National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

- The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NICHD conducts and supports research related to children, fertility, pregnancy, growth, development, medical rehabilitation and the social and behavioral sciences.

- Within NICHD, the Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch (DBSB) supports research on the social, economic, and cultural implications of population change, particularly in the areas of fertility, mortality, and migration. The mission of DBSB is to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and populations by adding to knowledge about human population dynamics and their causes and consequences.

- To help fulfill its mission, DBSB supports the Population Research Infrastructure Program to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation in population research at our nation’s research universities. DBSB also supports large-scale studies, such as the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, and Fragile Families and Child Well-Being to study trends on issues such as family and household behavior, adolescent health and wellness, childcare, and the effects of poverty on children and families. Consistently, the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittees, in their annual funding reports, have encouraged NICHD to continue its strong support of these and other large-scale research studies.

- The House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittees fund the NICHD. The full House Appropriations Committee passed legislation providing $1.3 billion to NICHD for fiscal year 2008. This is $19 million more than the enacted budget for fiscal year 2007 and $9 million more than the administration’s budget.

- PAA and APC participate in Friends of NICHD, a coalition of over 100 organizations representing scientists, health professional and advocates for the health of infants, children, families and people with disabilities. For more information, go to http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/sfriendslist.html.

- For additional information about NICHD, go to http://www.nichd.nih.gov/.

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