



# 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 \$45 billion provided to NIH FY 2022 provided the agency with a 45 percent increase over the past 7 years. To continue building on the progress made possible by this increase, we urge Congress to appropriate **at least \$49 billion in FY 2023 to NIH**, supplemented by the release of the full funds allocated in the **21<sup>st</sup> 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 mysteries with 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,<sup>1</sup> such as schizophrenia, TBI, autism, and Parkinson's disease, affect the lives of the nearly **100 million Americans**.<sup>2,3</sup>
- 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.<sup>5,6</sup> 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**.<sup>7</sup>
- 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 any budget cuts would threaten sustained progress. Without a continued commitment to research, who knows what medical advances will go undiscovered.

- The **substantial lag time between discovery and profitability** impacts business. Businesses need NIH research to explore fundamental science before they can translate these critical discoveries into applicable treatments.
- Without a strong workforce, we are jeopardizing the future of U.S. competitiveness. Young scientists are moving from research to other careers due to stagnant funding.
- The 2021 Global R&D Funding Forecast projected total R&D investments in the U.S. from 2020, for the first time, would be surpassed by China by over \$20 billion. The gap between China and U.S. R&D investment is expected to widen over the next several years<sup>13</sup>

## NIH BY THE NUMBERS

**\$45 billion**

NIH FY 2022 budget

**83 percent**

of the NIH budget invested through local research institutions<sup>11</sup>

**63,649**

FY 2021 awards supported by NIH<sup>8</sup>

**300,000**

researchers at NIH<sup>11</sup>

**2,500**

research institutions are supported by NIH<sup>11</sup>

**68 percent**

of Americans believe increasing NIH funding is critical.<sup>12</sup>



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## Sources

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- <sup>2</sup> *NINDS Overview*. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. February 2009.
- <sup>3</sup> *The Numbers Count: Mental Disorders in America*. National Institute of Mental Health. 2010.
- <sup>4</sup> *Medical Research: Saving Lives, Reducing the Cost of Health Care, Powering the Economy*. Research!America. 2012.
- <sup>5</sup> *Brain Facts: A Primer on the Brain and Nervous System*. Society for Neuroscience. 2012.
- <sup>6</sup> *The Numbers Count: Mental Disorders in America*. National Institute of Mental Health. 2010.
- <sup>7</sup> *In Your Own Backyard: How NIH Funding Helps Your State's Economy*. Families USA. June 2008.
- <sup>8</sup> *NIH Awards by Location & Organization*. The National Institutes of Health.
- <sup>9</sup> Rockey, S. Age Distribution of NIH Principal Investigators and Medical School Faculty. February 2012.
- <sup>10</sup> 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.
- <sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2021, April 7). *Our Knowledge*. National Institutes of Health.
- <sup>12</sup> *America Speaks: Poll Data Summary, Volume 16*. Research America. January 2016.
- <sup>13</sup> *2021 Global R&D Funding Forecast*. R&D. February 2021.

*The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is a nonprofit membership organization of around 30,000 scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system. Visit [SfN.org](http://SfN.org) or email [advocacy@sfn.org](mailto:advocacy@sfn.org) to learn more.*