector control programs in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Honduras through the Health Finance and Governance project. And because we take an integrated approach to our work, our climate change experts are providing insights on the risks and adaptation strategies for our changing climate—a growing factor in disease transmission.

We can reach at-risk individuals with accurate information and strategies for protecting themselves and, in the case of pregnant women, actions to protect their fetuses from infection and possible birth defects. We use the communication channels targeted audiences use, including social media, and we evaluate results along the way.

Outbreaks like Zika, Ebola, SARS and H1N1 influenza—unpredictable and opportunistic—exemplify the need for preparedness. Abt is leveraging its unique capabilities to protect and save lives, both in the United States and globally.
Assessing the Impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

It was one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history. Shortly after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill, state and federal agencies began a Natural Resource Damage Assessment to understand the impacts of the spill and the steps that would be necessary to restore the environment. Abt Associates staff played a major role in this effort, which culminated in a $20 billion settlement with BP. These settlement funds will be used to restore affected natural resources and habitats in the Gulf of Mexico.

Working with multiple government agencies—including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Justice and state agencies in Louisiana and Florida—Abt scientists evaluated the movement and environmental consequences of DWH oil in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and along shorelines from Texas to Florida. Our researchers designed, implemented and managed nearly all the toxicological evaluations of the effects of oil on fish, invertebrates and birds, and in doing so, produced what may be the largest suite of toxicity studies ever conducted for a single incident.

Our scientists worked with industry experts to use remote-sensing technology to track the spill’s footprint on the ocean surface. Our team’s economists also conducted a three-year study to evaluate changes in the recreational use of 1,000 miles of coastline after the spill.

**Intensive Planning for Restoration**

In partnership with government agencies, our restoration scientists developed methods for quantifying the benefits of early restoration of marshes, barrier islands and oysters and developed monitoring guidelines and additional technical support for restoration planning. Abt staff played a key role in assisting the agencies with the preparation of the 1,400-page Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan that documents the governments’ findings and outlines restoration approaches.

Abt continues to support government agencies on ongoing restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico.

“Our innovative work provided critical scientific data and analysis needed to enable the effective restoration of vital natural resources and ecosystems affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and will make an important contribution to the long-term restoration and health of the Gulf of Mexico.”

—Dr. Joshua Lipton, Division Vice President, Environment & Natural Resources
Taking Action Against Homelessness

In urban areas across the country—Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, Washington, D.C.—homelessness seems intractable. Could America end homelessness if we rethought and reshaped local policies and programs? Abt Associates believes it can and is working to make it happen.

Rigorous Evaluations Inform Federal and Local Efforts

Millions of Americans experience homelessness during their lives. Abt Associates has been working on this complex issue for more than 40 years, collecting and analyzing data for studies such as the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, the official federal estimate that informs national policy and strategy making.

Our Family Options Study, hailed as a landmark effort, is helping to shape federal housing policy by testing the effectiveness of several prominent interventions to improve housing stability, increase self-sufficiency and preserve families. Our evaluation of the national Transitional Living Program will—for the first time—rigorously test the effectiveness of a key federal program for homeless youth.

Los Angeles has one of the largest homeless populations in America. Abt’s expertise led the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to select us to evaluate its initiative to end chronic homelessness in the city.

Evidence-Based Practices Applied in Communities

Our technical assistance work complements our robust research portfolio in helping local communities use evidence-based practices to transform their systems of care for homeless people.

Homelessness among veterans in Los Angeles is going down. Our experts previously worked closely with local officials and the U.S. Veterans Administration to build performance metrics to gauge system- and program-level success in reducing veterans’ homelessness there.

In the District of Columbia, we helped stakeholders to design and “right-size” homeless support systems to align with emerging needs.

Melding analytical expertise with decades of frontline experience, Abt has changed not just how policymakers and practitioners think about homelessness in America but—more importantly—how they act to solve it at both the federal and local levels.
Why Abt?

Read more about why people choose to work at Abt at abtassociates.com/careers.

“Why Abt? The projects I support impact how people travel from place to place. I like that working at Abt SRBI has given me the opportunity to help shape policy. Also, I feel empowered to seek innovative methods that will add value for our clients.”

**JOSH DELAROSA** | Senior Project Manager/Analyst | 1 year

“FRANCIS OKELLO
Senior Associate/Scientist
4 years

“There are several things I like about working at Abt, but most of all, Abt brings together a diverse mix of skilled personnel, giving me the opportunity to both contribute professionally and continuously learn from a very collegial team of experts.”

“IN two years, I’ve gone from a university graduate to contributing to the design of cutting-edge development programs, helping to secure nearly half a billion dollars in new work and am now working on the mobilization of Australia’s largest ever development program in PNG. Where else but Abt?”

**IAIN SMITH** | PGF Transition Coordinator | 2 years

“You are most welcome.’ This South Sudanese greeting encompasses not only the beauty of its peace-loving people, but the spirit of Abt. Here at Abt, you have the opportunity to lead and become a part of something bigger than yourself.”

**KAMILLE BEYE** | Senior Finance and Contract Analyst | 2 years
“I love working at Abt because I learn. For over 26 years, the development opportunities, mobility and incredible work achieved with colleagues, partners and clients has shaped who I am. And I am a better professional and a wiser person for it.”

YVONNE ABEL | Director of People and Culture | 26 years

“The work we do here matters. Policymakers, practitioners and the public rely on the information we provide to guide decision-making. This organization is full of smart and insightful people, and Abt gets great data. Large, longitudinal, random assignment—what more could you ask for?”

TODD GRINDAL | Senior Associate/Scientist | 3 years

“What I like about working at Abt, and what has kept me here for so long, is the focus on technical rigor and the ability to work with top talent to create innovative products with potential to have an impact on people’s lives worldwide.”

TULIKA NARAYAN
Principal Associate and Practice Manager
14 years

“The constant I have encountered among all my colleagues is the clear line of sight from the individual role to mission impact. This inspires us to never stop at best practice and to champion an agile culture that empowers people to live Abt’s mission.”

J.R. SMITH | HR Generalist | 1.5 years

“I always say my favorite part of working at Abt is that it’s like being in graduate school, but getting paid for it! I love that we do meaningful, analytically rigorous work in a truly collaborative environment.”

PATRICIA ROWAN | Senior Analyst | 4 years

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PATRICIA ROWAN | Senior Analyst | 4 years
Good governance is a cornerstone of sustainable development. By strengthening public management processes around the world, Abt Associates enables gains in health, climate change, poverty reduction, education and food security to endure—and decision-makers hear the voices of those affected, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. We connect our deep experience in sector and systems strengthening with world-class evaluation and research abilities and expertise in subnational government at all levels and in all regions of the world.

Whether strengthening health finance in Africa, clarifying land rights for villagers in Southeast Asia or advancing government transparency in Latin America, Abt promotes participatory governance models that transform communities.
GOVERNANCE

MEXICO

Improving Transparency and Government Accountability

As Mexico City’s new airport—a global megaproject—goes up, civil society groups will be tracking its spending and progress online. The use of technology advanced by Abt to increase transparency is part of the Mexico Economic Policy Program, which connects the public sector and civil society organizations to improve governance, strengthen citizen engagement and create conditions that allow small and medium-sized businesses to flourish. Abt’s work with the local-led program has enabled entrepreneurs to turn ideas into startups and trained judges and regulators to enforce competition laws.

CLIENT USAID
PROJECT Mexico Economic Policy Program (MEPP)

INDONESIA

Mapping Land Use with Cutting-Edge Technology

Abt is mapping—literally—the future of Indonesia. Development in the country, one of the world’s most heavily forested, has been stymied by murkiness over land ownership and borders. We are using drones to help Indonesia move forward in establishing clear boundaries. In the one-year, leading-edge project, unmanned aerial vehicles are skimming over rugged terrain around 100 villages to record topography and current land use. The project is working with villagers to mediate land disputes and set borders. By updating licensing and land-use and land-cover databases, Indonesia is clearing the way for green development, a government goal.

CLIENT Millennium Challenge Account-Indonesia (MCA-I) with funding from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact
PROJECT Participatory Mapping and Planning (PMaP)
TANZANIA

Strengthening Systems to Deliver Public Services

In Tanzania, we are helping the government build a strong and sustainable public sector able to manage and deliver quality services to all its citizens, especially in the areas of health, education, agriculture, rural roads and water and sanitation. Abt-led interventions are expanding government transparency and stepping up citizens’ influence over how local budgets and services are planned and monitored. We are also training newly elected council members across 13 target regions so they can develop detailed plans for greater citizen engagement. Among other goals, the five-year, USAID-funded Public Sector Strengthening (PS3) project—currently in its first year—will boost local governments’ use of data in decision making.

CLIENT USAID
PROJECT Public Sector Strengthening (PS3)

INDONESIA

Preparing Village Leaders for New Governance Role

As Indonesia decentralizes virtually every function of government, it is racing to ensure that village leaders have the capacity to manage front-line services, budgets and spending. Through Abt, more than 650 local government representatives from 215 districts have attended workshops and focus group discussions. We are also bringing ministry officials together with district and village leaders to discuss policy planning. Among our innovations: 2,100 people from 22 provinces used a mobile web-based simulation game to pinpoint where governance training is falling short.

CLIENT Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
PROJECT KOMPAK (Governance for Growth)

2,100 people from 22 provinces in Indonesia used a mobile web-based simulation game to pinpoint where governance training is falling short.
What does it take to end homelessness? How can cities protect themselves against weather shocks? What public investments are best for building strong families and financial security? Leaders around the world want the best solutions to the problems that face their communities, but they are often thwarted by an inability to translate complicated research into meaningful action.

Abt Associates works at the vanguard of the world’s most pressing challenges, offering robust, data-driven findings—and the plans and technology tools for turning them into real-life actions with inspiring results. By designing powerful protocols, bringing evidence-based insight to reform policy and programs, and working closely with governments and practitioners, we are giving policymakers the information they need to make sound decisions.
United States

Using Data to Make Cities Work Better

As the world undergoes the largest wave of urban growth in history, smart decisions are needed about resource allocation. Abt is employing its evaluation expertise in an ambitious effort to revolutionize the role that data plays. **U.S. mayors want to use evidence and evaluation to address challenges such as safety, economic development and affordable housing, but many lack the needed tools and skills.** Bloomberg Philanthropies’ What Works Cities initiative, launched in 2015, is providing community-level technical assistance to accelerate data collection and analysis in 100 midsize cities so that urban leaders can invest in what works. As the research partner, we are evaluating—in real time—the effort’s effectiveness.

**Client** Bloomberg Philanthropies  
**Project** What Works Cities Initiative

Delivering Results for Youth-focused Research

Abt SRBI’s targeted survey protocols and methodologies drive high-powered results for its clients. For research involving youth, **we not only address young people’s experiences, but we incorporate the fast-moving technology platforms they live by.** In a 2012 project to understand how Boys & Girls Clubs of America programs impact youth achievement, we designed a survey with an audio component for use on electronic tablets. Nearly 47,000 tweens and teenagers responded. By 2015, the project contained a customized website and more than 156,000 respondents were taking the high-tech survey in English and Spanish. Abt excels in designing surveys and methodologies for rapidly changing environments.

**Client** Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
**Project** National Youth Outcomes Initiative
Measuring the Socio-economic Impacts of Coastal Resilience

Superstorm Sandy slammed the Northeastern United States in 2012, causing more than 100 deaths, billions of dollars in economic loss and havoc across 12 states and the District of Columbia. The Department of Interior responded to the massive destruction by funding more than 150 projects, among them dam removal, data collection and adaptation plans designed to reduce community vulnerability to climate-related threats. Abt shouldered a complex task: developing socio-economic metrics to measure the resulting change in resilience and a framework to map the potential impact on community well-being. The work identifies cost-effective resiliency tools and is deepening our understanding of storm impact.

CLIENT National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
PROJECT Evaluation of Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience Program

Are Even Thin Sheens of Oil Toxic to Fish Larvae?

The Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill in 2010 created extensive oil slicks on the surface of the Gulf of Mexico. Much of this oil occurred as thin surface sheens. Abt designed and conducted a series of innovative laboratory tests to evaluate whether oil sheens are toxic to developing larvae of several endemic fish species in the Gulf. As documented in the DWH Natural Resource Damage Assessment, our scientists discovered through hundreds of tests that even thin surface slicks of oil were toxic to fish larvae. The results of these novel experiments informed government agency understanding of spill impacts on marine resources.

CLIENT National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
PROJECT Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Next Step in Cutting Highway Accident Tolls?

Seatbelts are one of the most effective ways to prevent traffic deaths and injuries, yet 26 percent of backseat passengers don’t use them. Do systems that remind passengers in the backseat to buckle up make a difference? Abt SRBI has deep experience in safety and policy-focused research, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration turned to Abt to design and conduct a national telephone survey of owners of vehicles equipped with rear seatbelt reminder systems. The survey, which also used a control group with vehicles that had no reminder systems, found that about 1 in 4 drivers with the rear seatbelt reminder systems noticed their passengers buckling more often.

CLIENT National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
PROJECT Rear Seat Belt Reminder System Evaluation Study (RSBRS)
GHANA

New Partnerships Save Children’s Lives

In Ghana, where diarrhea is a leading killer of children under 5, Abt is advancing cost-effective interventions to save lives. **An innovative partnership between Abt, Ghana Health Services, the Pharmacy Council and the pharmaceutical industry** used a data-driven approach to encourage use of zinc tablets along with oral rehydration salts (ORS). It has been estimated that diarrhea mortality could be reduced by 23 percent with increased use of zinc to treat acute diarrhea. Household surveys in Ghana found that caregiver use of zinc and ORS for children under 5 leaped from 0.8 percent at the beginning of our interventions to 30.1 percent two years later.

**CLIENT** USAID

**PROJECT** Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS)

AUSTRALIA

Building Stronger, Healthier Families to End Poverty

The Australian Nurse-Family Partnership is moving Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander women toward healthier behaviors, pushing up the birth weights of their babies and bringing lasting results beyond the program. **The evidence-based home-visit program guides first-time mothers toward healthy choices and self-determination, providing support for post-pregnancy work and school.** Visits continue for two years after a child is born. Twenty-eight percent of the women recently starting the program reported smoking; a year earlier, 39 percent of the mothers-to-be were cigarette users. The program seeks the long-term health and economic success of families. The next step? An intervention to defuse violence within families.

**CLIENT** Government of Australia

**PROJECT** Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program
Better health and well-being contribute to economic progress. Whether analyzing the impact of the Affordable Care Act or working with health ministries to scale up family-planning interventions, Abt Associates has been working to align public resources with pressing health care needs for half a century.

In doing so, we often address the many non-health factors affecting health—including air and water quality, the affordability of insurance, solid waste disposal and food security. Our integrated expertise within and across many disciplines combined with rigorous research allows us to shape innovative, cost-efficient policies that reduce health disparities and contribute to the well-being of individuals, families and communities in the United States and around the world.
Getting a Bigger Picture of the Affordable Care Act

For the last two years, Abt’s data analytics team combed 44,000 patient records in 30 sites across 15 states to help the federal government identify more efficient ways to dovetail HIV and AIDS care with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Since 1990, Americans with HIV and AIDS have received coverage through the Ryan White Program, which in 2014 served over a half million people and carried a $2.3 billion budget. With the ACA, Ryan White patients gained access to Medicaid and private health insurance—some for the first time in their lives. Abt assessed how patients, medical professionals and facilities adapted to the change. For the next two years, we will examine how treatment outcomes are affected.

CLIENT Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
HIV/AIDS Bureau
PROJECT Special Study Emerging Issues Related to ACA Implementation—The Future of Ryan White Services

Does Integrated Cancer Care Improve Patient Outcomes?

More than 1.5 million people are diagnosed with cancer in the United States each year. In 2010, the disease cost the country $263.8 billion in medical services and lost productivity. Abt is working with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on a rigorous evaluation of a new cancer-care model that rewards oncologists for coordinating patient care throughout the full treatment process. The model links payment to improved delivery and quality of care. Abt is using a mixed-methods approach to measure how the model affects services, patient satisfaction and cost. The goal? Better experiences and health outcomes for Americans living with cancer.

CLIENT Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
PROJECT Evaluation of the Oncology Care Model
Rapidly Measuring the Value of Health Care Innovation

Patients, medical personnel, payers and policymakers clamor for improvements in quality, cost and access to care. They want fewer hospital readmissions and better health outcomes across all populations. When the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services set out to examine ambitious hospital-setting innovations aimed at those goals, it turned to longtime partner Abt for rapid-cycle feedback. The 10 hospital programs range from tele-intensive care units to sepsis treatment. We are evaluating health outcomes, care redesign processes, information technology, staff training, costs, scalability, patient satisfaction and much more. The three-year project, now in its second year, employs a mixed methods approach and includes patient surveys, analysis of Medicare bills and in-depth case studies.

CLIENT Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

PROJECT Health Care Innovation Awards (HCIA)

Hospital Evaluation
Over a 20-year legacy of work in Central Asia, the mortality rate for children under 5 in Kazakhstan is down 70 percent.

CENTRAL ASIA

Health Systems Transformed in Five Countries

Abt’s 20-year legacy of work in Central Asia has ushered in an extraordinary transformation, slashing the mortality rate for children under 5 by 70 percent in Kazakhstan, cutting the incidence of tuberculosis by 65 percent in Turkmenistan and making the Kyrgyz Republic’s basic health coverage universal. In just a single generation, those countries—along with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which have also posted dramatic health gains—have embraced evidence-based medicine, strengthened primary care and lengthened lifespans. By re-envisioning the health care systems, we have empowered local partners, elevated government-NGO collaboration and introduced critical technology to improve health and save lives.

CLIENT USAID
PROJECT Quality Health Care Project
Abt Associates’ culture of discovery has turned the company into an innovation incubator.

We attract talented researchers who thrive on solving complex problems and promote a cross-cutting culture that drives creativity, encourages teamwork and thinks about challenges in new ways.

Some of our innovations affect administrative and organizational processes. Others take the form of breakthrough inventions and use of cutting-edge tools to support development in resource-poor countries. As global challenges increase in scope and urgency, Abt remains focused on constantly innovating.

**PMI INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

**GRAND PRIZE**

Mosquito-killing insecticides cannot be stockpiled in large quantities in Mali because of limited space and risks in transporting them over rough roads. Created by Abt, the **E-INVENTORY SYSTEM** ensures that adequate supplies are ready when and where needed. Used by the President’s Malaria Initiative Africa Indoor Residual Spraying (PMI AIRS) project, the tool won a $50,000 prize in the PMI Innovation Challenge. Seven countries entered 15 innovations into the contest.
Abt is using UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES equipped with cameras to help Indonesia achieve an urgent goal: a modern land management information system.

**EVIRATER** was created by Abt to systematically assess the strength of evidence produced across a spectrum of research designs. It is based on the idea that valuable information can be captured even when evaluations may not meet the most rigorous standards.
When infectious disease surges through populations, it compromises health, overloads health care systems and disrupts economic activity. Some infectious diseases, like tuberculosis and malaria, present longstanding challenges in many countries. Others, such as Zika, SARS and Ebola, are new pandemics that pit public health agencies against the clock. In confronting infectious disease threats, Abt Associates crosses disciplines and geographic borders to advance rigorous clinical research, design effective interventions, train practitioners, expand the capacity and sustainability of health care systems, monitor the microbial landscape and create leading-edge data-collection and analysis tools.

Infectious disease stands out for its ability to profoundly impact the health and lives of people around the world. Our work enables countries and communities to stand ready with coordinated responses to save lives.
UNITED STATES

Meeting the Challenges of Pandemic Disease

Real-time, rapid feedback for decision making is needed if a new flu virus appears. Abt is designing a research platform to allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to immediately launch such studies. The project establishes a network of sites that will provide real-time data to CDC to inform public health authorities regarding the severity of the pandemic and the effectiveness of antiviral drugs and vaccines. The network will study the pandemic and interventions among inpatients, outpatients, households, first responders, health care personnel, and pregnant women and infants. The platform may be applied to study other infectious diseases beyond flu.

CLIENT Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PROJECT The Epidemiology of Novel Influenza Virus Infection and Evaluation of Antiviral and Vaccine Effectiveness

KENYA

Increasing the Use of Private Health Insurance

Market development. New products. Scalability. Better health. In Kenya, where 1.4 million people are living with HIV, overpowering the public health care system, a private-sector health insurance scheme is a game changer. Since 2013, Abt has guided new health insurance products to market, trained banks and sales agents to sell insurance and provided marketing materials and technical assistance to boost the number of Kenyans who acquire coverage. Private insurance offers a scalable solution to expand access to HIV care and treatment without reliance on donors, broadening partnerships between private and public providers for an AIDS-Free Generation.

CLIENT USAID

PROJECT Achieving Universal Health Coverage for HIV and AIDS: The Role of Private Health Insurance in Kenya
NIGERIA

Helping Countries Self-fund HIV Programs

As countries scramble to strengthen HIV and AIDS programs using their own monies, Abt has developed a successful strategy for Nigeria. Some 3.5 million people in Nigeria are infected with HIV, but fewer than half receive life-saving care, and plunging oil revenues are straining the treasury. We are connecting institutions and government agencies, including outside the health sector, to creatively deploy in-country resources and ensure the sustainability of HIV and AIDS care. This is the first time such a strategy has been mobilized at the state level. One result: a 300 percent budget increase is pumping an extra $1 million into programs in Cross Rivers State, where infection rates are high.

CLIENT USAID
PROJECT Health Finance and Governance (HFG)

Abt is connecting institutions and government agencies, including outside the health sector, to creatively deploy in-country resources and ensure the sustainability of HIV and AIDS care.

UNITED STATES

New Channels to Reach Men with HIV

Finding men who have sex with men, testing them for HIV and quickly lining them up for care if they test positive is a priority for CDC. Abt coordinated the testing of 70,000 men across the country. Looking for new ways to reach at-risk African-Americans and Hispanics, we worked with trusted partners to provide testing at bars, parks, nightclubs, gay pride events and other venues where men gather. Social networks were tapped, home-tests were distributed via the Internet and couples underwent joint testing then received their results together. The project identified 2,200 men with HIV, linking 69 percent of them to treatment within 90 days.

CLIENT Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
PROJECT Scaling Up HIV Testing Among African-American and Hispanic Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM): The MSM Testing Initiative
The Conference on Climate Change in Paris turned the global spotlight on one of the planet’s most urgent challenges. Abt Associates’ robust science, research and technical expertise is tackling head-on the complex interlocking issues that shape climate change.

Through fast-moving work in the lab and in the field, we are both expanding understanding of climate change and identifying data-driven solutions. Our portfolio is comprehensive, from mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, to vulnerability and adaptation, to economic and environmental valuation.

We provide clients with solutions that embrace the goals of the Paris Accord while bringing the greatest possible returns for people and the planet.
Pioneering Climate Change Finance Strategies

The critical role of finance in combatting climate change is gaining more attention. Abt is championing climate-change finance opportunities for adaptation, clean energy and sustainable landscapes in 13 countries. Through a discussion series for the USAID-funded Climate Economic Analysis for Development, Investment, and Resilience (CEADIR) project, we are also helping governments, the private sector and civil society understand the business case for investment in scalable and sustainable efforts. We work on green bonds in Peru; clean energy finance mobilization in West Africa, Central America, Jamaica and Southeast Asia; and climate finance national analysis in Bangladesh.

CLIENT
USAID
PROJECT
Climate Economic Analysis for Development, Investment, and Resilience (CEADIR)

UNITED STATES

First U.S. Assessment of Benefits of GHG Reductions

What are the physical and economic benefits when global greenhouse gas emissions are cut? For a pioneering assessment of gains for the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency tapped Abt to convene experts across disciplines and construct ambitious cutting-edge research tools. We responded with a series of new climate impact models that addressed extreme heat, bridges, flooding and more to help deliver the country’s first national-level impact assessment that used consistent emissions scenarios and time periods. The analyses are far-reaching, from effects on infrastructure and implications for human health, to repercussions for labor and recreational fishing.

CLIENT
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
PROJECT
Climate Impacts and Risk Assessment (CIRA)
Abt’s cross-spectrum expertise in both global health and climate-change impact allows it to tackle the challenge in a deep and comprehensive way.

UNITED STATES

Climate Change Adaptation: What’s Working for Cities

Abt, a leader in the nascent field of climate change adaptation, recently assessed how well 17 communities across the United States are responding to climate change and the conditions that enable success. We brought together thought leaders and connected the perspectives of insurers, urban planners, climate change experts and others to expand understanding of how cities set a course to reduce climate vulnerability. In Chula Vista, California, the strategies were multi-pronged and included a cool roofs ordinance and shade tree policy. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, by contrast, a single vulnerability—the flooding of the Red River—was addressed through a voluntary property buyout that transformed the flood plain into parkland.

BANGLADESH, BRAZIL, ETHIOPIA, GHANA, INDIA, INDONESIA, JORDAN

Improving Waste Management: Generating Local and Global Benefits

Litter on streets, burning trash and open dumps—familiar sights in many developing countries—are symptoms of improper waste management. Beyond negatively impacting local communities and human health, poor waste management carries global implications: Methane emissions from decomposing waste and black carbon emissions from burning trash accelerate climate change. Abt is helping cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America improve their waste management, in some cases by evaluating alternative strategies and designing customized plans. It is also providing technical training to local government officials and waste management staff. Our expertise in both global health and climate-change impact allows us to tackle the challenge in a deep and comprehensive way.

CLIENT Kresge Foundation

PROJECT Community Based Adaptation

CLIENT Environmental Protection Agency

PROJECT Mitigating Climate Change via Solid Waste Management
A successful society is one where all citizens have access to sustainable economic security. Yet an individual’s capability to improve his or her social status is affected by myriad factors. Poverty limits the upward mobility of people around the world. So do education shortfalls, poor health, homelessness and, in many places, gender.

Abt Associates’ rigorous, data-driven work in the United States and around the world is expanding our knowledge about the pathways—and the obstacles—to economic well-being.

Whether working in West Africa to connect local grain dealers to modern market practices or testing whether motivational text messages will keep American high school seniors on the path to college, Abt looks at economic well-being from many perspectives to find robust solutions at unexpected crossroads.
United States

New Initiative to Reshape Housing Policy

Drawing on its deep expertise in housing research, policy and technical assistance, Abt has launched a path-breaking initiative to recast the way cities and counties develop local housing policies. The three-year undertaking, in partnership with the Furman Center at New York University, brings together practitioners and thought leaders to build a framework and provide a roadmap—the first ever—for developing effective local housing strategies. A core working group of 15 experienced practitioners from a spectrum of disciplines, informed by an advisory council, will systematically explore issues and build consensus.

Client: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Ford Foundation
Project: National Community of Practice on Local Housing Policy (CoP)

United States

Evaluating Career Pathways Programs in Health Care

Disadvantaged individuals often find it difficult to enter and progress in the labor force. Meanwhile, there are worker shortages in the health care field. Federal grant programs address these two challenges through training and support services that help low-income individuals move into health care careers. Abt is conducting a series of evaluations measuring the programs’ effectiveness. In a new round of assessments for 27 grants across 17 states, we are looking at how grantees recruit and place participants in training programs and how the participants fare in the workplace over time. A related evaluation examines how tribal organizations implement similar programs.

Client: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE)
Project: Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG2) Impact Evaluation

Our deep expertise in labor force research is being applied to a series of evaluations measuring the effectiveness of federal job-training programs in health care.
West Africans may rely on the same trade routes as their ancestors, but modern practices are expanding their markets. Abt-led workshops and grain exchanges—part of the West Africa Trade and Investment Hub project—are introducing signed contracts, quality assurance and other best practices for farmers. Abt is also forging links with industrial cereals processors, guiding women-managed businesses into the commercial pipeline and improving seed quality.

More than 120 cereal operators from nine countries underwent training in 2015, and 54 contracts, totaling $267,000, were signed. Private sector associations and government agencies are helping hub partners in 13 countries boost competitiveness, spur regional investment and strengthen food security.

CLIENT USAID
PROJECT West Africa Trade and Investment Hub

United States

Texting: A New Road to College Access?

Text, text, text. Teens thrive on technology and texting has become their preferred mode of communication—but can it be used as a tool to keep them on track with their college plans? Abt is testing the idea with students participating in the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP).

Our customized text messages to the students carry motivational strategies and information about important college deadlines. By the time the six-year project ends in 2018, it is projected that 16,000 students will have taken part. The work, part of a larger contract, builds on our large-scale national studies with the U.S. Department of Education.

CLIENT U.S. Department of Education
PROJECT Study of College Transition Messaging in GEAR UP
On March 15, 2016, six years after the sweeping act became law, Abt Associates brought together high-profile experts to discuss whether the ACA has fulfilled its mandate. The forum in Washington, D.C. was part of our ongoing Bold Thinkers Series, which connects experts, policymakers, practitioners and others for compelling conversations on the world’s most pressing challenges.

When the Bold Thinkers Series launched in January 2015, it recognized that inspiring solutions often emerge at the crossroads of disciplines. The speakers at the half-day ACA Bold Thinkers event brought deep expertise in health care policy, economics, health care markets and regulation.

In opening the forum, Terry Moore, Abt Associates’ vice president of U.S. health policy, characterized the ACA as the United States’ “most important anti-poverty program in a generation.”

The lively discussion touched on how the insurance exchanges have affected access to care and the state of the health system’s still-evolving transformation.

“The ACA has succeeded near the high end of any expectation on the part of the administration: 20 million people with insurance and a slowdown in
@AlisonThaung: 3 challenges facing healthcare and the #ACA: competition, information and cost growth #ACAFoward @abtassociates

@Paul_Anninos: Chernew—“the way to pay less (for healthcare) is to pay less.” True that! @abtassociates #BoldThinkers #acafoward

costs,” Joseph P. Newhouse, the John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management at Harvard University and a member of Abt’s board of directors, told the audience of more than 200. However, he noted that the political response to the reform has “gone as bad as possible.”

Other panelists touched on patient-centered insurance design, the ACA’s impact on Medicaid, alternative payment models, the use of big data to understand cost and quality of care, innovation—including the interoperability of health information technology—and the drivers of rising pharmaceutical prices. The peer-reviewed journal HealthAffairs co-sponsored the event.

This is a sample of articles published over the last year, highlighting only the Abt authors.

**Health**


**Social Policy**


Analysis of the National Science Foundation’s Discovery Research K-12 Projects on Mathematics and Science Education for English Learners—Linda Caswell and Alina Martinez. *Teachers College Record*, in press.
NOVEMBER 16, 2015

Road to Paris: What’s at Stake and How Do We Pay for It? Cities and the Role of Finance in Addressing Climate Change

“We can’t adapt our way to success. If emissions keep growing, we’re doomed,” Mark Tercek, CEO of The Nature Conservancy, told more than 150 city, state, national and international policymakers who convened to discuss the challenges in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and how to make the complex science behind climate change part of city-planning conversations and decisions.

In exploring innovative global actions being taken to build low-carbon, climate-resilient cities, the Washington, D.C., event focused on the evolving landscape for climate change finance, including the role of co-benefits in securing funds to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts. In her keynote address, Karen Florini, U.S. State Department deputy special envoy on climate change, said the world’s more vulnerable populations want “action, not ideology.”

SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

Is Housing Stability Essential for Family Well-Being? A Forum on the Implications of the Family Options Study

A cross-section of experts in housing, child and family welfare, and public health and policy gathered to consider the ways stable housing contributes to family well-being. Anchoring the discussion was Abt’s groundbreaking work on the HUD-funded Family Options study, which found that permanent housing subsidies, or vouchers, reduced the percent of families returning to homelessness by more than half.

The vouchers positively affected other measures, too, including family preservation and adult and child...

Climate Change


Climate Change Impacts on Freshwater Fish, Coral Reefs, and Related Ecosystem Services in the United States—Diana Lane, Russ Jones, David Mills, Cam Wobus and Heather Hosterman. *Climate Change*, 2015.


Environment


A Multiple Endpoint Analysis of the Effects of Chronic Exposure to Sediment Contaminated with Deepwater Horizon Oil on Juvenile Southern Flounder and Their Associated Microbiomes—Michelle Krasnec, Ryan Takeshita, Claire Lay, Ian Lipton and Jeff Morris. *Aquatic Toxicology*, 2015.


Methods


@HUDgov: On #FamilyOptions panel, Kathy O’Regan, “We should look to improve the voucher program. They are most powerful tool for homeless families”

well-being. Abt Principal Associate Jeffrey Lubell, director of Housing and Community Initiatives, told the audience of 100 that the study provides a framework for thinking about housing from a more global perspective. “To the extent that one can show that housing programs have an effect ... on the health of children and of parents, on educational outcomes, on labor outcomes, there is, therefore, a greater support for housing expenditures.”
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

“The world’s pressing environmental challenges require integrated, multidisciplinary thinking. Our expertise in environmental sciences, economics, policy analysis, engineering and complex data management and synthesis enables us to help our clients solve complex problems and contribute to a better world.”

—Joshua Lipton, Ph.D., Division Vice President, Josh_Lipton@abtassoc.com

Science, Engineering & Restoration | Economics | Policy & Management | Climate Change

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC POLICY

“We produce rigorous research and apply evidence-based technical assistance to address the profound issues that affect vulnerable Americans—food security, affordable housing, economic mobility and access to quality education.”

—Mary Joel Holin, Division Vice President, Mary_Holin@abtassoc.com

Education | Housing & Communities | Income Security & Workforce

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

“Wherever we work, we are committed to improving health outcomes—by designing and implementing evidence-based, innovative interventions, by strengthening institutions and organizations and by promoting policies that make health care accessible and affordable.”

—Diana R. Silimperi, M.D., Division Vice President, Diana_Silimperi@abtassoc.com

Family Planning/Reproductive Health | Health Systems Strengthening | Infectious Diseases & Global Health Security Maternal, Newborn & Child Health | Non-Communicable Diseases | Service Delivery
U.S. HEALTH

“Whether on the frontlines of the Zika outbreak or answering complex health policy questions, we deliver the cutting-edge, data-driven solutions our clients need to tackle the toughest health challenges of our day.”

—Christopher Spera, Ph.D., Division Vice President, Chris_Spera@abtassoc.com

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

“We see the interconnections in the big issues, from climate change to food security to economic opportunity. And we approach these challenges in a bold, multidisciplinary way, generating results that truly improve people’s lives.”

—Stephen Pelliccia, Division Vice President, Stephen_Pelliccia@abtassoc.com

AUSTRALIA

“Our expansion into Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Philippines, Vietnam and Myanmar will enable us to take an ecosystem approach to our work and maximize cross learning, accelerate innovation and achieve greater impact across all of our programs.”

—Jane Thomason, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Jane.Thomason@abtjta.com.au

ABT SRBI

“This is an exhilarating time to be in our field. Our unique ability to leverage new data science techniques and ever-changing technological advances in conjunction with traditional methodologies provides us with the deeper insights critical to improving the lives of people across the globe.”

—Michael Link, Ph.D., President & CEO, M.Link@srbi.com
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2016 Annual Review
FINANCIALLY STRONG

Gross Revenue (in millions)

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Worldwide Staff

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STRONG CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS

We are grateful for the trust of our many and diverse clients. It is through their support that Abt Associates is able to further its mission to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people worldwide.

Examples of our government, nonprofit, foundation and private-sector clients include:

- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- UK Department for International Development
- Australia Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Metropolitan Transit Authority
- Medtronic, Inc.
- Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

Ethics & Compliance

As part of Abt Associates’ effort to create and maintain a workplace of the highest professional standard, the company has established a confidential Ethics & Compliance Helpline, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The number is 888.928.4231. Employees wishing to report a concern can also use a confidential web-based tool, www.integrity-helpline.com/abtassoc.jsp.
Abt’s global staff of more than 2,500 is working in partnership with our clients in more than 50 countries. The following pages tell our story.

In Memoriam

Walter R. Stellwagen, the second president of Abt Associates, passed away peacefully on March 10 in Evergreen, Colorado following a long illness. He was 86.

Recognized as an outstanding researcher and statistician, Stellwagen was recruited by Clark Abt, president and founder of Abt Associates, in 1971 to lead the firm’s growing portfolio of housing policy experiments after an academic career that included a teaching position at UC Berkeley and positions as a tenured professor at Michigan State University and Pennsylvania State University.

Stellwagen was appointed Abt’s Chief Social Scientist in 1972. He succeeded Clark Abt as the second president of Abt Associates in 1986 and served until his retirement in 1992.

Contents

Letter from the Chairman of the Board and the President .......................... 1
The Abt Advantage ............................................................. 2
The Toughest Challenges ..................................................... 4
Why Abt? ................................................................. 8
Governance ........................................................................... 10
Research to Practice ............................................................ 14
Health Policy ................................................................. 18
Innovation .............................................................................. 22
Infectious Disease ............................................................ 24
Climate Change ................................................................. 28
Economic Well-Being .......................................................... 32
Bold Thinkers Series ........................................................... 36
Thought Leadership ............................................................ 37
Taking an Interconnected Approach ........................................... 40
Board of Directors .................................................................. 42
Company Officers .................................................................. 43
Financially Strong ............................................................... 44

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TACKLING THE WORLD’S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES

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