

9.2 million readers reached through Public Health Thank You Day campaign

New issue brief on premature births, developed in partnership with the March of Dimes

State-by-state federal research investment figures highlighted in our interactive map



JANUARY 2006

The Research

A D V O C A T E

Bringing Research Closer to Home

NIH Sees Smallest Increase in 30+ Years CDC Budget Cut by 4%, AHRQ Funding Remains Flat

Working well past its targeted recess date, the Senate on December 21 adopted the conference report for H.R. 3010, the bill to fund the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies. The bill approved by the House and Senate

provides the National Institutes of Health with an increase of just 0.5%, or \$153 million, for an FY 2006 appropriation of \$28.6 billion. This funding increase is the lowest received by the NIH in more than 30 years.

The Senate also adopted the confer-

ence agreement on the Dept. of Defense spending bill (H.R. 2863), which includes a 1% across the board cut in all discretionary programs except for those under the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. *This cut translates into a \$280*

Continued on page 4

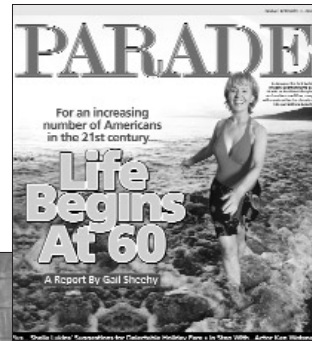
Most Americans Hope to Live Past 85 Better Health Coverage Tops Public's Wish List

Most Americans (58%) hope to live past age 85, although only 43% think they actually will, and 62% say older persons face discrimination in our society.

These are among the findings about Americans' views on aging from the latest PARADE/Research!America Health Poll, featured in *PARADE* magazine's December 11 cover story.

The poll found that nearly half of Americans (49%) think 80-year-olds in the year 2025 will be much healthier than today but still very limited in their

abilities compared to younger people. Americans say that physical limitations, more



than anything else, make them think of someone as old.

The *PARADE* feature is part of its Live Longer, Better, Wiser™ series, which will explore various aspects of aging this year. *PARADE* Editor-

in-Chief **Lee Kravitz** discussed Americans' attitudes toward aging as revealed in the poll, in context of the first Baby Boomers turning 60 this year, in an interview on NBC's "Today" show.

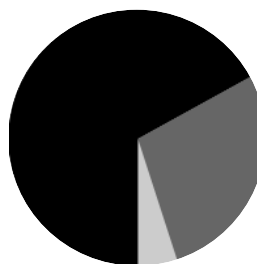
Continued on page 3

AMERICA Speaks

Would you be willing to pay \$1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all the money would be spent for additional medical research, or not?

SOURCE: NATIONAL SURVEY, 2005
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

Americans Willing to Pay More for Medical Research



Yes	67%
No	28%
Don't know	5%

New ON THE Web

www.researchamerica.org

State-by-State Funding Map

Our new interactive map shows federal research funding by state, plus state rankings, at www.researchamerica.org/outreach/funding.asp.

Americans' Attitudes on Aging

See what the "Today" show and "Good Morning America" are talking about—read findings from our latest poll with PARADE magazine, at www.researchamerica.org.

New State Poll: Hawaii

Read results from our newest state poll, announced in conjunction with the Pacific Rim Summit on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy, organized by BIO, January 11-13 in Honolulu, at www.researchamerica.org.

The Research ADVOCATE



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About Research!America

Research!America is a 501(c)(3), membership-supported, public education and advocacy alliance founded in 1989. Our 500 member institutions, organizations and businesses represent the voices of more than 125 million Americans who want medical and health research—including research to prevent disease, disability and injury and to promote health—to be a much higher national priority. Research!America's public opinion surveys and advocacy programs and publications are designed to reach the public and decision makers with messages that support a strong and vibrant research enterprise.

Research!America
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH

2 RESEARCH!AMERICA

Members T A K E Action



David K. Stevenson,
MD, President

American Pediatric Society

The American Pediatric Society is the oldest professional society devoted to the care of children in the United States. It was founded in the late 1800s when pediatrics was just emerging as a scientific discipline.

The American Pediatric Society (APS) works to advance the study of children and the promotion of health in childhood, and for the promotion of pediatric education and research. It is closely aligned with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in promoting appropriate care of children and advocating for federal support of prevention and medical research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

"Our public affairs and advocacy activities are managed through our Washington coordinator at the AAP's Washington office, **Karen Hendricks, JD**, who formerly chaired Research!America's Public Affairs Committee," said **David K. Stevenson, MD**, APS president. "We also work closely with other advocacy groups—the APS has expanded its advocacy mission in partnership with the Society of Pediatric Research and the Association of Medical School Department Chairs through the joint Public Policy Council, headed by Research!America Emeritus Director **Myron Genel, MD**."

APS members are physicians who are involved in teaching, research and patient care at the major academic health centers and children's hospitals in the United States and Canada.

"We communicate with our members on matters affecting advocacy and public policy, and we frequently use Research!America's public opinion poll data to reinforce our pediatric advocacy agenda," Stevenson said. "We've also

collaborated on several efforts in recent years to increase funding for the NIH."

The APS and its members are dedicated to advancing knowledge on the prevention and treatment of disorders affecting infants, children and adolescents and promoting health throughout childhood. Among its members, a substantial number focus on research to prevent premature birth and improve treatment of disorders arising from prematurity.

"We support the emphasis of the March of Dimes and other organizations on more research to prevent premature births," he said.

Stevenson and the APS wants more NIH resources assigned to address the problem of prematurity in the larger context of ensuring that federal funding is increased, in an effort to find ways to improve the health care of all children, including the increasing fraction of at-risk children.

"The prematurity rate has increased over the last two and a half decades for a variety of reasons. As the March of Dimes has pointed out, the annual cost of inpatient care alone exceeds \$10 billion a year, and many of the issues related to prematurity extend beyond the inpatient setting into the school years, and include health care disparities, access to care, and public policy.

"More public attention around this problem through research advocacy, professional education and community outreach is extremely important," Stevenson noted.

Visit www.aps-spr.org. See this issue's insert on prematurity, developed with the March of Dimes.

Public Health Thank You Day Reaches 9.2 Million Readers

The nation's first Public Health Thank You Day reached more than 9.2 million Americans through visibility in newspapers around the country. Among the publications carrying the initiative's messages were the *Chicago Tribune*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Columbus (OH) Dispatch*, (Portland) *Oregonian*, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. In all, 20 newspapers in 10 states carried prevention messages as part of the initiative, which was organized by Research!America, the **American Public Health Association**, **Association of Schools of Public Health**, **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials** and **National Association of County and City Health Officials**, and supported in Spanish-speaking markets by the **National Alliance for Hispanic Health**.

Leading PR Firm Promotes Research!America on NPR

Porter Novelli, one of the world's top public relations firms, promoted Research!America on Washington, DC's **National Public Radio (NPR)** station in December. Provided by Porter Novelli pro bono to Research!America, the initiative reached a radio audience of approximately 576,000 during such programs as "Morning Edition," "All Things Considered" and policy- and news-oriented programming. The spots highlighted Research!America's efforts with Porter Novelli to emphasize prevention as a way to address chronic disease, disability and injury.

Successful Advocacy: The Power of One

Showing how effective an individual can be in taking an advocacy message to the news media, former Research!America staff member **Matthew Bowdy** continues to support Research!America's mission by regularly writing letters to the editor in response to coverage of research funding and related issues. His letters have been published in *USA Today* and, most recently, in the *Louisville (KY) Courier Journal*, urging readers to contact the White House and Congress to support strong increases in federal funding for research. He then sent copies of the published letters to his Congresswoman. Read the letters at www.researchamerica.org/advocacy, under Advocacy Tools.

Americans Hope to Live Past 85

Continued from page 1

ABC's "Good Morning America" also covered the poll findings.

In the poll, better health coverage topped Americans' list of suggestions to President Bush if they were delegates to the **White House Conference on Aging**. Held once each decade, the latest conference convened in December. Its 1,200 delegates selected 50 resolutions to present to the President and Congress on pressing issues related to aging. Among the top 50 resolutions were two addressing research needs:

- Promote innovative evidence-based and practice-based medical and aging research, and
- Apply evidence-based research to the delivery of health and social services where appropriate.

For a full list of resolutions resulting from the White House Conference on Aging, visit www.whcoa.gov. For more poll results and to read the *PARADE* article, visit www.researchamerica.org. *PARADE* is the nation's most widely distributed magazine, reaching 79 million readers each week through more than 350 newspapers.



As featured by *PARADE* last month, the first Baby Boomers turn 60 in 2006. Whether to make healthy aging more achievable or to ensure a

healthy start to life (see this month's insert on prematurity), research is our best hope.

Giving research the chance to deliver on that hope remains our steadfast commitment. We begin our 18th year with 500+ members representing 125 million Americans, partners in Australia and Canada, and a continuing dedication to innovation. In 2006, that means continuing to make the health case for research, it means making the economic case, and it means advocating broadly—medical research is more intertwined with the physical sciences than ever before.

Former White House advisor **David Gergen**, who will moderate our March 21 Forum, made a comment in 1997 that applies today, as well:

"At a time of scarce resources in Washington, it is tempting to see the scientific community as just one more hungry claimant. That's shortsighted. Like public education, serious funding for science is a vital national investment. The men and women in our laboratories stand at the threshold of dazzling new breakthroughs, and the nation should be standing there with them, supporting their work and sharing in their joy of discovery."

Gergen has said more recently that it's "time to change the conversation" in America. Unless we talk about the urgency of substantially increased investment in research, all indicators point to loss of global leadership, as well as delays in achieving urgent health goals. Won't you join us in 2006 to help change the national conversation?

Maury Wolley

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Appropriations

Continued from page 1

million loss for the NIH, which means the NIH FY 2006 funding will be lower than the FY 2005 level. Since approximately 82% of NIH funding is awarded to researchers in more than 3,000 institutions across the nation, a cut of this magnitude will slow research advances and have an economic impact at state and local levels nationwide.

The Defense spending bill also provides emergency funds of \$29 billion for hurricane relief and \$3.8 billion for pandemic flu preparedness. The **Campaign for Public Health** worked to ensure passage of avian flu preparedness funding. Of the \$3.8 billion appropriated, \$3.3 billion was directed to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. While not yet clear how these funds will be appropriated through HHS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will play a major role in preventing a potential pandemic.

The CDC suffered deep cuts in the final L/HHS bill. *The FY 2006 CDC funding level of \$7.7 billion represents a cut of 4%—even before the 1% mandatory cut is taken into account—from the FY 2005 funding level of \$8.03 billion.*

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which is funded by trans-

fers from other public health service agencies, will not be subject to the cut. However, *funding for AHRQ in FY 2006 remains flat, at \$319 million.*

Research!America polls consistently show public support for increased investment in medical, health and scientific research. Congressional champions for research—including Senate and House L/HHS leadership **Arlen Specter (PA)**, **Tom Harkin (IA)**, **Ralph Regula (OH)** and **David Obey (WI)**—worked to provide higher funding, despite having been handicapped with an allocation \$1.4 billion below last year's levels.

Visit www.researchamerica.org/advocacy to stay informed on federal appropriations for research and learn what you can do to take action.

National Innovation Act

In December, **Sens. Joe Lieberman (CT)**, **John Ensign (NV)**, **George Allen (VA)**, **Richard Lugar (IN)** and **Bill Nelson (FL)** introduced the National Innovation Act of 2005. The bill would double research funding for the National Science Foundation by FY 2011, create a Presidential Council on Innovation, encourage federal spending on high-risk research and make permanent the research and experimentation tax credit.

2006 FEDERAL RESEARCH BUDGET

Agency	President's Request	% Change over 2005	House	Senate	Appropriations passed by Congress
National Institutes of Health	\$28.5 billion	+0.5%	\$28.5 billion	\$29.4 billion	\$28.6 billion*
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	\$7.5 billion	-7.0%	\$7.7 billion	\$7.8 billion	\$7.7 billion*
National Science Foundation	\$5.6 billion	+2.0%	\$5.6 billion	\$5.53 billion	\$5.65 billion*
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	\$319 million	No change	\$319 million	\$324 million	\$319 million

*Indicates appropriations subject to a 1% cut adopted in the Department of Defense appropriations bill, H.R. 2863. For example, NIH funding will be \$280 million less than the appropriations passed by Congress.

Research Australia Celebrates Third National "Thank You" Day Campaign



Research Australia's Dr. Christine Bennett with singer-songwriter Delta Goodrem, "Thank You" Day 2005 Celebrity Advocacy Award winner

Research Australia's third annual "Thank You" Day Awards dinner took place recently in Melbourne, capping a month-long program inviting Australians to send personal messages of appreciation to medical researchers. The campaign began at Parliament House in Canberra, where a giant "Thank You" card was signed by children who have benefited from health and medical research. In all, more than 400,000 thank-you messages were received this year by researchers at 155 Research Australia member organizations. More than 250 news stories covered the campaign.

Research!America's Director of

Science Policy, **Stacie Propst, PhD**, attended the conclusion of the 2005 card-signing tour, at the "Thank You" Day Awards dinner at **Murdoch's Children's Research Institute at Royal Children's Hospital**. The awards honored individuals and organizations whose philanthropy and advocacy have paved the way for a strong Australian research environment.

Research Australia's CEO, **Dr. Christine Bennett**, also invited Dr. Propst to present an update on Research!America's activities and opinion research for Research Australia's annual general meeting. Research Australia, formed in December 2000, was modeled largely on Research!America, and the two organizations exchange successful and innovative approaches to advocacy, including public opinion polling.

In Research Australia's recent annual poll, education and medical and health research were equally named (78%) as the areas most important to Australia's future, and 71% of Australians believe that more health and medical research is needed to address essential Australian health issues such as indigenous health problems, childhood obesity, mental illness, asthma and skin cancer. The poll report is available at www.researchaustralia.com.au/aboutResearch.asp.

New Publications Focus on Electronic Health Records, Outcomes Database

Research!America member **FasterCures, the Center for Accelerating Medical Solutions**, has released a new white paper, *Think Research: Using Electronic Medical Records to Bridge Patient Care and Research*. It examines the state of electronic health records databases and health systems that are pioneering their use as research tools. FasterCures President **Greg Simon** notes that the real savings from such systems will not be lower costs or fewer medical errors but lives saved by research. The white paper is available at www.fastercures.org.

Another publication, *Outcomes Research: Knowing What Works Best in Healthcare*, outlines progress toward a national outcomes database, from the **Health Legacy Partnership**, co-founded by the **Joseph H. Kanter Family Foundation and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**. The report includes remarks by current and former government leaders, including Research!America's Chair Emeritus, **The Honorable Paul G. Rogers**, and a foreword by Research!America President **Mary Woolley**. To request the report, visit www.healthlegacy.org.

March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign, New Data Book

The **March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign** is a comprehensive research, awareness and education campaign to help families have healthier babies. It includes funding research to find the causes of premature births. For more information, visit www.marchofdimes.com.

The March of Dimes recently released its 2005 *Data Book for Policy Makers: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health in the United States*, which includes state and national statistics and information on topics including prenatal care and preterm births. The book can be ordered by calling 800-367-6630 and asking for item 50-1898-05.

Research!America extends special thanks to the March of Dimes for its sponsorship of this month's insert, our fact sheet on Prematurity from our "Investment In Research Saves Lives and Money" series.



Jennifer L. Howse, PhD, president, March of Dimes

Thank You to Our Donors

The Research!America Board of Directors and staff extend grateful thanks to those organizations that provided support for our recent public opinion polling in Maine:

American Cancer Society
American Heart Association

Some of the Maine poll results are found on pages 6 and 7. For more information, contact Stacie Propst, PhD, at 703-739-2577, ext. 43, or spropst@researchamerica.org.

Did YOU Know

The **United Health Foundation, American Public Health Association** and **Partnership for Prevention** recently released the 16th annual *America's Health Rankings*. Visit www.americashealthrankings.org to view the entire report.

The **Arthritis Foundation, Greater Chicago Chapter**, named **The Honorable John Edward Porter**, Research!America chair and former Congressman of the 10th District of Illinois, and **William J. Arnold, MD**, of the Illinois Bone and Joint Institute, as the dual recipients of the 2005 Freedom of Movement Award.

The **2006 NIH Director's Pioneer Award program**, a key component of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, is open to individual scientists at all career levels. Applications may be submitted from January 15 to February 27, 2006. Visit <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer/>.

Karen Goralesski, director of Research!America's Prevention Research Initiative, addressed the "The New Politics of Public Health" at the 2005 annual meeting of the **Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research**. SAVIR is comprised of the nation's premier injury research centers.

Public Health Advocates, Coast to Coast

Research!America ended 2005 with three public health advocacy training workshops that spanned the nation. The **Grand Forks Health Department** hosted a Research!America-led workshop on the University of North Dakota campus. Participants included faculty, staff and local public health leaders from the **University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of North Dakota College of Nursing, Altru Health Systems, Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit** and **Cavalier County Health District**.

In Portland, Research!America partnered again with the **Oregon Health Sciences University** and **OHSU Department of Family Medicine** to hold an advocacy training workshop. The workshop included exercises such as "Three Sentences or Less," to help attendees streamline messages and



L-R: **Mandy Burbank, LRD, Grand Forks Public Health Dept.**; **Research!America's Karen Goralesski**; **Debbie Swanson, RN, Grand Forks Public Health Dept.**

draft letters to the editor. Attendee **Craig Mosbaek** developed a letter in the session; the Portland *Oregonian* published it 10 days later.

The year's final workshop was held at the invitation of the student chapter of **American Public Health Association**. Future public health professionals participated in a session to enhance communication and advocacy skills with policy makers and news media.

New Advocacy Tool: Interactive State Funding Map

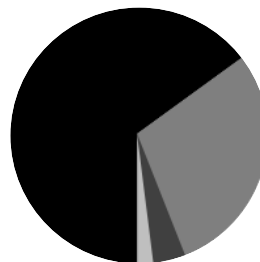


A new interactive map on Research!America's website makes it easy to find out how much funding each state receives from the **National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality** and **National Science Foundation**. Users can find each state's total funding from the NIH, CDC, AHRQ and NSF and see a breakdown by agency. State rankings by funding and population also allow users to compare states and see where their state stands. To use the interactive map, visit www.researchamerica.org/advocacy and look for the link under "Advocacy Tools."

AMERICA Speaks

As we look for ways to manage health care costs in our country, do you think that the national commitment to health-related research should be...

Maine Residents Think Commitment to Research Should Be Higher



Higher	65%
About the same	29%
Lower	4%
Don't know	2%

SOURCE: MAINE SURVEY, 2005
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

Woodruff to Emcee 10th Annual Advocacy Awards



Judy Woodruff

Judy Woodruff of CNN will serve as master of ceremonies for Research!America's 10th Annual Advocacy Awards gala. The event will take place on March 21, 2006, at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. *PARADE* magazine is our media sponsor. Award recipients named to date are:

Linda H. Aiken, PhD, RN, director, Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor of Nursing and Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing: *Raymond and Beverly Sackler Award for Sustained National Leadership*

The Honorable Michael Castle (DE) and **The Honorable Diana L. DeGette (CO)**: *Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy*

Center for the Advancement of Health, Jessie Gruman, PhD, president and executive director: *Organization that has Distinguished Itself by Its Advocacy*

Gordon Gund, chairman, The Foundation Fighting Blindness and CEO, Gund Investment Corporation: *Exceptional Contributions as a Volunteer Advocate for Medical and Health Research*

Former First Lady Nancy Reagan: *Research!America Legacy Award*

Invitations to the gala will be mailed to all Research!America members and partners in early February. For more information, call 703-739-2577, ext. 35.

FDA Commissioner Outlines Priorities

At a recent conference, Acting FDA Commissioner **Andrew von Eschenbach** detailed four priorities for the agency. He said the FDA will:

- Work to reduce approval times for new medications through FDA's Critical Path Initiative, which seeks to modernize drug development by making the process more predictable and successful and less costly;
- Move rapidly to implement effective information technology;
- Help accelerate the availability of vaccines and medications to prepare for a potential avian flu pandemic; and
- Partner with other nations to improve worldwide health.

The FDA celebrates its centennial in 2006, making it the nation's oldest consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.fda.gov.



Andrew von Eschenbach

Did You Know?

Continued from page 6

* * *

The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America and other members of the **Task Force on the Future of American Innovation** released a survey of registered, likely voters. Half (49%) of the electorate say America's ability to compete economically has declined, and 70% support a proposal to increase federal funds for science and engineering research. Visit www.aboutastra.org/pdf/ASTRABriefs1105.pdf.

* * *

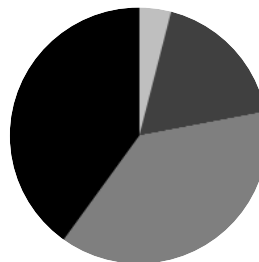
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has released the first Comparative Effectiveness Review from a new AHRQ program that compares alternative treatments for health conditions. The report found that certain drugs are as effective as surgery for GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease). Visit www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov.

* * *

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and American Lung Association have released *A Broken Promise to Our Children: The 1998 State Tobacco Settlement Seven Years Later*. The report finds a growing gap between what states spend on tobacco prevention and what tobacco companies spend on marketing. Visit www.tobaccofreekids.org.

State governments often provide financial incentives, such as tax exemptions, to companies for building new offices and factories in their state. If Maine offered financial incentives to attract new scientific research, such as research labs or companies, would you approve or disapprove of these financial incentives?

Maine Residents Support State Incentives to Attract Research



	Strongly Approve	40%
	Somewhat Approve	38%
	Disapprove	18%
	Don't know	4%

SOURCE: MAINE SURVEY, 2005
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

ComingUp

February 3—The **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute** encourages Americans everywhere to wear red for **National “Wear Red” Day** to support women's heart disease awareness.

February 9-10: New York—**Social Research**, an international quarterly journal of the social sciences, hosts **“Politics & Science: How Their Interplay Results in Public Policy”** at The New School. Among the speakers will be **Ruth Wooden**, president of **Public Agenda** and a **Research!America** board member. To register, visit www.socres.org.

March 21: Washington, DC—Save the date! **Research!America's 2006 National Forum** will be held at the National Press Club and moderated by former White House advisor **David Gergen**. Our **10th Annual Advocacy Awards gala** will follow the Forum. For information, contact **Cindy McConnell** at cmccconnell@researchamerica.org.

Advocacy & Action

Contact Your Senators—

Bring the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act to a Vote

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810/S. 471) passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in May 2005. The Act would expand federal funding for stem cell research, specifically research on embryonic stem cells derived from leftover embryos from IVF (in vitro fertilization) clinics that would otherwise be discarded.

Senate leadership has delayed voting on The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. **Please contact your senators and urge them to press for a vote on H.R. 810/S. 471 early this year.** Visit www.researchamerica.org/advocacy to take action.

Hold an Advocacy Training Workshop

To hold a public health advocacy training session for your organization, contact **Shannon Dzubin** at sdzubin@researchamerica.org.

Visit

US ON THE WEB www.researchamerica.org

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Research!America
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH®

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

Prematurity

"If you think research is expensive, try disease."

— Mary Lasker 1901–1994

Today:

- One in eight babies is born prematurely in the U.S.
- The rate of prematurity has increased more than 30% since 1981, due in part to the rising number of multiple births.
- Prematurity is the greatest risk factor for infant mortality. In 2002, 65% of infants who died before age one were born prematurely.
- Black women are nearly twice as likely to have their babies prematurely compared to white women.
- Half of all premature births have no known cause.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (WWW.CDC.GOV)
MARCH OF DIMES (WWW.MARCHOFDIMES.COM)

The Cost:

- Hospital charges for premature infants total \$18.1 billion a year in the U.S.
- The average cost of initial hospital care for babies born 13 weeks early is \$202,700 compared to \$1,100 for babies born at full term.*

SOURCE: MARCH OF DIMES
*GILBERT, W.M. ET AL. OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY 2003; 102: 488-92.

SAVING LIVES
SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- Research funded by the National Institutes of Health has shown that weekly treatments with the hormone progesterone significantly decrease premature births among women at high risk for delivering early.*
- Premature babies with respiratory distress syndrome lack a substance called surfactant in their lungs. After this discovery and the development of artificial surfactant, deaths of newborns from respiratory distress syndrome in the U.S. decreased from more than 10,000 a year in the 1950s to less than 1,000 in 2002.**

SOURCE: *MEIS, P.J. ET AL. NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE 2003; 348: 2379-85.
**FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY. BUBBLES, BABIES, AND BIOLOGY: THE STORY OF SURFACTANT 2004.

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- Preventing premature births could save U.S. employers and other private insurers \$7.9 billion a year in hospital bills.
- Premature infants are at greater risk for developmental disabilities. The U.S. could save average lifetime costs for each case prevented or treated of \$1,014,000 for mental retardation, \$921,000 for cerebral palsy, \$417,000 for hearing loss and \$566,000 for vision impairment.*

SOURCE: MARCH OF DIMES
*HONEYCUTT, A. ET AL. MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT 2004, 53(3): 57-59.

survivor

NAME: EMMA HENDERSON
AGE: 10
CONDITION: BORN 3 MONTHS EARLY



Susan Henderson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma never thought she would go into labor six months into her pregnancy. As a volunteer for the March of Dimes, she took preventive measures to ensure a healthy pregnancy, including prenatal vitamins and folic acid. But for Susan, like 50% of women who deliver prematurely, the reason her daughter, Emma, was born three months early is unknown.

Emma was given a one in ten chance of survival, but beat the odds thanks to research and the specialized care she received. By age one, Emma had endured five neurosurgeries, including one to implant a shunt that drains fluid from her brain into her abdomen. Emma's doctors used a new technique that avoids the need for painful procedures to extend the shunt. Among other therapies, Emma was given a substance called surfactant for respiratory distress syndrome and a drug to treat a heart disorder that at one time could only be repaired surgically.

Despite challenges from mild cerebral palsy, Emma is an active ten year old and served as the 2003 National Ambassador for the March of Dimes. Susan says, "Emma knows how lucky she is, but she also realizes she can't do everything. I would like to see research improve quality of life for children born prematurely." Susan also expects that researchers will "get a better handle on the causes of prematurity so that we can educate people and find ways to prevent premature birth."

facts about: } Prematurity

Hope for the Future:

- Researchers have identified some key factors in the development of cerebral palsy and learning problems in children born prematurely. This knowledge may lead to new ways to prevent brain damage.*
- Research has revealed that some maternal infections can increase the risk of premature birth. Since traditional antibiotics have proven ineffective, researchers are working on new ways to detect and treat these infections.

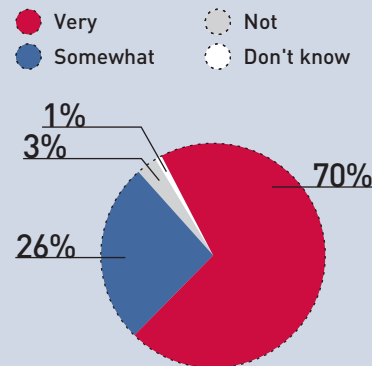
SOURCE: * BACK, S.A. ET AL. NATURE MEDICINE 2005; 11: 966-72.
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (WWW.NIH.GOV)

The Bottom Line:

The rate of prematurity continues to rise, while the cause for half of these premature births remains unknown. More research on the underlying causes and prevention of premature birth is needed to stop the startling trend that is putting more babies at risk for a lifetime of medical problems.

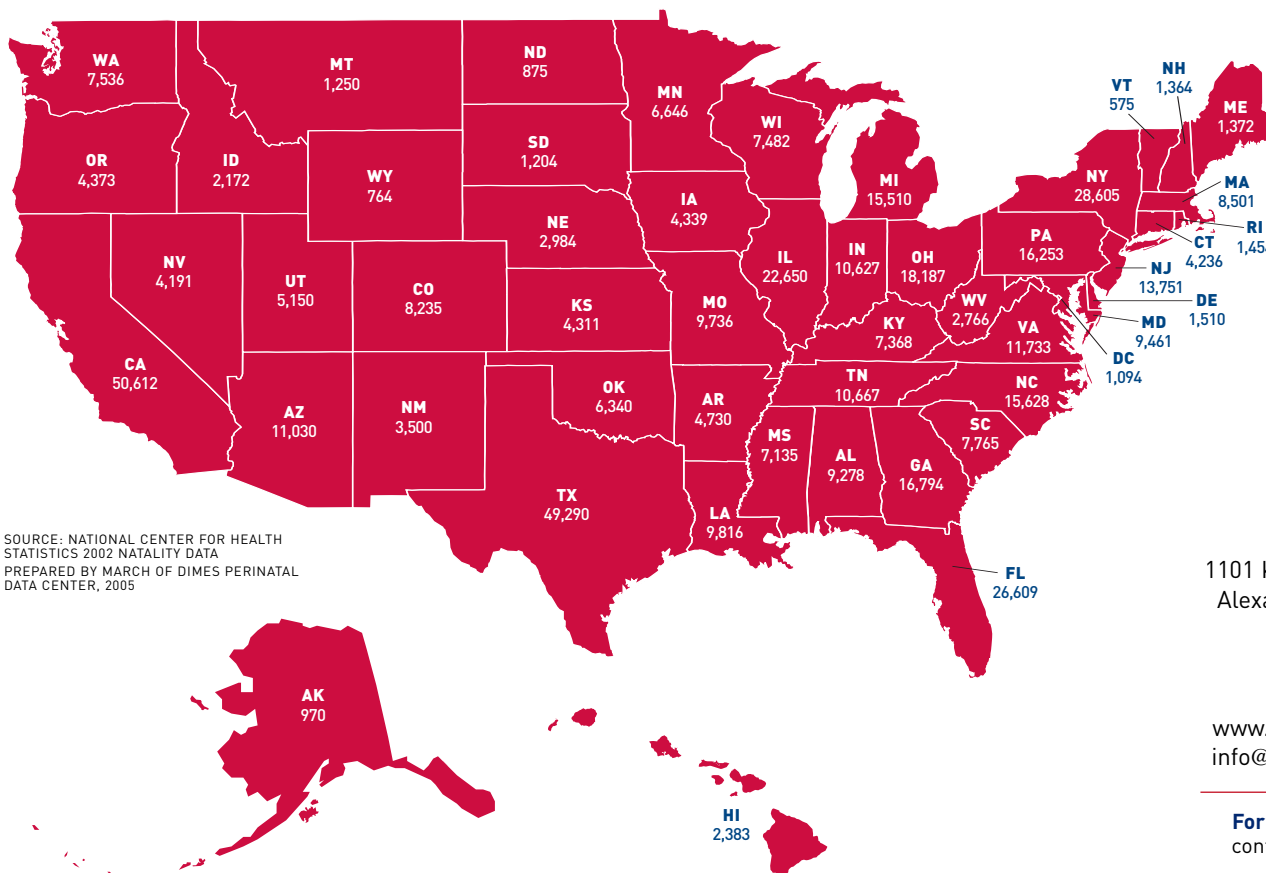
Investment in Research Important to Scientific Base for Health Care

How important do you think it is that we invest in more research to assure that there is a solid scientific base for health care?



SOURCE: NATIONAL SURVEY, 2005 CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

Number of Premature Births 2002



SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS 2002 NATALITY DATA
PREPARED BY MARCH OF DIMES PERINATAL DATA CENTER, 2005

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