



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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FEATURED NEWS

COSSA, SAGE Host *Why Social Science?* Congressional Briefing

COSSA and SAGE Publishing hosted a Congressional briefing on Wednesday, October 4 on [Social Science Solutions for Health, Public Safety, Computing, and Other National Priorities](#). The event featured authors of past [Why Social Science?](#) blog posts, including [Representative Daniel Lipinski \(D-IL\)](#), [Peter Harsha of the Computing Research Association](#), [Nancy La Vigne of The Urban Institute](#), and [William Riley of the National Institutes of Health](#). Panelists discussed the importance of social science applications to preventing cyberattacks, how social science can help identify the causes of health disparities, and how behavioral reinforcement or "nudges" can be incorporated into federal policy. A complete recording of the event is available on [COSSA's website](#).

COSSA IN ACTION

COSSA Praises Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking Report

On October 11, COSSA issued a [statement](#) on the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking's final report, released in September (see [COSSA's summary of the report's recommendations](#)). The statement reads:

"COSSA applauds the work of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking and commends its open, thorough process in producing its final report, *The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking*. The report represents the beginning of what we hope will be an ongoing, nonpartisan discussion on how the federal government can incentivize decision-making based on sound science while ensuring the careful stewardship of confidential information. The Commission's recommendations demonstrate that expanding the use of evidence and data collection for policymaking purposes is not incompatible with enhancing privacy protections and transparency.

"COSSA thanks the Commissioners and their staff for their hard work, as well as Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray both for their foresight in authoring the Commission's establishing legislation and their ongoing commitment to removing barriers to generating and using evidence to build strong public policy. While the recommendations in the report are an important start, many details on how to implement the vision set forth by the Commission remain to be determined. COSSA looks forward to working with its partners in Congress and at federal agencies on legislation and policy changes to ensure that the work of the Commission is brought to fruition."

SAGE Answers "Why Social Science?"



This week's *Why Social Science* guest post comes from Sara Miller McCune, Founder and Executive Chair of SAGE Publishing, who writes about how her personal and professional experiences have been shaped by research in the social sciences. Read it [here](#) and [subscribe](#).

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Senate Continues Working as To-Do List and Uncertainty Grows

The Senate hopes to pass a budget resolution for fiscal year (FY) 2018 this week while Congress' to-do list and uncertainty surrounding the FY 2018 spending bills continues to grow. With only 37 working days for the Senate and 28 working days for the House left in the year, Congress hopes to pass a budget resolution, overhaul the tax code, create a plan to fund the government after December 8, and strike a deal to raise the debt ceiling. The House narrowly passed a budget resolution in early October that proposed major cuts to entitlement programs and non-defense discretionary programs, which includes the federal basic science agencies.

Providing more uncertainty for the Senate is the absence of Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) this week as he recovers in Mississippi from a medical issue. Cochran is the chair of the Appropriations Committee and a reliable vote for the Senate's narrow Republican majority.

Keep up on the latest funding developments on the [COSSA website](#).

HHS May Delay Common Rule Implementation

On October 7, the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs [issued a notice](#) that it is reviewing a rule that would delay the implementation date for most of the changes to the Common Rule, the set of regulations governing research involving human participants, by one year, pushing the effective date for the changes from January 2018 to January 2019 (see [COSSA's analysis of the changes](#), which were announced in January of this year). The delay would still allow "the use of three burden-reducing provisions during the delay year," but there is little clarity on what those provisions are or when more details will be made available.

One hint may be found in a [letter](#) sent by four higher education associations in June that asked for a year-long delay in the compliance date for most of the changes to the regulations, while allowing burden-reducing provisions to move forward. The letter identified those provisions as "certain exclusions and exemptions, elimination of the continuing review requirement for certain types or stages of research and elimination of IRB [internal review board] review of grant applications." If the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) concurs with the recommendations in the letter, the provisions allowed to go into effect as originally scheduled may well include several of the changes that aim to make research involving human participants less burdensome for low-risk social and behavioral research.

NIH Provides Guidance on New Human Subjects, Clinical Trials Form

As [previously reported](#), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been working for the last few years to enhance its stewardship of and increase transparency over the clinical trials it funds. COSSA described the planned changes and their impact on the social science research community in a [Hot Topic](#) piece earlier this month. **All social and behavioral science researchers who have received NIH funding in the past, or who are looking to apply in the future, are strongly encouraged to review this information as your research may now fall under NIH's revised definition of a "clinical trial."**

NIH released a [blog post](#) and [short video](#) on October 11 that provides specific guidance on how to complete the new **PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trial Information form**, which will now be required for all grant applications submitted on or after the January 25, 2018 due dates. **All researchers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new form.**

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Academies Releases Interactive Guide on Opioid Epidemic

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has produced an [interactive guide](#) to research on the opioid epidemic that highlights the findings of its recent report, [Confronting Pain Management and the Opioid Epidemic](#). The guide breaks down trends in prescription opioid use and misuse, overdose deaths from prescription and illicit opioids, heroin use, and heroin addiction and overdose deaths. It also outlines the report's recommendations related to strategies for addressing the opioid epidemic, the illicit market, opioid approval and monitoring by the Food and Drug Administration, and research needs.

COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COSSA Welcomes the University of Pittsburgh

COSSA is pleased to welcome the [University of Pittsburgh](#) as its newest university member. The University of Pittsburgh ranks 25th in the nation in federal funding of R&D in the social and behavioral sciences and is one of largest recipients of federally sponsored R&D overall. COSSA's full membership list is available [here](#). Information on how to join can be found on the [COSSA website](#).

EVENTS CALENDAR

- [14th Annual AERA Brown Lecture in Education Research With Alfredo J. Artiles](#), October 19, 2017, Washington, DC
- [The Lunch @ DC: How Evidence Can Transform the Fight Against Poverty](#), October 19, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting](#), October 19-22, 2017, Dallas, TX
- [American Psychosomatic Society Mid-Year Meeting: Emotions in Social Relationships: Implications for Health and Disease](#), October 20-21, 2017, Berkeley, CA
- [Fall 2017 Henry and Bryna David Lecture - Child Support in the Age of Complex Families: It's Critical, but it's Broken](#), October 26, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Making Sure Kids Count in the Big Count: Census 2020](#), October 30, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Annual Meeting](#), November 1-4, 2017, Denver, CO
- [Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference](#), November 2-4, 2017, Chicago, IL
- [Social Science History Association Annual Meeting](#), November 2-5, Montreal, Canada
- [Evaluation 2017](#) (American Evaluation Association), November 6-11, 2017, Washington, DC
- [North American Regional Science Council Annual Meeting](#), November 8-12, 2017, Vancouver, Canada
- [History of Science Society Annual Meeting](#), November 9-12, Toronto, Canada
- [American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting](#), November 15-18, 2017, Philadelphia, PA
- [National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference](#), November 15-18, 2017, Orlando, FL
- [National Communication Association Annual Convention](#), November 16-19, 2017, Dallas, TX
- [Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Annual Convention](#), November 16-19, 2017, San Diego, CA
- [African Studies Association Annual Meeting](#), November 16-19, 2017, Chicago, IL
- [American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting](#), November 29-December 3, 2017, Washington, DC
- [Annual NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Festival](#), December 8, 2017, Bethesda, MD

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [events page](#). COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to jmilton@coffa.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

**COSSA's 2018 Science Policy Conference & Social Science Advocacy Day
will take place April 30-May 1, 2018 in Washington, DC!**

Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association
American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development

Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
African Studies Association
American Association of Geographers
American Council of Learned Societies
American Evaluation Association
American Historical Association
American Psychosomatic Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of Research Libraries
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
Council on Social Work Education
Economic History Association
History of Science Society
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Family Relations
North American Regional Science Council
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for Prevention Research
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Academy of Political and Social Science
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Social Science Research,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NORC at the University of Chicago
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University
Boston University
Brown University
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Fielding Graduate University
Florida State University
George Mason University
George Washington University, The
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Howard University
Indiana University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University, The
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Stanford University
Texas A&M University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Texas, Austin
University of Texas, San Antonio
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Virginia Tech
West Virginia University
Yale University

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for and widespread use of social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

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