

**STATEMENT OF
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Role of Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health

September 18, 2008
10:00am
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Today's hearing will delve into the public health implications of social science research and its application. Preventing disease and premature death is the underlying goal of the marriage between public health and the social sciences, and the impacts of this research are substantial.

The Social, Behavioral and Economics directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF) provides support for the fundamental research that underpins many of today's public health interventions. In addition to studying the science of the brain, NSF works to integrate the microscopic with the macroscopic actions of our day-to-day lives. In many ways, the social sciences face similar challenges as the physical sciences do in bringing an innovative idea from the laboratory to the marketplace. Humans are such dynamic characters, particularly when it comes to their own health, that the scientists before us must juggle many different variables. Conducting "gold standard" research projects with human subjects certainly poses unique challenges. Understanding the root causes of human behavior and emotion will assist lawmakers in crafting effective public health policy.

I appreciate the work of the Chairman and his staff on this series of hearings in the 110th Congress, which have educated Members and the public about how social science research is impacting human behavior as it relates to energy, national security, and, today, our health.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today about their research in the social sciences. Thank you for your attendance.