



Carolina Population Center

In 1966, the Carolina Population Center was founded at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. To celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2006, a project was conducted to document the history of the Center. This transcript is an excerpt from an oral history interview.

Interviewee: Dick Udry

Interview conducted by: Grace Camblos

Interview date: December 5, 2005

Dick Udry was CPC Demographic Research Unit Director from 1973 – 1977, CPC Director from 1977 – 1992, and has been a CPC Fellow since 1992.

DU: What people thought was the way to get funds becomes sort of idiosyncratic, depending on what their backgrounds are. And since Freymann had worked with foundations, and particularly with the Ford Foundation, developing population programs, in the sense of government programs to affect population growth in developing countries, it was natural that the Center would also develop other activities such as that, which it did. So because he had a background in that, it was a natural thing for him to do. And he was a public health physician, and so it was also natural for the ideas to reflect more a public health orientation. But when other faculty members were encouraged to develop research programs by Freymann or other people, they naturally developed ideas from their own disciplines, and a history of grant getting then developed in the Center, but it wasn't necessarily the kind of grant getting that some other director might have developed. Because for example, the population program at NIH only just began about the time our Center began. So it didn't have its *own* history. And so many of us worked with the NICHD, who had the responsibility for the population research program. So I was sitting on committees of NICHD, helping decide the disposition of proposals for population research back as early as 1968. And then as I, as other people began to develop their own research programs, they had other sources of funds, for example, the National Science Foundation. And then even AID had money that it would put into the development of research proposals. I was never successful in getting one of them. I have a history having spent many years trying to get grants from AID for research programs, and I have a record of, I don't know how many times I tried, but however, like maybe I tried 20 times? And I failed at all of them.