

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 33 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 \$360 billion in 2024 and, **without a breakthrough treatment or cure, that cost will grow to nearly \$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. **During the pandemic, NIH conducted and supported research that helped produce life-saving vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostic tests in record time.**

### 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.



**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.

**4.1 M**

The American Cancer Society estimates that 4.1 million lives were saved from 1991—2021 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.

**412 K**

In Fiscal Year 2023, NIH funding supported more than 412,000 jobs nationwide.

**\$92.9 B**

NIH funded jobs, materials, and services generated more than \$92.9 billion in new economic activity in FY2023.

Sources: After 20-year increase, New Diabetes Cases Decline, CDC; Cancer Facts and Figures 2024, American Cancer Society; NIH's Role in Sustaining the U.S. Economy 2024 Update. United for Medical Research; 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Alzheimer's Association; The State of U.S. Science and Engineering 2020, National Science Foundation; The NIH-led research response to COVID-19. Science.

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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 *millions* 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**.

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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.actfor.nih.org](http://www.actfor.nih.org).