

Scientific progress — and the nation's health — depends on NIH funding.

The **National Institutes of Health** (NIH) is America's premier 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 34 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 health care spending.



There is no greater economic catalyst than saving, extending, and improving lives. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias alone cost the nation \$360 billion in 2024 and, without a breakthrough treatment or cure, that cost will grow to nearly \$1 trillion by 2050. As the baby boomer generation ages, the strain of Alzheimer's and other diseases on the 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 and cures now.

Support the U.S. economy, jobs, and small businesses.



Every state and congressional district benefits from NIH-funded research. In FY 2024, NIH research funding supported more than 407,000 jobs and generated over \$94 billion in economic activity. NIH also sets aside over \$1.4 billion every year to specifically support small businesses and startups. NIH funding contributed to research for over 99 percent of FDA-approved drugs approved between 2010 and 2019. And, notably, every \$1 of research funding is estimated to generate \$2.56 in economic activity, a significant return on investment.

Maintain global leadership.



The U.S. biomedical enterprise, led by NIH, sets the standard for discovery and innovation 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. For example, in 2024, the Chinese government announced a \$52 billion investment in R&D. In contrast, the U.S. cut total R&D investment by 2.7% the same year. Robust NIH funding therefore remains essential for the U.S. to maintain global competitiveness.



NIH Successes

35% New cases of diagnosed diabetes in the U.S. decreased by 35% since a peak in 2009. This decline is due in part to NIH-supported research on diabetes prevention and treatment.

4.5 M The American Cancer Society estimates that 4.5 million lives were saved from 1991-2022 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.

Sources: American Cancer Society Annual Report 2025. American Cancer Society; 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Alzheimer's Association; The State of U.S. Science and Engineering 2020. National Science Foundation; NIH's Role in Sustaining the U.S. Economy 2025 Update. United for Medical Research; Small Business Funding. NIH SEED; Comparison of Research Spending on New Drug Approvals. JAMA Network; NIH's Role in Sustaining the U.S. Economy 2024 Update. United for Medical Research; China is Investing More in Science and Technology Than Ever Before. Here's Why That's a Problem. Science & Technology Action Committee; After 20-year increase, New Diabetes Cases Decline, CDC; Cancer Facts and Figures 2024. American Cancer Society.

Medical research accounts for *less than one percent* of the federal budget, and NIH's purchasing power remains below 2003 levels. If funding had kept up with biomedical inflation, NIH would have millions more today to invest in life-saving research.

Sadly, NIH can only fund one in five research proposals submitted by scientists nationwide. With increased funding, NIH could support more groundbreaking projects - which would help the U.S. make *more* progress against *more* diseases faster.

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

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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.
