To foster fundamental creative discoveries, innovative research strategies, and their applications as a basis for ultimately protecting and improving health.

To develop, maintain, and renew scientific human and physical resources that ensure the nation’s capability to prevent disease.

To expand the knowledge base in medical and associated sciences in order to enhance the nation’s economic well-being and ensure a continued high return on the public investment in research.

To exemplify and promote the highest level of scientific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility in the conduct of science

Comprised of 27 institutes and centers, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the primary U.S. federal agency responsible for supporting and conducting medical and health research.

Mission
NIH’s stated mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

Goals
- To foster fundamental creative discoveries, innovative research strategies, and their applications as a basis for ultimately protecting and improving health.
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What is the NIH?
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How does NIH support medical progress?
NIH is the largest public funder of medical research in the world; it supports research conducted at universities, colleges, academic health centers, independent research institutes, and small businesses across the United States.

What is the value of NIH supported research?
The value of NIH-supported research can be expressed in lives saved, health protected, quality of life improved, economic activity and competitiveness, jobs, productivity, and the list goes on. The research supported by NIH uncovers knowledge that the private sector translates into advances in prevention, diagnosis, therapies, and cures that benefit generation after generation of Americans and populations across the globe.
NIH in Action

Advancements in Cancer Treatment
In the last 20 years alone, U.S. cancer death rates dropped 33%. NIH research has uncovered the molecular underpinnings of cancer that led to the development of revolutionary treatment options. Additional NIH-funded projects have contributed to the development of the HPV vaccine, the first and only FDA-approved vaccine to prevent cancer.

Combating the Opioid Epidemic: The HEAL Initiative
In 2018, the NIH launched the HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative, which is providing scientific solutions to the opioid crisis. Critical to this mission is the life-saving opioid overdose treatment naloxone, which was developed through NIH- and private sector-funded research.

The Human Genome Project
The Human Genome Project is considered one of the most ambitious and critical scientific undertakings in human history. In 2003, the Project announced it had sequenced 92% of the human genome. The remaining gaps were closed in 2022. The complete human genome is the basis for groundbreaking human-centric genomic studies. The initial project cost $3.8 billion with an estimated economic impact of $965 billion — a return on investment of 178:1.

All of Us Research Program
The All of Us Research Program was established in 2015 to advance personalized medicine. The project aims to collect genetic and health data from more than 1 million people living in the U.S., including those previously underrepresented in medicine. As of mid-2023, more than 951,000 people have registered.

Public Opinion Supports Research Funding
For more than 30 years, Research!America has commissioned public opinion surveys to gain insight into the views of the American people on research-related topics. We know from these surveys that the American people strongly value the medical and health research NIH conducts and supports.

Question: Would you be willing to pay $1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all of the money would be spent on additional medical and health research?

Yes 63%
No 21%
Not sure 16%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in Jan. 2023

State NIH Grant Funding, 2022 (in millions)

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