



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

Analysis of the Senate FY 2021 Appropriations Bills for Federal Science Agencies | November 11, 2020

On November 10, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the text of all 12 fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations bills; this is for the fiscal year that officially began last month on October 1. As [previously reported](#), the House of Representatives passed 10 of its bills in July. The release this week of the Senate versions signals that lawmakers plan to negotiate final FY 2021 spending during this post-election lame duck session. Senators are not expected to take up the bills on the Senate floor; rather, their bills are meant as a jumping off point for negotiations with the House on a final deal.

As a reminder, the federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR) until December 11, leaving just four weeks to complete the bills—likely through a large omnibus package—or enact another CR.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020
National Institutes of Health	41684	46959.0*	43684.0	4.8%
National Science Foundation	8278.3	8548.3	8478.0	2.4%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	7919.2	7870.9	7824.6	-1.2%
Bureau of the Census	7558.3	1681.1	1799.7	-76.2%
DOD Basic Research (6.1)	2603.3	2621.5	2407.1	-7.5%
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1527.4	1475.3	1538.9	0.8%
Bureau of Labor Statistics	655.0	655.0	641.0	-2.1%
Institute of Education Sciences	623.5	630.5	635.5	1.9%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	338.0	343.0	256.7	-24.1%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	180.3	183.4	184.4	2.3%
Bureau of Economic Analysis	108.0	111.9	111.9	3.6%
Economic Research Service	84.8	86.7	85.7	1.1%
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	76.2	80.3	76.2	0.0%
Bureau of Justice Statistics	43.0	45.0	45.0	4.7%
National Institute of Justice	36.0	43.5	36.0	0.0%

* including \$5 billion in emergency funding

Now that the elections are behind us—despite President Trump’s unwillingness to concede and ongoing legal efforts—Members of Congress will use the balance of 2020 to finish work on FY 2021 spending, seek common ground on another COVID-19 relief package, and, for many, jockey for positions in the next Administration or committee leadership in the 117th Congress.

The following pages include details on the Senate FY 2021 funding bills for federal agencies and programs important to the social and behavioral science research community. The analysis is organized by appropriation bill:

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Stay tuned to [COSSA's coverage](#) for the latest developments.

I. Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Bill

The House Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations (LHHS) bill contains annual funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Education (ED), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), among other federal departments and agencies.

The [bill text](#) and accompanying [report](#) are available on the Appropriations Committee [website](#).

National Institutes of Health

The Senate bill includes a total of \$43.68 billion for NIH in FY 2021, an increase of \$2 billion or 4.8 percent over the FY 2020 enacted level. It is also \$3.3 billion *below* the House level; however, the House LHHS bill

included \$5 billion in emergency funding as part of COVID-19 relief. The Senate bill does not assume additional COVID-19 supplemental funding. Therefore, looking only at non-emergency, programmatic funding levels, the Senate bill would actually provide NIH with about \$1.7 billion more than the House-passed bill.

Similar to previous years, both the Senate and House bills reject attempts by the Trump Administration to create a new NIH institute by transferring the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into NIH (see the AHRQ section for details).

Bill language and the Committee report accompanying the bill provide specific funding allocations for several of NIH's major programs and initiatives, including:

- \$3.17 billion to the National Institute on Aging for **Alzheimer's disease research**.
- \$500 million for the **Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neuro-technologies (BRAIN) initiative**.
- \$250 million for the **HEAL Initiative** to address the opioid crisis.
- \$500 million for the **All of Us Precision Medicine Initiative**.

Below are details of notable provisions and language within the Senate bill and accompanying report.

Office of the NIH Director

Foreign Threats to Research. In light of ongoing concern about foreign threats to U.S. research infrastructure especially those related to recruitment programs sponsored by the Chinese government, the Senate report reiterates language from the FY 2020 bills directing NIH to notify Congress quarterly on the progress of their investigation into these matters. The explanatory statement also directs NIH to allocate no less than \$5 million for their partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of National Security (ONS) to continue this work and \$5 million to the Inspector General to continue its investigations.

Intellectual Property. Related to concerns around research security, the Senate report encourages NIH to work with the HHS Assistant Deputy Secretary for National Security to protect the intellectual property of NIH-funded research. Specifically, the Committee encourages NIH to:

“(1) improve the security of the peer review system; (2) augment the application process to ensure applicants properly identify funding received from foreign government entities; and (3) assist the HHS Inspector General and appropriate law enforcement agencies to identify and investigate potential violations of U.S. law and policy.”

Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research. Following up on last year's inclusion of first-time funding for firearm injury research at NIH, the FY 2021 Senate bill includes \$12.5 million for research on firearm injury and mortality prevention (in addition to another \$12.5 million for related research at the CDC). The House bill included \$25 million for this activity. The report recommends NIH “take a comprehensive approach to studying [the] underlying causes and evidence-based methods of prevention of injury, including crime prevention.” In addition, the explanatory statement states that:

“All grantees... will be required to fulfill requirements around open data, open code, pre-registration of research projects, and open access to research articles consistent with the National Science Foundation’s open science principles.”

NIH is directed to report back to Congress within 30 days on its plan for making awards, including steps to ensure that “ideologically and politically unbiased research projects” are supported.

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Psycho-social Distress Complications. The Senate report calls on NCI to include “measurement of psycho-social distress in cancer research as an integral piece of clinical treatment and follow up care,” and requests an update on research in this area when submitting the FY 2022 budget request. Similar language was included in the Senate’s FY 2020 report last year.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Strategic Plan. Similar to the House report, the Senate report criticizes NICHD’s [2020 strategic plan](#) for insufficient focus on “behavioral health, cognition, development of young children, language, learning differences, and school readiness.” Appropriators call on NICHD to support these areas of research *in addition* to those outlined in the strategic plan.

Impact of Technology and Digital Media on Children and Teens. The Senate report reiterates language originally included in the final FY 2020 appropriations bill for NIH encouraging the agency to prioritize research into the “cognitive, physical, and socio-economic repercussions of young people’s use of technologies including mobile devices, computers, and virtual reality tools, as well as their consumption of social-media content, video games, and television programming.”

Population Research. Similar to the House report, the Senate report includes language in the NICHD section commending the institute for its support of population research, longitudinal surveys, and research on social determinants of health. It also commends NICHD for its development of “low-cost data archiving, data curation, data curation, and data sharing strategies that both protect survey participants and provide unparalleled access for researchers,” and encourages the institute to work with NIH leadership on NIH-wide data sharing policies.

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Population Research. The Senate report includes identical language to the House urging NIA to maintain its support for population aging research, including its large-scale longitudinal studies, and consider “expanding research opportunities that will advance our understanding of the factors throughout the life course that contribute to the poor overall health of older people in America and the growing disparities in some parts of the country, as well as the disparities between the United States and other countries.”

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Housing Supports and Substance Use Treatment Outcomes and Costs. The Senate report encourages NIDA to support research on how stable housing impacts substance abuse treatment outcomes and costs, especially in the New England region.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House*	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
National Institutes of Health	41684	38693.63	46959.0	43684.0	4.8%	12.9%	7.5%
National Cancer Institute	6440.4	5881.2	6908.6	6722.7	4.4%	14.3%	2.8%
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	3625.3	3298.0	3888.7	3728.3	2.8%	13.0%	4.3%
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	477.7	434.6	512.3	493.2	3.3%	13.5%	3.9%
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	2114.3	1924.2	2268.6	2169.0	2.6%	12.7%	4.6%
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	2446.6	2245.1	2622.4	2526.2	3.3%	12.5%	3.8%
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	5876.2	5445.9	6391.8	6142.5	4.5%	12.8%	4.1%
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	2937.2	2672.1	3161.5	3047.0	3.7%	14.0%	3.8%
<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	1556.9	1416.4	1670.5	1657.6	6.5%	17.0%	0.8%
National Eye Institute	823.3	749.0	884.2	850.1	3.3%	13.5%	4.0%
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	802.6	730.1	861.1	828.7	3.3%	13.5%	3.9%
National Institute on Aging	3545.9	3225.8	3837.2	4015.3	13.2%	24.5%	-4.4%
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	624.9	568.5	670.5	645.2	3.3%	13.5%	3.9%
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	490.7	446.4	526.5	506.7	3.3%	13.5%	3.9%
National Institute of Mental Health	2043.0	1844.9	2186.5	2139.5	4.7%	16.0%	2.2%
National Institute on Drug Abuse	1457.7	1431.8	1568.7	1505.2	3.3%	5.1%	4.2%
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	546.7	497.3	585.2	564.5	3.3%	13.5%	3.7%
National Institute of Nursing Research	169.1	156.8	181.5	178.0	5.2%	13.5%	2.0%
National Human Genome Research Institute	604.1	550.1	650.6	623.9	3.3%	13.4%	4.3%
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	404.6	368.1	433.1	417.8	3.3%	13.5%	3.7%
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	335.8	305.5	365.3	391.7	16.7%	28.2%	-6.7%
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health	151.9	138.2	162.8	156.8	3.3%	13.5%	3.8%
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	832.9	787.7	893.6	890.0	6.9%	13.0%	0.4%
John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences	80.8	73.5	91.7	83.5	3.3%	13.5%	9.8%
National Library of Medicine	456.9	415.7	490.2	471.8	3.3%	13.5%	3.9%

* House funding levels include \$5 billion in emergency funding

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Although the Senate mirrors the House in rejecting the Administration’s repeated proposal to move the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) into the National Institutes of Health, the Senate bill proposes a significant decrease in funding for AHRQ of 25.1 percent or \$71.3 million compared to its FY 2020 appropriation, leaving it with \$256.7 million (the amount proposed by the Administration). In contrast, the House proposed \$343 million for the agency, a slight increase. This total does not include an expected \$98.4 million in mandatory transfers from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Trust Fund, which Congress reauthorized last year, which is used to translate and disseminate findings from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

The bill would slash funding across AHRQ’s various research portfolios with the biggest cuts levied against the Health Services Research, Data, and Dissemination portfolio (39.8%), the Prevention and Care Management portfolio (36.5%), and the Health Information Technology portfolio, which would be eliminated. It does provide \$600,000 for evaluating approaches to increase organ availability and streamline the organ transplantation process. Other provisions in the Committee’s report direct AHRQ to review evidence-based opioid prescription practices, incorporate psychosocial considerations in the implementation of Sec. 203 of the [STAR Act](#), encourage programs reaching rural and underserved populations, and potentially establish a Center for Primary Care Research.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	338.0	256.7	343.0	256.7	-24.1%	0.0%	33.6%
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes	196.7	131.3	199.9	131.2	-33.3%	-0.1%	52.3%
Patient Safety	72.3	59.9	74.3	65.9	-8.8%	10.0%	12.7%
Health Services Research, Data, and Dissemination	96.3	56.6	97.5	57.9	-39.8%	2.3%	68.3%
Health Information Technology	16.5	0.0	16.5	0.0	-100.0%	0.0%	-\$16.5m
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force	11.6	7.4	11.6	7.4	-36.5%	0.0%	57.4%
Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys	70.0	71.8	71.8	70.0	0.0%	-2.5%	2.6%

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Senate bill includes \$7.82 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), \$94.6 million below the FY 2020 enacted level. This total includes \$6.9 billion in discretionary funding, \$856.2 million in transfers from the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and \$60 million from the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund to support ending the HIV epidemic. This total does not include funding already appropriated through the *CARES Act* and other COVID-19 relief bills (see [COSSA’s analysis](#)).

The bill includes \$176.4 million for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), a \$2 million increase over its FY 2020 level and above the House’s proposed flat funding. This amount reflects the reallocation of an existing \$14 million transfer to the NCHS base budget (thus the FY 2021 figure is not comparable with prior years’ appropriations). The explanatory statement also includes text expressing broad support for NCHS and encouraging that it be included in the CDC’s broader modernization effort:

“National Center for Health Statistics. The Committee recognizes the essential role the National Center for Health Statistics plays in shaping our understanding of the health of the U.S. population through its production of timely, unbiased, and accurate statistics. The Committee encourages CDC to ensure the National Center for Health Statistics is a part of the long-term data modernization effort.”

The Senate bill includes continued funding for the Public Health Data Surveillance/IT Systems Modernization initiative mentioned above. This initiative was established with a \$50 million appropriation in FY 2020 and received a significant investment of \$500 million in multi-year funding through the CARES Act. Thus far, details on how these funds have been allocated have been sparse. The explanatory statement instructs the CDC to submit a multi-year spend plan for these activities describing how the resources will be utilized.

In addition, \$15 million is allocated to improve knowledge of infectious diseases associated with substance use disorders such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. Funding may be used to increase capacity for State and local health departments, expand syringe exchange programs, implement national screening guidelines, and collect data on infectious diseases related to opioid use.

The report also provides \$500,000 for the Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases to fund population-based research to define risk factors for antibiotic-resistant infections in community settings, following up on findings of the CDC’s Antibiotic Resistance Threats Report that some infections associated with healthcare settings being spread into communities.

Finally, the bill includes \$12.5 million for research on firearm injury and mortality prevention, matching the FY 2020 appropriation (but half of the House bill’s recommendation). Other notable language provides \$1 million to develop a database on suicide incidences among public safety officers, encourages CDC to prioritize data collection on domestic and sexual violence, and directs CDC to work with USAID (but not the WHO) to coordinate a global health security effort.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	7919.2	7000.9	7926.3	7824.6	-1.2%	11.8%	1.3%
HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention	1273.6	1552.6	1287.6	1278.6	0.4%	-17.6%	0.7%
Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Promotion	1239.9	813.3	1306.4	1249.7	0.8%	53.7%	4.5%
National Center for Health Statistics	174.4	169.0	174.4	176.4	1.1%	4.4%	-1.1%
Environmental Health	213.9	182.0	236.9	203.9	-4.7%	12.0%	16.2%
Injury Prevention and Control	677.4	730.2	694.9	678.4	0.1%	-7.1%	2.4%
Occupational Safety and Health	342.8	190.0	344.7	343.8	0.3%	80.9%	0.3%
Global Health	570.8	532.2	572.8	615.8	7.9%	15.7%	-7.0%

Department of Education

Within the Department of Education, the Senate bill would provide \$635.5 million for the **Institute of Education Sciences** (IES), the research, evaluation, and statistical agency of the Department of Education.

This amount represents a \$12 million increase in funding for IES compared to its FY 2020 enacted level; however, the entirety of this increase would be allocated to support the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the congressionally mandated assessment to measure educational achievement of American students. Every other IES account would receive flat funding compared to FY 2020. However, the Senate bill does reject the eliminations of the Regional Education Studies account and the Statewide Data Systems account included in the Administration’s FY 2021 budget request. The report also includes language encouraging IES to study how cost of living is reflected in total attendance costs at institutions of higher education and how family income affects participation in Federal student aid programs.

The bill proposes flat funding compared to FY 2020 for the **International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs**, which include Domestic Programs (also known as Title VI) and Overseas Programs (also known as Fulbright-Hays). Both programs have been consistently proposed for elimination in the Trump Administration’s annual budget requests.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request
Institute of Education Sciences	623.5	565.4	630.5	635.5	1.9%	12.4%
Research, Development, and Dissemination	195.9	195.9	197.9	195.9	0.0%	0.0%
Statistics	110.5	113.5	111.5	110.5	0.0%	-2.6%
Regional Educational Laboratories	56.0	0.0	57.0	56.0	0.0%	+\$56.0m
Research in Special Education	56.5	56.5	58.5	56.5	0.0%	0.0%
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	10.8	10.8	11.3	10.8	0.0%	0.2%
Assessment	160.7	188.7	160.7	172.7	7.5%	-8.5%
Statewide Data Systems	33.0	0.0	33.5	33.0	0.0%	+\$33.0m
International Education and Foreign Language Studies	76.2	0.0	80.3	76.2	0.0%	+\$76.2m
Domestic Programs (Title VI)	68.1	0.0	70.8	68.1	0.0%	+\$68.1m
Overseas Programs (Fulbright-Hays)	8.1	0.0	9.6	8.1	0.0%	+\$8.1m

Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Senate bill would provide the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with \$641 million, a \$14 million decrease from FY 2020 and the House’s proposed flat funding. The bill includes the \$13 million requested by the Administration to continue the relocation of BLS’s headquarters. The cut to BLS’s overall budget would come from its Productivity and Technology and Executive Direction and Staff Services accounts.

The explanatory statement expresses concern about BLS’s discontinuation of its media lock-up procedures, which offered a facility for reporters to prepare stories about embargoed economic indicators just prior to their release. BLS suspended media lock-ups in March due to the coronavirus pandemic and [made the suspension permanent](#) in May, on the grounds that “the media demonstrated their ability to produce informed and accurate articles within minutes of the electronic release to the BLS website despite not having early access to the data at all.” The explanatory statement suggests that the change would jeopardize the “timeliness and accuracy of the release of sensitive economic data” and instructs BLS to “work with stakeholders to find technological solutions to ensure the timely, accurate, and simultaneous distribution of economic data.”

Other provisions in the explanatory statement direct BLS to produce a contingent/alternative workforce supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) every two years and to continue its work to develop a new cohort of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY), building on funding provided in FY 2020.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request
Bureau of Labor Statistics	655.0	658.3	655.0	641.0	-2.1%	-2.6%
Labor Force Statistics	288.3	296.3	289.0	289.0	0.2%	-2.5%
Prices and Cost of Living	210.0	218.5	210.0	210.0	0.0%	-3.9%
Compensation and Working Conditions	83.5	84.0	83.5	83.5	0.0%	-0.6%
Productivity and Technology	11.2	11.3	10.5	10.5	-6.2%	-7.0%
Executive Direction and Staff Services	35.0	35.2	49.0	35.0	0.0%	-0.6%
Headquarters Relocation	27.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	-51.9%	0.0%

II. Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill

The House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations (CJS) bill contains annual funding for the National Science Foundation, Department of Justice (DOJ), and Census Bureau, among other federal departments and agencies.

The [bill text](#) and accompanying [report](#) are available on the Appropriations Committee [website](#).

National Science Foundation

The Senate CJS bill includes \$8.48 billion for NSF in FY 2021, which is \$200 million or 2.4 percent over FY 2020 but about \$70 million below the House-passed level.

The Senate version includes \$6.9 billion for the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account, which funds NSF’s six research directorates and integrative activities. This would represent a 2.5 percent increase over FY 2020. The Education and Human Resources (EHR) directorate would also increase by 2.5 percent.

The report accompanying the Senate bill includes several sections of relevant report language:

Support for Core Programs. Similar to last year, the report reaffirms the Committee’s commitment to basic research and existing NSF research activities:

“The Committee has provided significant funding for NSF above the total amount requested for R&RA in fiscal year 2021. Therefore, NSF shall maintain its core research at levels not less than those provided in fiscal year 2020. The Committee believes that the additional funds provided for fiscal year 2021 are more than adequate to continue basic research and allow NSF to position the United States to continue as a global science and engineering leader...”

This language ensures that existing research activities (e.g. NSF’s core programs) do not become a bank for investments in newer, cross-NSF initiatives.

Online Influence. The Senate report also includes language encouraging NSF to support research to “help counter foreign influence efforts from our adversaries on U.S. social media platforms designed to influence U.S. perspectives and undermine confidence in U.S. elections and institutions.” Continuing, the report states, “The Committee is especially supportive of research involving collaboration between scientists in disparate scientific fields to help identify and focus future research investments.”

Diversity and Inclusion. The report asks NSF to take steps to promote racial and cultural acceptance and diversity within its own workforce. The agency is directed to provide a report to Congress “analyzing the current racial and cultural makeup of the agency; planned efforts to recruit, retain, and advance applicants and employees critical to promoting greater racial and cultural diversity, and the outcomes of these efforts; and any additional steps and recommendations planned to promote greater racial and cultural acceptance and diversity throughout the NSF workforce, including the development and analysis of metrics to evaluate success.”

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
National Science Foundation	8278.3	7741.4	8548.3	8478.0	2.4%	9.5%	0.8%
Research and Related Activities	6737.2	6213.0	6967.1	6907.4	2.5%	11.2%	0.9%
Education and Human Resources	940.0	930.9	970.0	963.5	2.5%	3.5%	0.7%
Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction	243.2	229.8	243.2	239.8	-1.4%	4.4%	1.5%
Agency Operations and Award Management	336.9	345.6	345.6	345.0	2.4%	-0.2%	0.2%
National Science Board	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.5	0.0%	6.9%	0.0%
Office of the Inspector General	16.5	17.9	17.9	17.9	8.2%	0.0%	0.0%

National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics

The Senate bill would provide the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) with \$45 million, an increase of \$2 million above FY 2020, the same amount as included in the House bill. The explanatory statement includes a litany of provisions expressing concern over missing and delayed data and reporting at BJS, an issue COSSA [has been following closely](#) for some time. It includes the following general expression of concern:

“Timely BJS Reporting. The Committee recognizes the importance of the timely release of data on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. These data releases are critical for policymakers and researchers to understand efforts to combat crime and advance equality in the justice system. The Committee requests that BJS release data in a timely manner and in accordance with its publication calendar. The Committee also requests that BJS communicate any changes in the timing of data releases as soon as possible to users of its data.”

In addition, the explanatory statement includes language chastising the agency for failing to produce data mandated by the *Deaths in Custody Reporting Act* for 2017-2020 and instructing it to produce data from

the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) Survey on a more regular schedule. It also notes that though the agency was directed to establish a data set on police suicide in the FY 2020 spending bill, BJS has yet to report back on the progress of this activity. BJS is instructed to brief the Committee on the status of this collection and produce a public report and data analysis by the end of FY 2021.

The bill would provide flat funding of \$36 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), \$7.5 million below the House’s proposed allocation.

The explanatory statement directs NIJ to support research on a number of specific issues of interested to the committee, including school violence (\$1 million), reducing trauma for child pornography victims (\$1.5 million), identifying a national model for reducing incarceration rates for minor parole violations (\$5 million), unauthorized unmanned aircraft systems (\$2 million), human trafficking, interruption of health care coverage in pre-trial settings, data-driving policing and courts, correctional education evaluation, and gunshot detection technology.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Bureau of Justice Statistics	43.0	43.0	45.0	45.0	4.7%	4.7%	0.0%
National Institute of Justice	36.0	43.5	43.5	36.0	0.0%	-17.2%	20.8%

Census Bureau & Bureau of Economic Analysis

The Senate bill would provide the Census Bureau with a total of \$1.8 billion for FY 2021, \$118.6 million more than the House’s proposal and \$127.7 million more than the Administration’s request. The amount reflects the significant ramp down in funding following the completion of the 2020 Census, although some activities have continued into early FY 2021 due to COVID-19-related delays to the operation. The bill does not contain any provisions that would extend statutory deadlines for submitting reapportionment and redistricting data, which are currently being produced in a compressed timeframe [raising concerns about the accuracy of the resulting data](#).

The bill would provide \$285 million to the Bureau’s Current Surveys and Programs, a \$10 million increase compared to FY 2020 but \$3.4 million below the House’s proposal. The Periodic Censuses and Programs account, which includes the decennial census and the American Community Survey, would receive \$1.5 billion, \$122 million above the amount in the House bill.

The coronavirus pandemic caused massive unforeseen disruption to the 2020 Census operation, requiring the Bureau to use the majority of its carryover contingency funds to support the delay and resumption of field operations. Therefore, the Senate bill, like the House bill, rejects the Administration’s proposal to use leftover funds to support the relocation of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to the Census Bureau’s headquarters. In addition, the explanatory statement directs Census in coordination with the General Services Administration (GSA) to provide further details regarding the cost breakdown and timing of the move.

The Senate bill also includes \$111.9 million for the **Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)**, an increase of \$3.4 million above FY 2020 and the same amount as included in the House bill. The explanatory statement requests that BEA continue its work on developing income growth indicators.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Bureau of Economic Analysis	108.0	111.9	111.9	111.9	3.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Bureau of the Census	7558.3	1672.0	1681.1	1799.7	-76.2%	7.6%	-6.6%
Current Surveys and Programs	274.0	279.3	288.4	285.0	4.0%	2.1%	1.2%
Periodic Censuses and Programs	7284.3	1392.7	1392.7	1514.7	-79.2%	8.8%	-8.1%

III. Agriculture Appropriations Bill

The Senate Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill contains annual funding proposals for Department of Agriculture’s two statistical agencies, the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), as well as the Department’s primary extramural research agency, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), among other federal departments and agencies.

The [bill text](#) and accompanying [explanatory statement](#) are available on the Appropriations Committee [website](#).

Economic Research Service

The Senate bill includes \$85.7 million for the Economic Research Service (ERS), \$1 million below the House’s proposal but slightly above its FY 2020 enacted level of \$84.8 million. The explanatory statement contains a number of provisions directing ERS to expand its work related to particular areas of interest to the Committee, including the agricultural commodity exports and imports, feed costs, the organic industry, and coding rural tracts with difficult or mountainous terrain.

National Agricultural Statistics Service

The bill would provide the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) with \$184.4 million, \$1 million above the House bill and an increase of \$4.1 million above its FY 2020 appropriation. This amount includes \$46.3 million for the Census of Agriculture. The explanatory statement notes that the Committee does not accept the Administration’s proposed elimination or reduction of NASS’s ongoing activities.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The Senate bill includes \$1.539 billion in discretionary funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), an increase of \$11.5 million from FY 2020 and \$63.6 above the House’s proposal. Like the House bill, the Senate bill includes flat funding of \$259 million for Hatch Act State Agricultural Experiment Stations and \$435 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), NIFA’s competitive research grant program. The total for AFRI would be a \$10 million increase from FY 2020, though not the significant expansion the Administration proposed in its budget request.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Economic Research Service	84.8	62.1	86.7	85.7	1.1%	38.0%	1.2%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	180.3	177.5	183.4	184.4	2.3%	3.9%	-0.5%
Census of Agriculture	45.3	46.3	46.3	46.3	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1527.4	1590.8	1475.3	1538.9	0.8%	-3.3%	-4.1%
Hatch Act	259.0	243.2	259.0	259.0	0.0%	6.5%	0.0%
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	425.0	600.0	435.0	435.0	2.4%	-27.5%	0.0%

IV. Defense Appropriations Bill

The Senate Defense Appropriations Bill proposes annual funding levels for some of the federal government’s largest research accounts, including the Department of Defense’s Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget and the Defense Health Program, and funds the Defense-Wide and armed services research accounts responsible for the Department’s social science research program, the Minerva Research Initiative.

The [bill text](#) and accompanying [explanatory statement](#) are available on the Senate Appropriations Committee [website](#).

Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

The Department of Defense (DOD) is the largest contributor to federal research and development expenditures, the bulk of which are administered through the Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget. Science and technology activities under RDT&E are further divided into Basic Research (6.1), Applied Research (6.2), and Advanced Technology Development (6.3). The Senate bill would allocate \$104.1 billion to the RDT&E budget, constituting a decrease in \$351 million, over \$2.1 billion below the Administration’s budget request. This would also mean a reduction in RDT&E’s science and technology accounts, with a 7.5 percent decrease for Basic Research, a 1.1 percent decrease for Applied Research, and an 8.7 percent decrease for Advanced Technology Development.

Defense Health Program

Outside of the RDT&E account is the Defense Health Program, which has been a considerable source of funding for biomedical research, particularly cancer research. The Senate report calls for \$33.127 billion for the Defense Health Program – a level that is similar to the House bill’s allocation but would still indicate a 2.6 percent cut compared to the FY 2020 appropriation. As the Defense Health Program is typically a favorite of appropriators in Congress, a cut of this nature would be unusual.

Minerva Research Initiative

The Minerva Research Initiative (MRI) is a university-based social science research program within the Department of Defense that seeks to “improve DOD’s basic understanding of the social, cultural, behavioral, and political forces that shape regions of the world of strategic importance to the U.S.” The

MRI is not provided with a dedicated appropriation from Congress, but rather receives funds from the Navy, the Air Force, and the Basic Research Office (a Defense-Wide account).

As a result of the FY 2021 Defense-Wide Review led by then-Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, the Department recommended eliminating the Minerva Research Initiative in FY 2021. However, both the House and Senate passed versions of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with language preventing the elimination of Defense-Wide funding for Minerva, all but ensuring the program’s existence in FY 2021.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	Senate vs. FY 2020	Senate vs. Request	House vs. Senate
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E)	104431.2	106224.8	104348.1	104080.1	-0.34%	-2.0%	0.3%
Basic Research (6.1)	2603.3	2319.1	2621.5	2407.1	-7.54%	3.79%	8.9%
Applied Research (6.2)	6069.8	5391.1	5921.0	5997.7	-1.19%	11.25%	-1.3%
Advanced Technology Development (6.3)	7400.8	6331.4	7077.8	6753.9	-8.74%	6.67%	4.8%
Defense Health Program	34074.1	32690.4	33297.9	33187.1	-2.60%	1.52%	0.3%

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