

Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers

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Key Federal Agencies Supporting Population Science

Members of the Population Association of America (www.popassoc.org) (PAA) and the Association of Population Centers (APC) are committed to studying and communicating the implications of population change. PAA and APC membership includes demographers, economists, health scientists, sociologists and statisticians. Their diverse interests include aging, adolescent health, childcare, family formation and dissolution, fertility, immigration and migration, minority health, morbidity and mortality, 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. The following key federal agencies support demographic research directly and indirectly.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring labor market activity, working conditions and price changes in the economy. It is an independent statistical agency that collects, analyzes and disseminates essential economic information to support public and private decision-making. BLS administers the National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS), a set of surveys that gather information on the labor market activities and significant life events of men and women.

» BLS home page: www.bls.gov

Census Bureau

The Census Bureau is the premier 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. It publishes numerous reports and produces statistical compendia, catalogues, guides and directories to provide critical information to Congress, the executive branch and the public. The Census Bureau is best known for conducting decennial censuses; however, it also conducts numerous surveys, including the American Community Survey, measuring annual changes in individual and household demographics and economic conditions of the nation.

» Census Bureau home page: www.census.gov

National Center for Health Statistics

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 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 division 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 the health status and use of health care by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic, region, and other population characteristics.

» NCHS home page: www.cdc.gov/nchs

National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the federal government's lead scientific research agency and one of the world's foremost biomedical 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, 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
- » NICHD Population Dynamics Branch: www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/der/branches/pdb
- » NIA Division of Behavioral and Social Research: www.nia.nih.gov/research/dbsr
- » Office of Behavioral & Social Sciences Research (OBSSR): www.obssr.od.nih.gov

National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that promotes the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense. The agency funds approximately 20 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities. It is a major source of federal backing for social sciences. 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 Study of Income Dynamics, the General Social Survey and the Census Bureau Research Data Centers. » [NSF home page: www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)

United States Agency for International Development

The U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent federal agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the U.S. 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 USAID-supported demographic research—most notably the Demographic and Health Survey. » [USAID home page: www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

Institute of Education Sciences

IES is the independent and nonpartisan statistics, research, and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education charged with providing and disseminating rigorous scientific evidence on which to ground education policy and practice. This work contributes to a growing evidence base that informs effective and efficient educational practice and policy across the nation. Of particular interest to population scientists is the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which collects and disseminates critical data on a wide range of factors within education, including demographics, economics and geographic data. » [IES home page: www.ies.ed.gov](http://www.ies.ed.gov)

