



The Population Association of America (PAA) and the Association of Population Centers (APC) are two affiliated organizations comprising over 3,000 behavioral and social scientists, including demographers, sociologists, and economists, who conduct research on the causes and consequences of population change and more than 40 federally funded population research centers nationwide. Their diverse research interests include aging, adolescent health, fertility, immigration and migration, health disparities, labor force dynamics, mortality, and population forecasting.

## **PAA/APC's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Priorities**

### **Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee**

**National Institutes of Health (NIH) » Support no less than \$49.4 billion.** While we await the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research FY 2023 funding recommendation, PAA and APC urge Congress to provide NIH with no less than \$49.4 billion-- the House-passed FY 2022 funding recommendation. This amount, which is an increase of \$6.5 billion or 15 percent over the FY 2021 enacted level, would allow for the agency's base budget to keep pace with the biomedical research and development price index (BRDPI) and allow meaningful growth above the 5% annual minimal rate of increase that the NIH stakeholder community supports. Strong growth above BRDPI for the NIH provides critical, sustained funding for additional research. NIH (especially the National Institute on Aging and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) is the primary source of discretionary competitive funding for population scientists, supporting grants, surveys, databases, training awards, centers, and networks.

**National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) » Support Friends of NCHS recommendation, \$210 million.** This request reflects an increase to NCHS's base budget of \$35 million from its FY 2021 appropriation. Since 2010, NCHS has lost 14% of its purchasing power. A funding increase in FY 2023 will not only maintain the agency's mission as the nation's principal health statistics agency, but also enable NCHS to devise new technologies and methodologies to address declining survey response rates, improve data quality, granularity, and timeliness, expand the National Health Interview Survey, and enhance vital statistics, particularly mortality data. Population scientists use NCHS data to analyze trends in fertility, mortality, and health outcomes and to advance understanding of social determinants of health.

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) » Support Friends of AHRQ recommendation, \$500 million.** This request, which is \$162 million more than the agency received in FY 2021, reflects an inflation adjustment from FY 2010 and the demonstrated needs of the ongoing pandemic. AHRQ funds research that focuses on the delivery of effective and efficient medical care, including prevention of dangerous and deadly medical errors. AHRQ is attracting attention as an increasingly important scholarly setting and potential source of grant support for population scientists. In addition, population scientists use data from the agency's health services research surveys and electronic health records to inform their own studies and research training activities.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) » Support Friends of BLS recommendation, \$814 million.** PAA and APC are grateful for the agency's recent funding increases. Congress should sustain its investments in the agency so that they can continue to rebuild from years of decreased funding and initiate further efforts to modernize surveys and enhance secure public access to BLS datasets. Additional funds would

enable BLS to sustain its plans for expanding a new, long overdue, cohort of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. Population scientists use BLS data to understand how work, unemployment, and retirement influence health and well-being across the lifespan.

**Institute of Education Science (IES) » Support Friends of IES recommendation, at least \$814.5 million.**

The Senate recommended a substantial (\$172 million) increase in FY 2022, to address years of funding stagnation and provide resources to help tackle the educational losses due to COVID-19. Located within the Department of Education, IES supports seminal research on myriad aspects of education, teaching and learning. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of IES, collects data and compiles statistics that inform research, instruction, evaluation, and planning decisions—all data used by population scientists working in applied and academic research sectors. Staffing reductions and attrition at NCES threaten the continuation of several important surveys and programs.

**Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee**

**Bureau of Justice Statistics » Support Office of Justice Programs Research and Statistics Coalition BJS and NIJ funding recommendations, \$60 million and \$50 million, respectively.** After years of declining budgets, PAA and APC are participating in the new Office of Justice Programs Research and Statistics Coalition to raise awareness about the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Both agencies are important sources of data and funding for population scientists conducting research on topics such as prisoner reentry, the social and environmental dynamics of health and crime, and the effects of incarceration across the lifespan. The coalition’s recommendations would provide BJS with a \$15 million increase over its FY 2021 funding level and NIJ with a \$13 million increase.

**Census Bureau » Support The Census Project recommendation, \$2 billion.** Robust funding in FY 2023 will enable the Bureau to strengthen and enhance the groundwork for the 2030 Census and to pursue other long overdue efforts to modernize, consolidate and integrate legacy survey frames, stabilize and improve the Survey of Income and Program Participation, and expand and enhance the American Community Survey, which has not occurred since 2011. Population scientists rely on decennial census data and other census surveys to understand changes in the nation’s demographic, housing, and socioeconomic characteristics and to inform their research and evaluation activities.

**National Science Foundation (NSF) » Support Coalition for National Science Funding recommendation, \$11 billion.** This amount, which is approximately \$1.4 billion above the House recommended FY 2022 funding level, would represent a 13% increase (assuming the House number prevails). NSF’s funding had for many years been relatively stagnant and not kept pace with major economic competitors, such as China, which have sharply increased their investment in basic research. NSF reauthorization bills that call for at least doubling of the NSF budget by 2026 are currently pending in conference committee. The request includes an investment to support fundamental science funded by the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Directorate, which has stagnated at level funding for several years. Although the SBE Directorate represents only between 4-5 percent of NSF’s total research budget, its awards are 60% of all federal research dollars for the social sciences.

**State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee**

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID) » Restore and increase funding for bilateral and multilateral family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) account.** PAA and APC urge support for funding that is sufficient to support the agency’s research activities, especially the Demographic and Health Surveys program, which collects and disseminates accurate and representative data on population, maternal and child health, HIV, preventative care, and nutrition through more than 400 surveys in over 90 countries. The FP/RH account has been level funded for 11 years.