Arkansas
Research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that comes to institutions in Arkansas has a significant impact across the state — extending far beyond the immediate recipients of that funding.

Economic Impact of NIH Research Funding in Arkansas

- $221M New Economic Activity
- 1,586 Jobs
- $22M Tax and Fee Revenue
- $72M Statewide Household Earnings

FY22

$1 NIH Funding = $2.1 AR Economic Activity

13 ORGANIZATIONS IN ARKANSAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 159 AWARDS

Top recipients of NIH funding
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Arkansas Children’s Hospital Research Institute
- Intervexion Therapeutics, LLC
- University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
- Nephropathology Associates

This state snapshot accompanies the UMR report, How Rural States Benefit From Strong NIH Funding.
The impact of 7 years of NIH budget increases on Arkansas

From 2016–2022, Arkansas benefitted from a total of:

- **$542M** NIH Research Awards
- **$1.15B** New Economic Activity (sales)
- **8,274** Jobs
- **$374M** Statewide Household Earnings
- **$113M** Tax and Fee Revenue

If the NIH budget had stayed flat at FY15 levels from 2016–2022, the cumulative impact to Arkansas would have been the **loss** of:

- **$269M** NIH Research Awards
- **$568M** New Economic Activity (sales)
- **4,074** Jobs
- **$185M** Statewide Household Earnings
- **$56M** Tax and Fee Revenue

Public Health Considerations

Improving Health

Arkansans have a lot to gain from NIH-funded medical research that results in improved treatment of disease. Improved health can also help ease the fiscal burden of spending on public health programs.

- **50%** AR enrollment in Medicare and Medicaid
- **10%** AR GDP spent on public health programs
- **41%** Rest of U.S. enrollment in Medicare and Medicaid
- **6%** Rest of U.S. spending on public health programs

How Arkansas ranks compared to other states

Life Expectancy

- 7th lowest life expectancy
- 3rd highest infant mortality

Chronic Conditions

- 2nd for cardiovascular disease
- 9th for diabetes
- 6th for obesity

Deaths

- 6th for Alzheimer’s disease
- 6th for cancer
- 5th for heart disease
- 30th for opioid overdose
- 10th for suicide

Congress has increased the NIH budget each year since 2016, which has had a significant, positive impact on Arkansas’s economy and prevented the negative economic impacts that flat funding would have caused.
**Biomedical Innovation in Arkansas**

MEET ISABELLA ABUCHAIBE

After being diagnosed with high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) after a routine pap smear and having it rapidly progress to CIN 3 (severe in nature), Isabella Abuchaibe felt completely hopeless. At just 26, she was offered a loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) to remove the abnormal cells from her cervix, which terrified her because of the potential long-term side effects.

In her search for an alternative treatment, she came across the PepCan vaccine clinical trial at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). After speaking with clinical trial coordinators for weeks, she decided to take that “leap of faith” and join the trial.

When she received the news that her colposcopy result was negative after months of treatment, she was overjoyed. Not just because the vaccine cured her, but because she knew the vaccine could cure people with HPV-related precancer.

According to Ms. Abuchaibe, HPV prevention through current vaccines isn’t enough. “I was part of the first wave of pre-teens to receive the first-generation Gardasil that protected against four HPV strains, and I contracted a high-risk HPV strain as an adult that wasn’t covered by the first-generation vaccine, which is why PepCan is such a pioneering and essential vaccine.”
ABOUT THE PEPCAN VACCINE TRIAL

WHAT: A phase II clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of PepCan or Candin® adjuvant alone for treating cervical high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions. The vaccine consists of synthetically made fragments of HPV protein called E6 and yeast extract called Candin® as a novel vaccine adjuvant.

WHY: While the current standard treatment for HSIL, loop electrical excision procedure (LEEP), is effective, it is also known to increase the risk of premature births in pregnancies following the treatment.

HOW: The study was conducted with funding from the National Cancer Institute, part of NIH. Mayumi Nakagawa, MD, PhD, led the study at the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. Learn more

“...The clinical trial Ms. Abuchaibe participated in tested two new treatments to heal cervical pre-cancer without surgery. Participants came from 23 counties within Arkansas, including many from rural areas.”

Team members of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Center for Musculoskeletal Disease Research, which received an $11.5 million Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase 2 grant from the NIH.

COBRE funding aims to help establish multidisciplinary, collaborative and synergistic research centers in states with lower rates of federal research funding. Learn more