



Fast Facts: NIH

“The [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) is America’s medical research agency and the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world. NIH’s investments act as an economic multiplier in local economies, set the standard for innovation and discovery across the globe, and spark scientific advances that improve the understanding, treatment, and prevention of thousands of costly and devastating diseases.” – [ACT for NIH](#)

NIH-Funded Research Tackles Life-Threatening Diseases, Contributing to Remarkable Progress

- NIH-funded research has contributed significantly to a [33% drop](#) in cancer mortality since 1991; and to reducing deaths from heart disease by approximately [50%](#) since 1924.
- NIH-funded research led to the development of gene editing technologies that are [making it possible to treat](#) such deadly and debilitating genetic diseases as sickle cell anemia.
- At least one NIH-funded researcher has won a [Nobel prize every year since 1992](#), achieving such milestones as identifying the biological underpinnings of the aging process and discovering the Hepatitis C gene.

NIH Funding is at Work Across the Nation

- [NIH funding by state and congressional district](#)

The NIH Helps Strengthen the U.S. Economy

- In Fiscal Year 2023, NIH funding generated an estimated [\\$92.9 billion](#) in economic activity.
- NIH funding supports more than [412,000 U.S. jobs](#), including [300,000](#) researchers, at [more than 2,500 institutions](#) across all 50 states.
- More than 80% of the NIH budget goes toward the funding of research at the local level across the country, including nearly [50,000](#) competitive grants to research institutions and small businesses.
- Every \$1 invested in NIH-funded research generates [\\$2.5](#) in economic activity.
- The NIH Proof of Concept Network has led to the creation of [more than 100 startup companies](#) and more than \$1.6 billion in additional investment.
- NIH research spurs further discovery and development by our nation’s biomedical industry, which invests more than [\\$163 billion annually](#) in U.S.-based R&D, contributes more than [\\$69 billion to the GDP, and creates more than 7 million jobs in the U.S.](#)

There is Untapped Potential for Faster Medical Progress

- Currently the NIH is only able to fund [one in five](#) promising research proposals.
- Less than [1%](#) of the federal budget is spent on medical research.
- [95% of rare diseases](#) lack an FDA-approved treatment.



The American People Support Greater Research Investment

A majority of Americans, regardless of political affiliation:

- would be willing to [pay a dollar more in taxes each week](#) if they knew those dollars were going to medical and health research.
- think it is very important that [the U.S. is a global leader in research to improve health](#).
- agree it is important for the federal government [to fund basic scientific research](#).
- believe our nation [should devote more tax dollars](#) to science & technology.