

**United States Senate Praises NIH Population Research Programs
Fiscal Year 2018 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education
Appropriations Report, #115-150
September 2017**

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Population Research--The NICHD Population Dynamics Branch fosters scientific understanding of changes in human health and development at the population level by supporting research and research training in demography, especially through the Population Dynamics Centers Research Infrastructure Program, which promotes efficient use of research funding, innovative research, data sharing, and the development of young scientists. The Branch also spurs scientific innovation in demographic, or population, research by wisely investing in large-scale longitudinal studies, including the Fragile Families and Child Well Being study and the National Survey of Family Growth, the latter which revealed the decline of unintended pregnancies in the United States. The Committee urges NICHD to sustain its investment in the full spectrum of population research activities to advance our understanding of how the demography and health of our Nation are fundamentally intertwined.

National Institute on Aging

Population Research--The Committee recognizes the Institute's leadership in making data, especially longitudinal data, available to the broader research community. NIA's investments in data infrastructure, such as the ground-breaking Health and Retirement Study [HRS], have spurred significant scientific research findings as well as important interagency and international collaborations. In fiscal year 2018, the Committee urges NIA and SSA to continue working jointly to support the HRS. The Committee also encourages the Institute to consider recommendations recently issued by an outside expert Committee regarding NIA's major surveys and to adopt innovations that will enhance data quality and accessibility. The Committee also urges NIA to pursue data collection and dissemination and research activities via its support of the prestigious Centers of Demography and Economics of Aging.

National Institutes of Health Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research

Population Health Training--The Committee acknowledges the growing understanding that the living systems that produce health and disease encompass health determinants ``from cells to society." The Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research should continue to work with NIH Institutes and Centers to encourage interdisciplinary population health science training to enhance our understanding of how social, cultural, genetic, biological, and environmental factors combine to influence outcomes in health and human development.