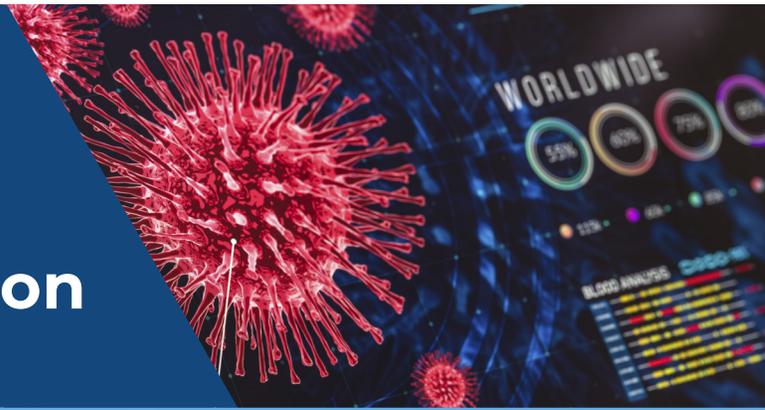# Westat Support for COVID-19 Research and Evaluation

Westat has more than 50 years of experience providing Federal, state, and local clients as well as academia and the commercial sector with innovative research services to help improve outcomes in health, education, economics, and social policy.

CAPABILITIES

Westat leverages a range of capabilities to develop customized solutions for clients:

- Data Collection & Surveys
- Health & Emergency Risk Communications
- Quantitative & Qualitative Evaluation
- Statistical Sciences
- Technical Assistance

EXPERTISE

Behavioral Health and Health Policy – Westat solutions, from nationwide behavioral health surveillance surveys to program-specific randomized controlled trial evaluations, help our country respond to behavioral health crises. Our expertise can be applied in assessing the impacts of social distancing and economic uncertainty on mental health and addiction, and evaluating current health policies as well as temporary changes impacted by COVID-19.

Clinical Trials – Westat is a leader in designing, managing, monitoring, and delivering advanced clinical trials and epidemiologic studies. We support clinical research in chronic and infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, tuberculosis, as well as emerging infectious diseases. We also support research in vaccine, gene therapy, monoclonal antibody, and chemotherapy interventions.

Education – Westat supports excellence in education by implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs; helping build capacity; and providing training and program-centered technical assistance. We can contribute to COVID-19 impact research by curating and sharing best practices on effective distance learning, examining equity issues presented by distance learning, and evaluating the effectiveness of education approaches adopted in response to COVID-19.

Public Health and Epidemiology – Westat uses an evidence-based approach to prevent and detect infectious and chronic diseases to improve health outcomes. Our public health staff have expertise in surveillance, program interventions, evaluation, research, and health and emergency risk communication. We can apply this expertise by tracking the impact of COVID-19 on specified groups, facilitating research involving the national blood supply, and evaluating the effectiveness of COVID-19 communications on awareness and behavior.

Social Policy and Economics – Westat helps agencies evaluate the impact of social policies in employment, criminal justice, homelessness and housing, and special populations. Our expertise can be applied by gathering and analyzing data on unemployment triggered by COVID-19, examining its impact on homeless populations, and researching impacts and responses within the criminal justice system.

RECENT WORK RELEVANT TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- **Investigating the Risk of Influenza-Associated Outcomes and Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Using Integrated Medical and Public Health Records (VISION Network) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) –** VISION is a virtual network of integrated medical and/or public health systems with a defined population and access to electronic health data. Network sites will work with Westat to extract and validate data elements according to the common protocol and data dictionary.

- **CDC Emergency Risk Communication Outcome Measures Development and Assessment (Emergency Communications Impact) –** Westat developed, operationalized, and evaluated an evidence-informed set of quantifiable measures to assess the quality, effectiveness, and impact of emergency risk communication messages addressed to targeted populations and the general public.

- **Comprehensive Center Network (CC Network) National Center for the U.S. Department of Education –** Westat is playing a key coordination role to help schools around the country adapt to remote learning. As the lead for the National Center, Westat provides connections across 19 regional centers and the Department to share information and best practices for providing educational instruction during the pandemic.

- **Clinical Support of New Treatment Trial for Severe COVID-19 for Ansun BioPharma –** Westat is supporting a study that is showing positive results for a treatment for severe COVID-19, DAS181. Westat quickly recruited and readied sites to participate in a clinical trial.

- **Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) –** NHLBI's Recipient Epidemiology and Donor Evaluation Study IV–Pediatric (REDS-IV-P) Data Coordinating Center, administered by Westat, will support new research to further our understanding of viruses and their pathogenesis, particularly amidst the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. This project is known as RESPONSE.

- **Wearable Sensor to Determine COVID-19 Symptoms for the University of California San Francisco –** Westat is supporting a rapid-turnaround COVID-19 study: TemPredict. The study uses a wearable sensor, the Oura Ring, to observe associations between physical metrics and the onset of COVID-19 symptoms. Westat is managing the antibody test kit delivery and blood sample self-collection for 10,000+ TemPredict participants.

- **Study Social and Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Partnership with the Stanford University School of Medicine –** Westat and the Stanford University School of Medicine are collaborating on a nationally representative survey on the social and economic impact of COVID-19. Survey results will help policymakers make accurate, real-time decisions that can help families and the economy.

- **COVID-19 Antibody Testing with the University of Louisville –** Westat is working with researchers at the University of Louisville to carry out COVID-19 active viral infection and antibody testing on a stratified random sample of adult residents in Louisville, Kentucky. The research will help establish the prevalence of infection in the community.