POLICY AT-A-GLANCE

American Heart Association.

Protect and Increase Federal Funding of Heart Disease and Stroke Research

The American Heart Association's Position

- Federal investment in biomedical research has paid enormous dividends by boosting the U.S. economy and lowering death and disability rates for heart disease and stroke.
- More federal investment in heart disease and stroke research is needed to address the health challenges of an aging and increasingly diverse population, and to help the United States remain a vibrant force in the global economy.
- NIH funding of biomedical research must correlate with disease burden
- NIH has produced an outstanding legacy of discoveries that have improved health, saved lives, generated new knowledge and trained generations of scientists.

Fast Facts:

1. In the United States, heart disease and stroke are the first and fifth highest causes of death, respectively.[1]
2. By 2035, 45% of the United States' adult population will have some form of cardiovascular disease.[2]
3. By 2035, total cardiovascular disease-related costs will eclipse $1 trillion.[2]
4. For FY 2019, as a result of tireless advocacy from the AHA and other public health organizations, the NIH received a $2 billion budgetary increase from Congress.
5. Most of the NIH's $33 billion annual budget goes to nearly 300,000 scientists at over 2,500 research institutions in every state.[3]
6. In 2017, NIH funding supported more than 400,000 jobs and generated nearly $70 billion in economic activity.[4]
7. For every $1 the NIH invests in cardiovascular disease research, the return on investment is $30.[5]
8. The NIH currently invests a highly disproportionate 4% of its budget on heart disease, and only 1% on stroke.[6]

- NIH research has made critical advances in genomics and proteomics, leading to the discovery of many risk factors for heart disease and stroke.
- NIH funding creates a robust generation of new and young researchers who otherwise would have limited opportunities for research funding.
- Cuts in NIH funding leave patients vulnerable by drastically reducing the amount of potentially life-saving research that would otherwise be conducted.
- Cuts in NIH funding directly threaten the United States' leadership in academic-driven research.

For more information and resources from the American Heart Association's policy research department on stroke registries please visit: https://www.heart.org/en/about-us/policy-research.

[1] Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Deaths: Final Data for 2016. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_05.pdf. Accessed on January 7, 2019.
[2] Khavjou, O, et al. (2017). Projections of Cardiovascular Disease and Costs: 2015-2035. Unpublished RTI Report on behalf of the AHA.
[3] NIH Office of Budget, FY18 Budget Executive Summary, page 19: https://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/pdfs/FY18/Executive%20Summary.pdf
[4] http://www.unitedformedicalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/UMR_ProsperityReport_071913a.pdf
[5] Cutler, DM, et al. (2003). The return to biomedical research: Treatment and behavioral effects. Measuring the Gains from Medical Research: An Economic Approach, 110-62.
[6] NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools. Estimates of Funding for Various Research, Condition, and Disease Categories (RCDC). https://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx

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