



**Katherine Ensor, PhD**  
Noah G. Harding Professor  
Statistics, Rice University

*Notable Collaborative Accomplishment Highlight: Houston  
Wastewater Surveillance Program*

Noah G. Harding Professor of Statistics, Rice University; Center for Computational Finance and Economic Systems, Rice University; In 2022 served as President, American Statistical Association Board of Directors

Houston Wastewater Epidemiology: A CDC National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) Center of Excellence

Katherine Ensor is a leading expert in applying computational and statistical analysis to track and forecast issues in public health, community informatics, environmental statistics, and computational finance.

In May 2020, she began establishing and implementing the statistical system for assessing the pertinent health assessment information from wastewater samples for SARS-CoV-2. Through Houston Wastewater Epidemiology, this scope has been expanded.

Ensor also led the creation and development of the Kinder Institute Urban Data Platform (UDP), a secure data repository and an analytical computing environment that provides research-ready urban data for the Greater Houston Area. The platform facilitates cross-disciplinary research and community studies to advance knowledge and information about Houston's people, government, and built environment. UDP studies have provided information on COVID-19, evictions, flooding impacts and more.

Ensor has been a faculty member of Rice's Department of Statistics for 35 years. Her research is highly cited and published in over 40 journal publications. In addition to developing statistical techniques to answer large-dimension problems in public health and environmental science, she specializes in the application of time-series data to analyze problems in finance. She is director of Rice's Center for Computational Finance and Economic Systems (CoFES).

Ensor is the 117th president of the American Statistical Association, a fellow of the American Statistical Association and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She served as chair of Rice's Department of Statistics from

1999 to 2013. She led the development of a joint Ph.D. program between Rice and MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the first professional master's program in statistics in the Houston area.

More information can be found at: <https://hou-wastewater-epi.org/about/kathy-ensor>