Science in the Policy Process

- Problem-solving is not always the goal of social science research.

- Gaining knowledge of the social world

- Understanding the social world

- **Basic** vs. **Applied** research

The Scientific Method

- Identify a problem
- Formulate a hypothesis
- Collect data
- Analyze data
- Draw conclusions
- Disseminate findings
- Replicate

- Build a theory
- Test the theory
- Modify the theory
- Repeat