

Research supported by the NIH has helped reduce the chance that Americans will have a stroke, and dramatically improve their odds of recovering if they do. But stroke remains a leading cause of disability and death in the U.S. and new solutions are still badly needed.

Stroke is a disease that affects the arteries leading to the brain.

Stroke is a leading cause of disability and the **5th leading cause of death** in the U.S.



Each year, stroke **kills 140,000 Americans.** (1 out of every 20 deaths.)



Every 40 seconds someone has a stroke and **every four minutes** someone dies of stroke.



Stroke costs the U.S. **\$34 billion each year** in direct and indirect costs.

Over the next two decades, **the cost of treating strokes in the U.S. is expected to more than double.**

American Heart Association. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistical Update. (2020)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Stroke Facts. (2019)

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

Impact of NIH Research. National Institutes of Health. (2019)

NIH scientists are developing new and better **ways to help the brain repair itself after stroke.**

New advances in **brain imaging and rehabilitation** have shown that the brain can compensate for function lost as a result of stroke.

NIH-funded research aims to:

- Study the mechanisms of known stroke risk factors, such as high blood pressure
- Search for harder-to-detect risk factors, such as individual genetic variations
- Understand the process of brain damage that results from stroke
- Discover ways to protect brain cells from the effects of blood deprivation



The outlook for stroke patients, and those at risk, has improved considerably. But we cannot claim victory over stroke until the most vulnerable among us are able to benefit from scientific advances. Reliable funding for NIH can help reduce death rates and improve treatment.