The Community Influences on Health Behavior [CIHB] Study Section reviews applications concerned with how broad environmental contexts in which health, disease, health-related behavior, and normal development are embedded affect human health experiences. The applications may examine social, cultural, and other environmental factors and processes and their inter-relationships with a broad range of outcomes, including mental and physical health, illness and disorder, risk and protective behaviors and behavior change, health beliefs and attitudes, and normal development and functioning across the lifespan. Research approaches may include ethnographic and other qualitative methods; quantitative and mixed-method studies; cross-sectional, longitudinal, or cohort comparison designs; experimental and quasi-experimental designs; studies that focus on more than one period or transition of the life course; and international studies. Examples of topics that may be covered by CIHB include:

- Effects of social class and socioeconomic conditions; power relations; racial and ethnic identity; and cultural processes including acculturation on health related decisions and activities;
- Ideational beliefs about meaning of health and illness, and effect on health behavior; effects of media strategies on health behaviors and outcomes

- Health-supporting social organization including: networking; family structure, functioning and intergenerational processes; and institutional structures;
- Interaction of environmental factors with individual biopsychosocial factors, including gene-environment interactions on health experiences and individual and family health behaviors;
- Health effects of neighborhood and regional characteristics;
- Feasibility or efficacy studies of environmental change interventions;
- Efficacy studies of social, environmental, or policy change; analyses of policies and their implementation

The Study Sections with most closely related areas of similar science in rank order are:

Health Disparities and Equity Promotion [HDEP]
Social Sciences and Population Studies [SSPS]
Behavioral Genetics and Epidemiology [BGES]
Risk, Prevention and Intervention for Addictions Study Section [RPIA]
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