

Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers

Office of Government and Public Affairs
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 722 • Silver Spring, MD 20910
www.populationassociation.org • www.popcenters.org
301.565.6710 x 1006 • @PAAGPAC



Significant Population Research Findings, 2016

Demography is the study of populations and how or why they change. Population scientists, including demographers, sociologists, economists, and statisticians, collect and analyze data on trends in births, deaths, family formation and separation; patterns of migration; health and disability; and racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity in populations. Major policy issues that researchers from this field focus on include population aging, fertility, marriage, adolescent health, immigration and migration, and population health, including health disparities.

Population scientists work in applied as well as academic research settings with discretionary grant support from federal funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, and with indirect support from the federal statistical agencies, including the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and National Center for Health Statistics.

In 2016, the field contributed numerous scientific findings, which could not only improve the health and well-being of individuals, but also inform policymakers and influence program and policy decisions. Here is a sampling of significant findings:

- **Evidence suggests that the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's may be declining in certain countries, despite rising prevalence of the disease worldwide due to aging populations.** Studies point to education levels and the impact of aggressive cardio-vascular prevention. <https://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2016/webprogram/Session11716.html>
- **U.S. Unintended Pregnancy Rate Falls to 30-Year Low; Declines Seen, But Disparities Remain--**between 2008 and 2011 the U.S. unintended pregnancy rate declined substantially from 54 unintended pregnancies per 1,000 women in 2008 to 45 for every 1,000 women aged 15–44 in 2011. However, despite overall declining rates, disparities still exist for poor women and women of color. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMSa1506575>
- **Negative association between father engagement and children's behavioral problems, independent of the mother's characteristics and her level of engagement.** Findings based on longitudinal data from Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Survey. http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-21635-5_8
- **Social relationships affect your physical health, including chronic disease and longevity.** Research derived from National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. <http://www.pnas.org/content/113/3/578.abstract>
- **Rationale for Inequalities in Women's Mortality Between U.S. States--** Inequalities in women's mortality between U.S. states are large and growing. In 2016, NIH-supported scientists found that social cohesion and economic conditions were responsible for most (62%) of the variation in women's mortality among states. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352827316300465>