



THIRD CLASS  
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## FEDERAL SUPPORT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH RISING AT SLOWER PACE

- Social science research<sup>1</sup> support on the part of Federal agencies has more than doubled from FY 1966 to FY 1976, from \$166 million to \$356 million. The social science share of all Federal research support has risen in the ten-year period from 3.1 percent to 4.3 percent.
- The average annual growth rate for federally funded social science research during the 1966-76 decade is 7.9 percent, highest of any field of science.
- Most of the increase, however, occurred between 1966 and 1971—an average annual growth rate of 12.9 percent. The rate from 1972 to 1976 is 3.5 percent, lower than that of most other fields.
- Approximately one-fourth of the Federal support to the social sciences has been directed to basic research and three-fourths to applied research.
- In 1976, universities and colleges will perform an estimated 27 percent of the social science research sponsored by Federal agencies.
- The chief agency support has come from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), primarily in multidisciplinary areas related to education, in sociology, and in the economics of medical and social services. Next to HEW has

<sup>1</sup> Social science research is directed toward an understanding of the behavior of social institutions and groups and of individuals as members of a group. Social science research is part of the broader social studies universe that covers research and development in fields that are often beyond the scope of the social sciences definition used by the National Science Foundation—such fields, for example, as biological, clinical medical, and psychological sciences.

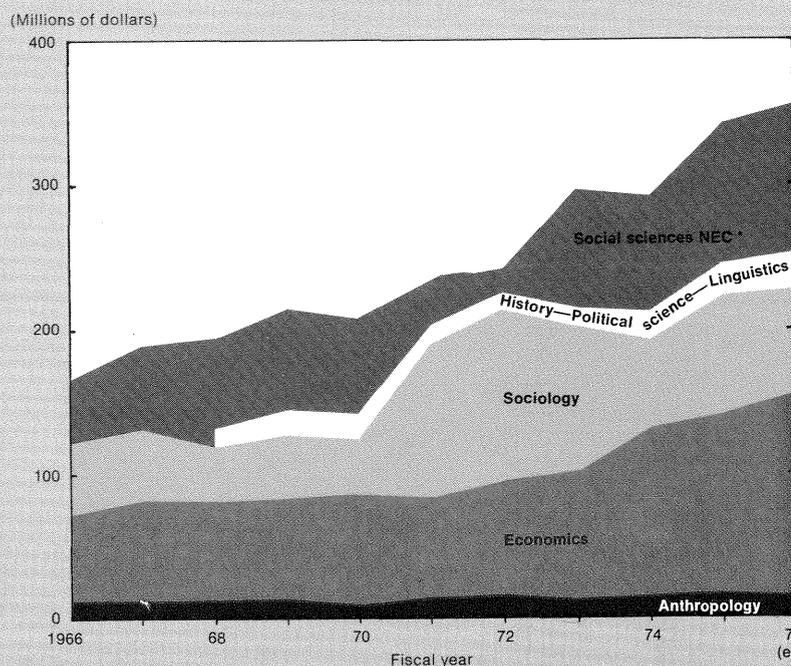
been the effort of the Department of Agriculture (USDA), almost entirely directed to research in economics.

- Until 1972 the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) played an important support role, largely for sociological research on poverty problems. A sharp rise in the sociology support curve in 1971 was occasioned by a strong increase in OEO support. OEO remained an important source for the next two years but after 1973 ceased to be a factor.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) has alternated with HEW for leadership in support of basic research in the social

sciences. (Since 1972, NSF has been a source for applied research as well.) Currently (1974-76) NSF is the third social science funding agency after HEW and USDA. Chief NSF support is allotted to work in multidisciplinary areas, in economics, and in anthropology.

- Federal agencies as a whole have given most support to economics in almost every year and will direct an estimated two-fifths of social science support to that field in 1976. Other social sciences not elsewhere classified will receive almost one-third and sociology approximately one-fifth of the support total.

### Federal Obligations for Social Science Research, 1966-76



\*Not elsewhere classified, covering multidisciplinary projects within the broad field and single-discipline projects for which a field has not been assigned, in this case such research areas as education, urban problems, and social alternatives.