



Source: Dana Hunt

CAREERS AND RESEARCH

Dana Hunt, PhD, Principal Scientist

In the study site video for this chapter, Dana Hunt discusses two of the many lessons she has learned about measurement in a decades-long career in social research. Hunt received her BA in sociology from Hood College in Pennsylvania and then earned her PhD in sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. After teaching at Hood for several years, she took an applied research position

at National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI) in New York City. NDRI's description on its website gives you an idea of what drew the attention of a talented young social scientist.

Founded in 1967, NDRI is a nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to advancing scientific knowledge in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, treatment, and recovery; HIV, AIDS, and HCV (hepatitis C virus); therapeutic communities; youth at risk; and related areas of public health, mental health, criminal justice, urban problems, prevention, and epidemiology.

Hunt moved from New York to the Boston area in 1990, where she is now a principal scientist at Abt Associates, Inc., in Cambridge. Abt's website description conveys the scope of the research projects the company directs.

Abt Associates applies scientific research, consulting, and technical assistance expertise on a wide range of issues in social, economic, and health policy; international development; clinical trials; and registries. One of the largest for-profit government and business research and consulting firms in the world, Abt Associates delivers practical, measurable, high-value-added results.

Two of Hunt's major research projects in recent years are the nationwide Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program for the Office of National Drug Control Policy and a study of prostitution and sex trafficking demand reduction for the National Institute of Justice.