



**Population Scientists Applaud Proposed Investments in Statistical & Research Agencies:
Call on Congress and the President to Enact Funding Increases and End Sequestration**

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The Population Association of America (www.populationassociation.org) and Association of Population Centers (www.popcenters.org) applaud key investments proposed in the president's recently released Fiscal Year 2016 budget. The associations, as members of NDD United and the Coalition for Health Funding, also support the president's efforts to replace sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

“Our members rely indirectly and directly on funding and support from a diverse range of federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Census Bureau and other federal statistical agencies to conduct their research and train the next generation of population scientists,” said PAA President Steven Ruggles. “We are pleased that the president's budget recognizes the importance of these agencies.”

In particular, the associations support the president's proposed \$1 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health, \$379 million increase for the National Science Foundation, and \$412 million increase for the Census Bureau, as it prepares for the next decennial census, Census 2020. The budget also proposes important investments in the federal statistical agencies, particularly the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and National Center for Health Statistics.

“Federal statistics are the lynchpin of the population sciences,” said APC President Lisa Berkman. “Recent budget shortfalls have eroded key surveys and even compelled the Census Bureau, for example, to eliminate a whole series of essential data, the American Community Survey's 3-year estimates. We hope the proposed increases in the president's budget for our agencies of interest will be seriously considered as the federal budget process proceeds.”

The Population Association of America (PAA) and Association of Population Centers (APC) are two affiliated organizations that together represent over 3,000 population scientists, including demographers, economists, sociologists and statisticians, and over 40 federally-funded population research centers nationwide.