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# The Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) Impact Study: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Experimental Evaluation in Practice

Dr. Laura R. Peck

## Abstract

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families awarded Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG 1.0) to 32 organizations in 23 states. The purpose of the HPOG Program is to provide education and training to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals for occupations in the healthcare field that pay well and aim to meet local areas' healthcare sector labor shortages. To assess its effectiveness, an experimental evaluation design assigned eligible program applicants at random to a "treatment" group that could access the program or a "control" group that could not. Beyond the impact analysis, the evaluation also probed questions about what drove program impacts, using various strategies. This colloquium will discuss how the HPOG 1.0 impact study was designed/implemented and introduce attendees to various design and analysis choices used by investigators, in partnership with the government funder, to address research questions. Specific topics will include: experimental design, multi-armed experimental design, experimental impact analysis, planned variation, natural variation, endogenous subgroup analysis, evaluation in practice.

## Speaker



Dr. Laura R. Peck is a Principal Scientist at Abt Associates, with 25+ years of experience evaluating social welfare policies and programs, both in research and academic settings. A policy analyst by training, Dr. Peck specializes in innovative ways to estimate program impacts in experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations. Formerly a tenured professor at the Arizona State University School of Public Affairs, Dr. Peck engages in the design and analysis of experiments across subject areas including housing, education, income security and employment. She is well-published in journals such as Evaluation Review, the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, and the Policy Studies Journal; she currently serves as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Evaluation and Section Editor for AJE's Experimental Methodology Section. Her recent book—Experimental Evaluation Design for Program Improvement (SAGE, 2020)—has been heralded as a must-read by policymakers and practitioners alike. She is an active leader in multiple professional associations, including the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), the American Evaluation Association (AEA), and the Society for Research on Education Effectiveness (SREE). Dr. Peck earned her Ph.D. from the New York University Wagner School.

## Colloquium Access Information:

Friday, 3/10/2023, 11am ET

**In person:** Gentry 142

**Virtual:** <https://tinyurl.com/eval-Peck>

**Meeting number:** 2622 307 4530

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