



## Population Association of America / Association of Population Centers

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# Key Federal Agencies Supporting Demographic Research

## Members of the Population Association of America

(www.popassoc.org) (PAA) and the Association of Population Centers (www.popcenters.org) (APC) are committed to studying and communicating the implications of population change. PAA and APC membership includes demographers, sociologists, economists, health scientists, and statisticians. Their diverse interests include; aging; adolescent health; childcare; immigration and migration; family formation and dissolution; fertility; minority health; morbidity and mortality; and population forecasting, and retirement.

Demographic, or population, researchers rely on funding from a number of federal agencies to conduct their research. In return, policymakers rely on the research and data produced by the federal agencies and analyzed by researchers. This fact sheet identifies key federal agencies that support demographic research directly and indirectly.

## National Institutes on Health (NIH)

NIH, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is the federal government's lead medical and behavioral research agency, and one of the world's foremost medical research institutions. The agency's mission is "science in pursuit of fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability."

NIH awards over 80 percent of its funding annually to support biomedical and behavioral and social research and research training at universities and other research facilities both in the U.S. and abroad. In addition, the agency conducts research on its main campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The NIH is the major source of discretionary, competitive federal funding for demographic research. Two Institutes in particular, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and

Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) are the primary funding sources for demographic research within the NIH.

NIH home page: [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)

NICHD Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch: [www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/cpr/dbs/](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/cpr/dbs/)

NIA Division of Behavioral and Social Research: [www.nia.nih.gov/ResearchInformation/ExtramuralPrograms/BehavioralAndSocialResearch/](http://www.nia.nih.gov/ResearchInformation/ExtramuralPrograms/BehavioralAndSocialResearch/)

## Census Bureau

The Census Bureau is the premiere source of information about the American people and the economy. The Bureau accomplishes its mission by collecting, tabulating and disseminating relevant and quality information in a timely manner. The Census Bureau also publishes numerous reports and produces statistical compendia, catalogues, guides, and directories to provide critical information to Congress, the Executive branch and the public. The Bureau is best known for conducting decennial censuses; however, the Census Bureau also conducts numerous surveys, including the American Community Survey, measuring changes in individual and household demographic and economic conditions of the nation.

Census Bureau home page: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

## The National Science Foundation (NSF)

According to its home page, NSF "is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense..." The agency supports approximately 20 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities. It is major source of federal assistance in many fields including: the social sciences, mathematics and computer science. NSF is comprised of seven separate directorates, including

the Social, Behavioral and Economic Directorate. This division funds not only competitively awarded individual research projects, but also several large data infrastructure projects important to the demographic research community, including the Panel Income Study of Income Dynamics, General Social Survey, and Census Bureau Research Data Centers.

**NSF home page:** [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)

### **The United States Agency for International Development**

USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. USAID supports long-term and equitable economic growth; agriculture and trade; global health; democracy; conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance. USAID provides assistance in four regions of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa; Asia and the Near East; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Europe and Eurasia. PAA/APC members study changes in international population dynamics. The Office of Population and Reproductive Health finances most of USAID-

supported demographic research—most notably the Demographic and Health Survey.

**USAID home page:** [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

### **National Center for Health Statistics**

NCHS, a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is the nation's principal source for health statistics and a unique public resource for health information. NCHS collects and disseminates the nation's official vital statistics.

The agency administers key surveys, including the National Health Interview Survey, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and the National Survey of Family Growth. In addition to data collection, NCHS documents the health status of the nation's population, identifies health problems, evaluates health programs and policies, and detects disparities in health status and use of health care by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic, region, and other population characteristics.

**NCHS home page:** [www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)