



## 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.
- 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.

#### **Fast Facts:**

1. In the United States, heart disease and stroke are the first and fifth highest causes of death, respectively.<sup>1</sup>
2. By 2035, 45% of the United States' adult population will have some form of cardiovascular disease.<sup>2</sup>
3. By 2035, total cardiovascular disease-related costs will eclipse \$1 trillion.<sup>2</sup>
4. For FY 2023, as a result of tireless advocacy from the AHA and other public health organizations, the NIH received a \$2.5 billion budgetary increase from Congress.
5. In FY 2022, NIH funding supported more than 500,000 jobs and generated just over \$96 billion in economic activity.<sup>4</sup>
6. For every \$1 the NIH invests in cardiovascular disease research, the return on investment is \$30.<sup>5</sup>
7. The NIH currently invests a highly disproportionate 4% of its budget on heart disease, and only 1% on stroke.<sup>6</sup>

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>.

## Policy At-A-Glance: NIH Funding

### References

<sup>1</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). Deaths: Final Data for 2021. Available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db456.pdf> Accessed September 11, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Khavjou, O, et al. (2017). Projections of Cardiovascular Disease and Costs: 2015-2035. Unpublished RTI Report on behalf of the AHA.

<sup>3</sup> NIH Office of Budget, FY18 Budget Executive Summary, page

19: <https://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/pdfs/FY18/Executive%20Summary.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Division%20H%20-%20LHHS%20Statement%20FY23.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools. Estimates of Funding for Various Research, Condition, and Disease Categories (RCDC). [https://report.nih.gov/categorical\\_spending.aspx](https://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx)