

117th Congress Legislative Priorities

Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers

The [Population Association of America](#) (PAA) and Association of Population Centers (APC) are two affiliated organizations that together represent over 3,000 behavioral and social scientists, including demographers, sociologists, and economists, who conduct research on the causes and consequences of individual, societal, and environmental change, and the over 40 federally funded population research centers located at U.S. universities.

Population scientists conduct research on a diverse range of topics including, fertility, mortality, immigration, adolescent health, and health disparities. They compete for discretionary funding from federal scientific research agencies and rely on data produced by the nation's statistical agencies. to conduct their research and research training and to inform evidence-based policymaking in the public and private sectors.

Secure Funding for Federal Agencies that Support the Population Sciences

- **Secure robust funding** for federal agencies that directly and indirectly support the field of population research, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, and Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- As members of the broader behavioral and social science research (BSR) community, PAA and APC will **work to defend and expand federal investment in BSR**.
- COVID has presented new research opportunities for the field, but also adversely affected ongoing population research and vital survey and data collection activities. **We support additional funding for COVID-related population research as well as research relief.**

Support Infrastructure Underlying the Population Sciences

- **Defend the peer review processes** that the NIH and NSF use to identify and fund the most promising scientific research opportunities and grant applications.
- Urge Congress to **uphold the integrity of federal surveys**, such as the American Community Survey, American Time Use Survey, and National Health Interview Survey.
- Oppose legislative and administrative actions that would curtail or eliminate data access or adversely affect data quality. Likewise, our organizations will **support initiatives that could enhance data access and quality**, including the expansion of virtual data centers.
- Advocate for policies and programs that **support undergraduate and graduate students**, including proposals to expand research training and address racial and gender equity.