

# The Health of Sociology: Statistical Fact Sheets, 2007

American Sociological Association, Research and Development Department

Sociology is a broad and diverse field bound by a fundamental insight that the social matters: our lives are affected not only by our individual characteristics but by our place in the social world, not only by natural forces but by their social dimension. Sociologists address new and recurrent social problems by investigating the social processes that bind and separate people as members of groups, networks, organizations, and institutions. The discipline uses both quantitative and qualitative research methods to answer questions about social processes and social forces and their impact for individuals and institutions. Sociology's mission is to advance scholarship, and to teach, apply, and disseminate the discipline's knowledge and methods in order to build bridges to policy makers and an informed public. This summary contains important facts about sociology as a profession and a discipline.

This statistical compendium is organized as a series of fact sheets formatted as individual PDF documents. Users may display and print any these fact sheets by clicking on the section titles listed below. The complete report, including the executive summary, is also available as a single PDF document. Readers can put together their own booklets on the health of the discipline by downloading selected fact sheets or by printing the complete PDF document.

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## Introduction