Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN): Facilitating Rapid, Actionable Responses to Decision Makers' Questions

WHAT IS SEAN?

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) was launched by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine with support from the National Science Foundation to bring timely, actionable guidance to the critical and complex questions that decision makers face. SEAN collates and contextualizes the latest research and perspectives to address pressing societal issues ranging from emerging infectious diseases to extreme weather events worsened by climate change.

SEAN delivers the knowledge of the nation's leading experts in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences directly to decision makers and encourages the adoption of evidence-based policies by connecting decision makers to research, trends, and expert advice.

HOW SEAN WORKS

Guided by the National Academies' standards of quality, SEAN brings together teams of experts from an established body of social, behavioral, and economic researchers, as well as recent data and scientific expertise, to formulate answers for the most pressing challenges facing policy makers. Answers are presented in the form of concise written documents, called Rapid Expert Consultations, as well as interactive webpages, webinars, and policy briefs. In this way, SEAN provides the best information, based on rigorous science, in the most efficient and timely means possible.

SEAN ensures that the most urgent questions receive attention and the most reliable and useful insights are provided to decision makers and the public.

EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY SEAN INCLUDE:

· How can state and local leaders build confidence in new vaccines and promote uptake?

· How can decision makers effectively promote adaptation policies for extreme heat threats to vulnerable communities?

· How can education leaders support young people facing increased mental health challenges caused by periods of social disruption and isolation?

SEAN'S REACH AND IMPACT

To date, more than 28,700 readers from across the globe have downloaded SEAN's products. They are joined by more than 6,200 people who have attended SEAN's webinars, including decision makers from the state, local, tribal, and federal levels. As the nation recovers from COVID-19, SEAN will continue to provide actionable, evidence-based guidance to policy makers at all levels on pressing societal issues, such as economic inequality, climate change, workplace protections, substance abuse, mental health, and education, among others.

For more information about SEAN, its leadership, and to access SEAN guidance, visit nationalacademies.org/SEAN