

THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG NIH

The **National Institutes of Health** is the world's premier health research agency and the envy of countless nations who see the power of biomedical research to not only improve health, but to boost economies and enhance global competitiveness.



Improving Health

Since it was created by Congress in 1930, the NIH has fueled discoveries in every aspect of health. It plays an irreplaceable role in supporting the foundational and long-term research initiatives that are too far removed from commercial application for industry to undertake. Yet, the knowledge gained from this discovery-based research sets the stage for industry-led R&D and is the energy behind the global leadership of America's life sciences, medtech, and biopharmaceutical industries.

Recent life-saving advances grounded in NIH-funded research include:

- The development of **Naloxone nasal spray** that now enables bystanders and emergency responders alike to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.
- Two new types of **drugs to treat diabetes**, GLP-1 receptor agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors. Diabetes is a leading cause of death in the United States and significantly increases the risk that someone will develop heart disease — the number one cause of death. The new classes of drugs also hold promise for treating other conditions.
- **Decreases in cancer death rates**, including a nearly 20% drop in the death rate for melanoma — the most serious type of skin cancer — due to the availability of new targeted therapies and immunotherapies. And a 55% decrease in death rates from colorectal cancer resulting from better screening technologies and treatments.



20%
drop in death rate
from melanoma

55%
drop in death rate
from colorectal cancer



Boosting the U.S. Economy

NIH research funding leaves Washington, D.C., and is awarded to researchers in **every U.S. state** based on merit. Even before any discoveries are made, this NIH funding supports the local economy. According to a [UMR analysis](#), in FY2024, NIH-funded research supported more than 400,000 jobs and \$94.58 billion in economic activity across the United States. Another UMR analysis looks at the exponential impact NIH research has in [rural states](#).

Other ways NIH research fuels the economy include:

- NIH research attracts **innovation-intensive businesses** with good-paying jobs, helping communities establish innovation corridors and supporting regional economic development and revitalization efforts.
- NIH research is the preeminent training ground for scientists and physicians, producing a **highly skilled workforce** and supporting American industries.
- NIH takes on massive research endeavors — like the [Human Genome Project](#) (HGP) and [The BRAIN Initiative](#) — that aren't something industry can or would do but have revolutionized our understanding of human genetics and brain function. U.S. leadership in these areas has not only **improved health** but spawned entire new industries from which the U.S. benefits. It has been estimated that, within a decade of completion, the return on the federal government's investment in the HGP was **141:1**.

A POWERFUL
RETURN ON
INVESTMENT



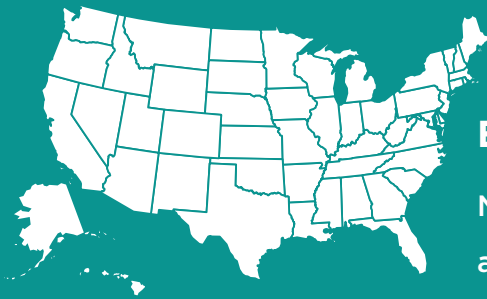
\$1 NIH FUNDED
RESEARCH

=



\$2.56

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



Every State Benefits

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Enhancing Global Competitiveness

America's dominance in key areas including **gene sequencing**, **cancer drug discovery**, and cutting-edge **medical technologies** is not an accident. It is the result of a highly successful **biomedical innovation ecosystem**, which is anchored by the NIH and a unique partnership with American research universities, companies, and patient advocacy groups to conduct research and move discoveries from the lab to the marketplace where they can benefit patients.



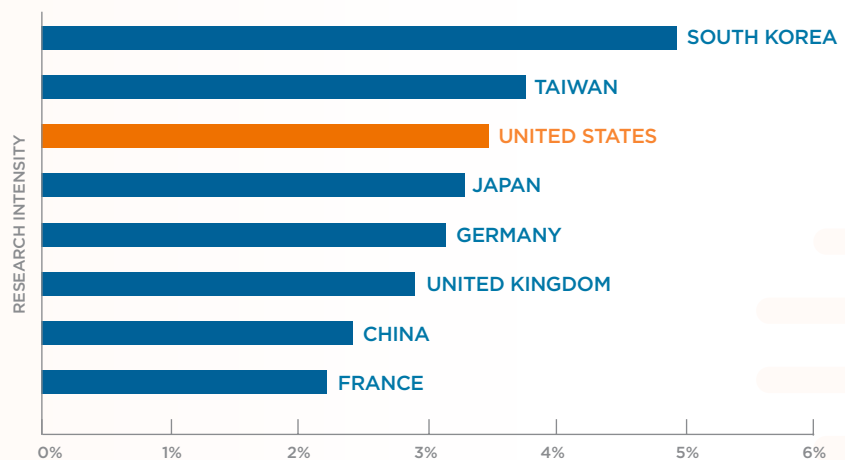
Examples of America's leadership include:

- The United States has received more **Nobel Prizes** in areas related to health and medicine than any other nation — and NIH research is behind almost all of these awards.
- The United States is the **largest pharmaceutical manufacturing country** in the world producing medicines worth over \$500 billion — three times that of Germany, our closest competitor. Additionally, the United States is the leading exporter of medical technologies, where **exports of medtech consistently outpace imports**.
- Other countries see the success of our biomedical innovation ecosystem and are poised to capitalize on disinvestments in U.S. research. China and countries in Europe are **actively recruiting American scientists** to help bolster their biomedical research enterprises. And while the United States may spend more on research and development overall, it is not investing as aggressively as some other research-intensive nations.

How the Top R&D-Performing Countries Stack Up

This chart shows how much the world's top eight countries spent on R&D compared to their economic output in 2021. R&D intensity is calculated by dividing a country's R&D spending by its GDP (gross domestic product).

Source: [Science & Engineering Indicators 2024](#)



As the White House and Congress consider how to ensure that the NIH continues to serve in the best interests of American taxpayers, it is important to underscore the critical role it plays in saving lives and improving health, supporting the economy, and maintaining America's global leadership in biomedical innovation. Drastic cuts to NIH funding will put America's leadership and American lives in jeopardy.