

Scientific progress – and the nation’s health – depends on NIH funding growing reliably every year.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is America’s medical research agency and the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world. Investing in NIH allows us to:



Live longer, healthier, more productive lives.

Scientific breakthroughs generated by NIH-supported research are behind many of the gains the U.S. has enjoyed in health and longevity over the last century. Average life expectancy has nearly doubled since 1900, cancer deaths have dropped by 29 percent over 30 years, and HIV has been transformed from a death sentence into a manageable chronic disease. But **sustained progress requires sustained investment.**



Curb future healthcare spending.

There is no greater economic catalyst than saving, extending and improving lives. Consider that Alzheimer’s and related dementias will cost the nation \$305 billion in 2020 and, **without a breakthrough treatment or cure, that cost will grow to \$1.1 trillion in 2050.** As the baby boomer generation ages, the strain on our health care system, families and federal spending – particularly through Medicare and Medicaid – threatens to bankrupt the nation, making it more critical than ever to invest in medical research now.



Protect against international health threats.

NIH-funded research defends against bioterrorism, new and emerging diseases, flu and other pandemics. It is essential to protecting the nation against deadly outbreaks of diseases such as Covid-19, Zika and Ebola. **Most recently, NIH is conducting and supporting clinical research to prevent, treat and better understand COVID-19.**



Maintain global leadership.

The U.S. biomedical enterprise, led by the NIH, sets the standard for discovery and innovation excellence for the rest of the world. **But while global investments in science are increasing, the U.S. share is shrinking.** In 2000, nearly 40 cents of each dollar used for R&D was spent in the United States. By 2017, the U.S. portion was down to 25 cents. Soon, China will outspend the U.S. dollar for dollar in R&D.



71%

Since 1969, the stroke mortality rate has decreased by 71%, due in part to NIH-funded research on treatments and prevention.

2.9 M

The American Cancer Society estimates that 2.9 million lives were saved from 1991–2017 as a result of improvements in cancer treatment, detection, and prevention, many of which were funded and driven by NIH.

90%

NIH research informed the implementation of HIV testing and interventions leading to a more than 90% decrease in the number of U.S. children infected with HIV at birth.

475 K

In Fiscal Year 2019, NIH funding directly and indirectly supported more than 475,000 jobs nationwide.

\$81 B

NIH funded jobs, materials, and services generated roughly \$81 billion in new economic activity in 2019.

Sources: *Impact of NIH Research*, National Institutes of Health; *Cancer Facts and Figures 2020*, American Cancer Society; *2020 State-by-State Update*, United for Medical Research; *2020 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures*, Alzheimer’s Association; *The State of U.S. Science and Engineering 2020*, National Science Foundation.

Even with recent Congressional investments in NIH, less than one percent of the federal budget goes to medical research, and NIH's purchasing power remains below what it was in 2003. If funding had kept up with biomedical inflation, NIH would receive *billions* more than it does today – money that *could be* spent on life-saving research projects.

Further, since NIH can only afford to fund one in five research proposals sent by scientists across the country, *more* progress could be made against *more* diseases *faster* if NIH had the money to invest in a greater number of projects.

This is why we **ACT for NIH.**

Advisory Committee



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ACT for NIH is a non-partisan effort to make biomedical research funding a national priority.

The Act for NIH Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to educating policymakers and others about the importance of the federal government's role in funding biomedical research.

For more information, visit www.actfornih.org.