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POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

January 13, 2025

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Dear Colleagues,

As the incoming President of the Association of Population Centers (APC), it is my pleasure to share a recap of the Population Association of America (PAA) and APC Government and Public Affairs Committee's (GPAC) 2024 activities and accomplishments. As you may know, APC officers represent the organization on GPAC. The GPAC mission is to educate policy makers about population research and the agencies and federal statistical systems that support our field's research and training activities.

Outgoing APC President Dr. Jennie Brand deserves tremendous credit for her leadership on GPAC when the following activities were accomplished. I thank her as well as former APC Secretary Dr. Liz Gershoff for their outstanding representation on GPAC. I also want to acknowledge Mary Jo H. Mitchell, PAA and APC's Director of Government and Public Affairs. In 2024, Mary Jo received the National Institute of Lobbying and Ethics' 2024 Top Lobbyist Award. Congratulations, Mary Jo!

I am looking forward to representing APC on the Committee. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding GPAC, please contact Mary Jo at [maryjo@popassoc.org](mailto:maryjo@popassoc.org).

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATION OF POPULATION CENTERS

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**Dr. Sarah A. Burgard**  
University of Michigan

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Bowling Green State University

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2025-2026 APC President  
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**Congressional Engagement**

[Secured language in Fiscal Year 2025 reports](#) issued by the Appropriations Committees in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate promoting population research activities and findings supported by the National Institute

on Aging (NIA) and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and encouraging the agencies to continue investing in the surveys, centers, and grant programs that support the field. The language also raised awareness about the implications of cuts to NICHD-supported large data collection activities.

- [Sponsored in-person advocacy day on Capitol Hill](#) in which representatives of APC and PAA from 12 states met with approximately 60 offices in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to promote federally funded population research activities and the funding needs of scientific and statistical agencies that directly and indirectly support the population sciences. During this event, all offices received copies of the 2024 APC Guide.
- Co-[Sponsored in-person congressional briefing](#) that was attended by almost 100 officials from congressional offices, federal agencies, and scientific and patient advocacy organizations. The briefing, ““Maternal Mortality in America: Understanding the Challenges and Crafting Population Based Solutions,”” was also cosponsored by the March of Dimes, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Society for Research in Child Development, American Statistical Association, and Population Reference Bureau.
- Co-[Sponsored a booth](#) at the Coalition for Life Sciences Congressional Science Fair and Reception featuring the National Health and Aging Trends Study. The event was attended by approximately 100 officials from congressional offices, federal agencies, and scientific and patient advocacy organizations.
- Supported two briefings organized by PAA for approximately 400 staff at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative, non-partisan agency that works for Congress. Scientists from three APC member organizations participated in briefings regarding artificial intelligence and demography and challenges facing U.S. rural populations
- Signed 24 letters in support of funding for agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Health Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and National Science Foundation, that directly and indirectly support the population sciences, as well as coalition letters on a variety of topics, including the Current Population Survey, the nomination of the next Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, and the American Community Survey.
- Co-signed [PAA-led organizational sign on letter opposing HR 7109](#), the Equal Representation Act, which would exclude undocumented individuals and/or noncitizens from the apportionment count and add a citizenship question to the decennial.

- [Submitted comments](#) to the House Energy and Commerce Committee in response to their proposed framework for reforming the National Institutes of Health.
- [Submitted comments](#) to bipartisan members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee regarding the next iteration of the Cures legislation.
- Submitted statements opposing the Fiscal Year 2025 Commerce, Science, Justice, and Labor Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bills approved by the House Appropriations Committee.

### **Federal Government Engagement**

- Dr. Susan Brown, APC Vice President, represented APC at in person meetings with NIH officials including the Directors of the NIA, NICHD, NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research, and NIH Office of Extramural Research to share examples of key population research activities and findings and encourage continued support of the population sciences.
- Promoted grassroots campaign to APC members that generated at least 14 letters from population scientists nationwide praising NICHD-funded large data collection activities. The campaign language helped secure funding for the next wave of the Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study.
- Joined PAA in nominating population scientists to serve on the following Federal agency advisory working groups and panels:
  - **Census Bureau**
    - Census Scientific Advisory Committee
    - ACS Disability Question Convening
    - ACS Data Users Steering Committee
    - Decennial Census Data Users Steering Committee
    - 2030 Census Advisory Committee
  - **National Institutes of Health**
    - Scientific Management Review Board
- Joined PAA in nominating experts to serve on a variety of studies, panels, workshops, and boards organized by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, including:
  - Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats
  - Standing Committee on Advancing Scientific Communication
  - Consensus Study—“Data Infrastructure for Measuring the Care Economy”

- Consensus Study—“ Strategies to Enhance Pediatric Health Research”
- Workshop—“ Approaches for Assessing and Communicating the Quality of National Statistics”
- Forum—“ Aging, Disability, and Independence”
- Consensus Study— “Global Forced Migration and U.S. Resettlement”
- Consensus Study—“ Ensuring the Quality, Credibility, and Relevance of U.S. Homeland Security Statistics”

### **Responses to Requests for Information and Comments**

Joined PAA in submitting comments in response to proposals and requests issued by Federal agencies, including:

- [American Community Survey Methods Panel Tests](#)
- [FY 2026-2030 NIA strategic directions](#)
- [Race and ethnicity data collection standards in American Community Survey](#)
- [FY 2026 –2030 NIH Strategic Plan, Sexual and Gender Minority Health Research](#)
- [NICHD Strategic Plan-September 27](#)

### **Coalition Participation**

- Mary Jo represents APC in numerous DC-based coalitions including Friends of NCHS; Friends of NICHD; Friends of NIA; Coalition for National Science Funding; The Census Project; Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA); Friends of IES; Friends of AHRQ; Friends of BLS; and International Family Planning Coalition.