

1969–2019



Funding for the National Institutes of Health



The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** is vital to improving health, strengthening the economy, and investigating scientific frontiers. The \$41.7 billion provided to NIH FY 2020 provided the agency with its strongest support since 2003. To continue building on the progress made possible by this increase, we urge Congress to appropriate **at least \$44.7 billion in FY 2021 to NIH**, supplemented by the release of the full funds allocated in the **21st Century Cures Act**.

Health and Discovery

NIH-supported research drives discovery that transforms medicine, improves treatments, and will one day lead to cures.

- NIH-funded basic (also called fundamental) science is unlocking the mysteries these brain-related disorders. Today's discoveries in the lab will pave the way for tomorrow's treatments.
- More than **1,000** neurological and neurodegenerative diseases,¹ such as schizophrenia, TBI, autism, and Parkinson's disease, affect the lives of the nearly **100 million Americans**.^{2,3}
- In the last five years of life, total healthcare spending for people with dementia was **57% percent greater** than costs associated with death from other diseases, including cancer and heart disease.

Economic Growth and Prosperity

NIH funding is an investment in our country's future and will reduce healthcare costs, support quality jobs, and increase economic activity.

- Neurological illnesses and mental disorders cost the U.S. more than **\$760 billion** a year.^{5,6} The only way to decrease these costs is to improve prevention strategies and treatments.
- Every dollar of research money from the NIH generates approximately **\$2.21 in economic output**.⁷
- Eighty-five percent of NIH's budget funds research located in every state, and it fuels almost **400,000 jobs** and **\$69 billion** in economic output nationwide.

The Future of the Scientific Enterprise

Many of today's discoveries were unimaginable less than a decade ago and budget cuts would threaten that progress. Without a continued commitment to research, who knows what medical advances will go undiscovered.

- The **substantial lag time between discovery and profitability** means that businesses need NIH research to explore fundamental science before they can translate discoveries into practical treatments.
- Without a strong workforce, we are jeopardizing the future of U.S. competitiveness. Young scientists are moving to other careers due to stagnant funding.
- The 2016 Global R&D Funding Forecast projects modest growth in U.S. R&D investments through 2028, and indicates that, if current trends hold, China will surpass the U.S. in total R&D spending by about 2026.¹³

NIH BY THE NUMBERS

\$41.7 billion

NIH FY 2020 budget

83 percent

of the NIH budget invested through local research institutions¹¹

60,078

FY 2019 awards supported by NIH (57,201 in FY2018)⁸

300,000

researchers at¹¹

2,500

research institutions are supported by NIH¹¹

68 percent

of Americans believe increasing NIH funding is critical.¹²

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Sources

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- ³ *The Numbers Count: Mental Disorders in America*. National Institute of Mental Health. 2010.
- ⁴ *Medical Research: Saving Lives, Reducing the Cost of Health Care, Powering the Economy*. Research!America. 2012.
- ⁵ *Brain Facts: A Primer on the Brain and Nervous System*. Society for Neuroscience. 2012.
- ⁶ *The Numbers Count: Mental Disorders in America*. National Institute of Mental Health. 2010.
- ⁷ *In Your Own Backyard: How NIH Funding Helps Your State's Economy*. Families USA. June 2008.
- ⁸ *NIH Awards by Location & Organization*. The National Institutes of Health.
- ⁹ Rockey, S. Age Distribution of NIH Principal Investigators and Medical School Faculty. February 2012.
- ¹⁰ Chakma, J., Sun, G., Steinberg, J.D., Sammut, S.M., Jaggi, R. *Asia's Ascent — Global Trends in Biomedical R&D Expenditures*. The New England Journal of Medicine. 370:1. January 2014.
- ¹¹ *HHS FY2020 Budget in Brief*. Health and Human Services. February 2020.
- ¹² *America Speaks: Poll Data Summary, Volume 16*. Research America. January 2016.
- ¹³ *2016 Global R&D Funding Forecast*. R&D. February 2016.

The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is a nonprofit membership organization of over 37,000 scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system. Visit SfN.org or email advocacy@sfn.org to learn more.