



THE
KEY

TO UNLOCKING HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA

Emerging Trends in HUD-Sponsored Research

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. George Carter, III, Survey Statistician, U.S. Census Bureau

Dr. George R. Carter, III, started working for the U.S. Census Bureau as a postdoctoral researcher in the Statistical Research Division (SRD). At SRD, he conducted cognitive pretesting research on three questionnaires that were used in the 2010 Census: the non-response followup questionnaire; the other living quarters validation questionnaire; and the enumeration at transitory locations questionnaire. He served as a representative to a working group on the 2010 group quarters enumeration and as a critical reviewer of the 2010 service-based enumeration assessment. As a postdoctoral researcher, he conducted research to understand sources of measurement error in questions from the American Community Survey and the American Housing Survey (AHS) used in indexes of housing and neighborhood quality.

Since 2008, Dr. Carter has worked as a survey statistician in the Census Bureau's AHS branch, conducting research and analysis tasks for HUD. He has served as the lead researcher on a project to cognitively pretest the Spanish translation of the AHS. He has conducted research on negative home equity using data from the AHS and the Survey of Income and Program Participation and research on the use of billing records in utility data collection using AHS data. He has also conducted analyses for HUD and the Census on worst case needs housing, subsidized housing, and elderly housing and has been involved in the data review of 2007, 2009, and 2011 AHS and questionnaire development of the 2009 and 2011 AHS. He earned a B.A. in sociology and philosophy from Haverford College and a M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Courtney Cronley, Assistant Professor of Social Work, University of Texas at Arlington

Dr. Courtney Cronley studies how homelessness and other social issues develop in communities over time and how community and organizational factors promote or hinder successful client outcomes and social development. She has worked as a postdoctoral associate at the Center of Alcohol Studies at Rutgers University. She received an Early Doctoral Research Grant and a Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant from HUD's Office of University Partnerships to complete her dissertation, titled *www.homeless.org/culture: A Cross-level Analysis of the Relationship Between Organizational Culture and Technology Use Among Homeless Service Providers*.

Dr. Cronley's research emerged from her experience helping to implement a homeless management information system (HMIS) among homeless service providers in Knox County, Tennessee. Observing variability in how service providers were using HMIS, she sought to identify how social factors may affect service effectiveness. Eventually, her study assessed organizational culture and HMIS use among 26 services providers in East Tennessee and across the state of Michigan. Most recently, she has analyzed how collective efficacy, residential mobility, and neighborhood racial composition affect adolescent deviant behaviors. Dr. Cronley's work has appeared in peer-reviewed academic journals and at national social work, criminology, and prevention science conferences. Dr. Cronley holds a Ph.D. in social work from the University of Tennessee.



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Ms. Anne Fletcher, Social Science Analyst, PD&R, HUD

Ms. Anne Fletcher helps to develop the Department's research agenda relating primarily to issues relating to homelessness, and plans and manages the contracted research projects in that policy area. Previously, she held a similar position at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), Office of Human Services Policy. She was the lead analyst within ASPE regarding policy and research issues related to homelessness. Ms. Fletcher graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. and then received an M.P.A. and M.S.W. from Columbia University.

Mr. Mark Johnston, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs, Office of Community Planning and Development, HUD

Mr. Mark Johnston is currently responsible for administering the Department's \$3.5 billion in assistance for persons who are homeless and low-income persons with HIV/AIDS. These funds are used to provide homeless prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive services.

Mr. Johnston has previously served in various capacities related to solving homelessness, including as HUD's deputy director and then director of the Office of Special Needs (Homeless) assistance programs. He also served at HUD as the senior advisor on homelessness and at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness as its deputy director. Mr. Johnston began his career when selected as a presidential management intern in 1983 and worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Nutrition Service on poverty and homeless related-issues. He received a B.A. in public policy from Brigham Young University and an M.A. in public affairs from Indiana University.



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Dr. Tatjana Meschede, Research Director, Heller School Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP), Brandeis University

Dr. Tatjana Meschede manages a large project on creating indicators of financial well-being and risk, which includes creating data tools documenting economic security and risk for the U.S. middle class and senior households, and analyses on asset security and the racial wealth gap. She is the lead author on many IASP publications, such as reports in the *Living Longer on Less* and *By a Thread* series, published in collaboration with the public policy research and advocacy organization Demos headquartered in New York City, and has presented on senior economic well-being with a specific focus on racial/ethnic disparities at many conferences and events.

In addition Dr. Meschede leads research and evaluation projects on homelessness, most recently an evaluation of the Housing First for Homeless Families program in Massachusetts' South Shore region. She has extensive experience in research on homelessness collaborating with Massachusetts' state departments and local communities, and is the author of numerous homeless reports and publications, such as *Bridges and Barriers to Housing for Chronically Homeless Street Dwellers*; *Accessing Housing: Exploring the Impact of Medical and Substance Abuse Services*; *The First Two Years of Housing First in Quincy, Massachusetts*; and *From Street Life to Housing: Consumer and Provider Perspectives on Service Delivery and Access to Housing*.

Dr. Meschede is on the faculty at the urban and environmental policy and planning department at Tufts University where she teaches introductory statistics, and the University of Massachusetts master's in public affairs program where she teaches social policy and case study design. She received her Ph.D. in public policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Mr. Todd Shenk, Special Assistant on Youth and Families to the Senior Advisor on Housing and Services, HUD

Mr. Todd Shenk is at HUD under a temporary IPA agreement with Casey Family Programs, the largest foundation in the country dedicated solely to providing, improving, and ultimately eliminating the need for foster care. He is helping HUD examine the intersection of housing and child welfare. In his role as a systems improvement advisor at Casey, Mr. Shenk works with child welfare jurisdictions around the country, helping to identify best and promising practices in achieving permanency and improving safety and well-being for children and youth. Prior to coming to Casey, he worked in Anchorage at Covenant House Alaska operating a transitional living program for homeless youth and later directing the agency's youth development program.

