

# Societal Experts Action Network Fall 2023 Symposium

Social Science for Crisis Preparedness

Symposium Event Page:

[https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/40432\\_10-2023\\_societal-experts-action-network-sean-2023-fall-symposium](https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/40432_10-2023_societal-experts-action-network-sean-2023-fall-symposium)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

---

## Purpose

- Provide an opportunity for direct interaction among SBE science researchers, state and local decision makers, and the organizations that support them.
- Illustrate how social science research has been applied to pandemic preparedness and how it can inform future planning efforts.
- Explore how applied SBE researchers and state and local decision makers can better respond to and inform each other's work.
- Identify key objectives for future public health crisis preparedness and planning.
- Elicit feedback and identify unanswered questions from SEAN stakeholders to inform future initiatives.

9:30am

*Registration Opens and Breakfast Available*

10:00am –10:15am

**Welcome**

10:15am –11:15am

### Panel 1: SBE Lessons on Preparedness from COVID-19

This panel discussion will focus on social, behavioral, and economic lessons learned on preparedness from COVID-19, with a focus on equity, social support structures, and the workforce. It will be followed by a moderated Q&A.

Speakers:

Valerie Reyna, Cornell University  
Itzhak Yanovitzky, Rutgers University  
Allison Arwady, Former Public Health Commissioner, Chicago, IL  
Rita Carreón, Vice President for Health, Unidos US

11:15am –11:30am

**Break/Networking**

11:30am –12:30pm

### Panel 2: Building Trust in Public Health

This panel discussion will focus on the implications of public health emergencies, such as COVID-19, for public trust and confidence in science and public health. It will seek to identify strategies for improved relations between public health and the public. It will be followed by a moderated Q&A.

Speakers:

Gillian SteelFisher, Harvard University  
Alec Tyson, Pew Research Center

Pramod Dwivedi, Health Director, Linn County, IA  
Susan Polan, Associate Executive Director, American Public Health Association

**12:30pm – 1:30pm**

**Lunch/Networking**

**1:30pm – 2:10pm**

**Table Top Discussion 1: SBE Aspects of Crisis Preparedness**

This breakout session will consider what the social, behavioral, and economic sciences can bring to public health crisis preparedness as well as what types of societal supports, relationships, and processes needs to be in place now to be prepared for future crises. The questions listed below each topic are based on questions SEAN received from intermediary organizations earlier this year. They represent areas of concern facing state and local decision makers nationwide.

Topics Include:

- Building and sustaining community relationships
- Public communication
- Societal/economic supports for preparedness
- Leveraging translational science

**2:10pm – 2:20pm**

**Report Back 1**

**2:20pm – 2:30pm**

**Break/Networking**

**2:30pm – 3:10pm**

**Table Top Discussion 2: Bolstering Public Health Infrastructure**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant turmoil for the public health sector. This breakout session will consider how public health can adapt and adopt what has been learned throughout the pandemic to better prepare and support the public health infrastructure for future crises. The questions listed below each topic are based on questions SEAN received from intermediary organizations earlier this year. They represent areas of concern facing state and local decision makers nationwide.

Topics Include:

- Supporting the public health workforce
- Social and behavioral aspects of preparedness plans
- Promoting national, state, and local collaboration
- Disease surveillance
- Public health data infrastructure

3:10pm – 3:20pm

Report Back 2

3:20pm – 3:30pm

Closing Remarks

3:45pm – 5:00pm

Closed Meeting of the SEAN Executive Committee