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## Federal R&D Support to Health Doubled Between 1969 and 1976

- Between fiscal year 1969 and fiscal year 1976 Federal support of health R&D programs has risen from \$1.1 billion to an estimated \$2.2 billion.<sup>1</sup> Most activity in the health area has taken place under sponsorship of subdivisions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).
- During the 1969-76 period growth in health R&D programs occurred at an average annual rate of 10.0 percent. Even after adjusting for the effects of inflation, an average annual estimated rate of 3.0 percent is shown.<sup>2</sup>
- Biomedical research has grown at the fastest rate of any of the broad health R&D program areas. In 1976 biomedical research will make up approximately 90 percent of the health R&D total.
- Most biomedical research activities are under the purview of HEW's National Institutes of Health (NIH). Cancer research under the National Cancer Institute has increased most rapidly, growing as a share of all Federal biomedical research from 18 percent in 1969 to an estimated 30 percent in 1976. Heart and lung research under the National Heart and Lung Institute, next in size, will make up an estimated 15 percent of the biomedical research total in 1976, compared with 14 percent in 1969.

<sup>1</sup> The 1976 total is based on agency budget estimates as of December 1975. This total includes only those R&D programs whose primary purpose is health-directed. It does not include a number of R&D programs that are health-related but reflect environmental, national defense, or space objectives as their primary purpose.

<sup>2</sup> In the absence of a reliable R&D cost index, the GNP implicit price deflator is used. An inflation rate of 11 percent was estimated for 1976.

- Other NIH institutes, concentrating on arthritis, neurological diseases, allergy and infectious diseases, child health, dental and eye research, and general medical sciences, along with health programs of the Veterans Administration, the Center for Disease Control (HEW), and the Food and Drug Administration (HEW) account for most of the remaining biomedical research activities.
- Mental health R&D programs have lost funding impetus in recent years. They make up an estimated 4 percent of the health R&D total in 1976, compared with 9 percent in 1969. These efforts are now entirely under the National Institute of Mental Health within HEW's Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA). Basic, clinical, and applied research are conducted in

the behavioral sciences, psychopharmacology, and on specific mental disorders.

- **Delivery of health care** will make up an estimated 3 percent of the health total in 1976, compared with 5 percent in 1969. Most of this effort is represented by research and evaluation within the Health Resources Administration (HEW) to improve the organization, delivery, quality, and financing of health services.
- **Drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation** will account for 2 percent of the health total in 1976, compared with 1 percent in 1969. The ADAMHA drug abuse program comprises the major activity, followed by the ADAMHA alcoholism program.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation  
Division of Science Resources Studies

**Federal obligations for health R&D programs, FY 1969-76**

(Billions of dollars)

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975 (est.)	1976 (est.)
<b>Total</b>	\$1.1	\$1.1	\$1.3	\$1.6	\$1.6	\$2.1	\$2.1	\$2.2
<b>Biomedical research</b>	.9	.9	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.0
(Millions of dollars)								
<b>Mental health</b>	101	94	100	105	86	108	94	93
<b>Delivery of health care</b>	54	70	104	99	68	66	58	60
<b>Drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation</b>	15	17	21	36	50	59	51	47

Note: Data for FY 1975 and FY 1976 are based on the *Budget of the United States Government, FY 1976*.