Key Support for Population Research

The Association of Population Centers (APC) is an organization of over 40 universities and research groups whose mission is to foster collaborative demographic research and data sharing, translate basic population research for policymakers, and provide educational and training opportunities in population studies. » www.popcenters.org

The Population Association of America (PAA) is a professional organization of over 3,000 individual members who conduct research on the implications of population change. PAA members come from a range of disciplines, including demographers, economists, sociologists and statisticians. Their diverse interests include adolescent health, aging, childcare, family formation and dissolution, fertility, immigration and migration, minority health, disability, and mortality. » www.popassoc.org

The research conducted by these two groups is critical in informing policy, advancing science and, ultimately, improving the health and well-being of the U.S. population.

PAA/APC relies on a number of sources for its work. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides most of the discretionary, competitive federal funding for population research. Other federal support comes from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Researchers also rely on the important data produced by the Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

PAA/APC's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Priorities

NIH » Support, at a minimum, $32 billion, a 4.5 percent increase. As part of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, PAA and APC support this request above the $30.623 requested by the administration for NIH for FY 2013. Sustained growth in the NIH budget is imperative for ongoing behavioral, social and biomedical research at over 3,000 research institutions nationwide that will improve and save lives and train the next generation of U.S. scientists.

Census Bureau » Support the administration’s request of $970 million. This is a $28 million (3 percent) increase over last year’s appropriation. The increased funds will pay for collection of the Economic Census data, conduct the Census of Governments, almost double the funding for 2020 Census preparations.

NCHS » Support the administration’s request of $161.8 million, a $23 million (17 percent) increase over the agency’s FY 2012 appropriation. This funding increase will fully support NCHS’s ongoing seminal surveys (e.g., NHIS, NHANES and the National Health Care Surveys). Purchase vital statistics data for 12 months within the calendar year. Phase in full implementation of electronic death records for more timely and accurate vital statistics collection.

NSF » Support the administration’s request of $7.373 billion, $340 million (5 percent) above the 2012 appropriation, but $390 million below the FY 2012 request. This increase in core research funding will enable NSF to invest in science and engineering enterprise with potential economic, societal and educational benefits. Full funding for NSF is also critical to support the development of large-scale data sets.
BLS » **Reject proposed $6 million reduction to BLS for National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) program.** While PAA and APC support the administration’s overall request for BLS in FY 2013, $647 million (a 1.3 percent increase), we oppose the proposed $6 million cut to the NLS program within BLS. NLS data have been collected for 47 years and are essential to understanding how labor market experiences and outcomes evolve and differ.

BEA » **Support the administration’s request for $96.4 million,** a $3.9 million increase over the FY 2012 enacted level. The BEA seeks increased funds to implement the frequently requested Quarterly Gross Domestic Product by Industry survey, and to produce more useful data on how people get and spend their money, now called “decomposition of personal income.”

USAID » **Support the administration’s request for $642.7 million** for bilateral and multilateral family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) for FY 2013. This is an increase of $32.7 million — or 5 percent — over the FY 2012 final budget, which will restore previous funding cuts and enable USAID to ensure ongoing support to its research evaluation activities, including the Demographic and Health Surveys program.