



ASSOCIATION OF POPULATION CENTERS POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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National Institute of Aging

- The National Institute of Aging (NIA) is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The mission of the NIA is to improve the health and well being of older Americans through biomedical, social, behavioral and psychological research.
- Within NIA, the Behavioral and Social Research (BSR) program supports a large population aging program. Specifically, the Population and Social Processes Branch supports research and training on the experience and impact of changing social, demographic, economic, and health characteristics of the older population. BSR supports research on the consequences of particular health care organizations and the effects of other social institutions on the health, well-being, and functioning of people in the middle and later years.
- The BSR program supports 13 Demography of Aging Centers at leading universities and policy organizations around the United States. These centers foster research in demography, economics and epidemiology of aging and to promote use of important datasets. Consistently, the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittees have included language in their annual reports praising the centers and their contributions to the overall field of aging research.
- BSR supports several large, accessible datasets used extensively by the aging research community. These datasets include the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and National Long Term Care Survey (NLTCs). The HRS, now entering its 16th year, has tracked 27,000 people, and provides data on a number of issues, including the role families play in the provision of resources to needy elderly and the economic and health consequences of a spouse's death. NLTCs is responsible for identifying a key trend in the declining disability of older Americans. By using NLTCs data, investigators identified the declining rate of disability in older Americans first observed in the mid-1990s. In 2006, an analysis of the latest data found the prevalence of chronic disability among people 65 and older fell from 26.5 percent in 1982 to 19 percent in 2004/2005.
- The House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittees fund the NIA. The full House Appropriations

Committee committed \$1 billion for the fiscal year 2008 NIA budget. This is \$15 million more than the 2007 enacted budget and \$15 million more than the administration's budget for fiscal year 2008.

- PAA and APC participate in Friends of NIA, (FONIA), a coalition of more than 45 aging, disease, research and patient organization committed to the advancement of medical research affecting older Americans. For additional information go to <http://www.agingresearch.org/content/directory/detail/1114>
- For additional information about NIA, go to <http://www.nia.nih.gov/>.

Updated August 2007