

The Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) is the thought leader in research on biological differences in disease and is dedicated to transforming women's health through science, advocacy, and education.

Sequestration took effect in mid-2013. This meant an automatic 5% cut to program funding levels in 2013 for federal agencies – including the federal health agencies and for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The budget sequester has been disastrous for the U.S. economy and for medical research. It has negatively impacted every woman in the U.S. by impeding medical innovation and cutting programs that are imperative to the public health.

This type of cut is counter-intuitive to the needs of American citizens. Targeted investment and research into prevention and treatment of chronic disease is a better driver to reduce our federal debt. Sequestration largely ignores these needs.

“Now is not the time to gut these job-creating investments in science and innovation. Now is the time to reach a level of research and development not seen since the height of the Space Race.”
– President Obama, 2013 State of the Union Address

Sequestration and Medical Research

SWHR has always maintained that sustained funding for biomedical and women's health research programs conducted and supported across the federal agencies is absolutely essential for the U.S. to meet the health needs of its women.

- **Sequestration has devastated medical research and innovation.**
Past Congressional investment in NIH made it the world's gold standard in medical research and care. Over the past decade, other countries have doubled and tripled their investment in medical research. Meanwhile, sequestration came at the end of a decade that saw the NIH budget fall by nearly 20 percent after inflation, and on top of an estimated \$900 billion in spending cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act over the next ten years.
- **Sequestration resulted in an immediate, substantial blow to scientists.**
NIH is an economic engine for medical and healthcare innovation. More than 83% of NIH funding is spent in communities across the nation, creating jobs at more than 3,000 universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other research institutions in every state. Sequestration forced researchers to immediately incur drastic budget cuts in 2013 and abandon potentially life-enhancing research, and the NIH has awarded significantly fewer grants to researchers since.
- **Sequestration cuts to NIH has stifled medical discoveries that save lives.**
The average time it takes time from drug development to licensure is normally 10-15 years. Most of the biomedical research done in the U.S. is at academic universities and is funded by grants from NIH. The less drugs that we have in development now, the greater the shortage to meet the needs of Americans in the future.

Sequestration and Women's Health

SWHR is deeply concerned about the devastating impact that sequestration will have on women's health and women's health research. We believe that a balanced approach of eliminating waste while focusing targeted investments in areas of cost savings will better reduce the federal deficit.

- SWHR has fought the notion that “women’s health” was simply reproductive health. Women make up over 50% of the U.S. population and chronic disease (heart disease, cancer, and stroke) kill over one million women each year.
- U.S. health agencies have programs and research that are critical to the well-being and quality of life for women and their families by focusing on prevention, screening, and health promotion. These programs that provide prevention screening, analyze health statistics, surveillance data, and disease tracking are critical to maintaining a healthy society and are the difference between sickness and health for all women and their families.

Offices of Women's Health

The offices of women’s health located within the federal health agencies have very specific roles within those agencies to promote and protect the health of women across the U.S. For example:

NIH- Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH):

Coordinates women’s health and sex differences research within NIH ensures that women are appropriately represented in research studies supported by NIH, and develops opportunities for women in biomedical careers through the following programs:

- **Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health**
400 scholars have been trained in forty-one centers, publishing over 1300 articles and 750 abstracts
- **Specialized Center of Research on Sex and Gender Factors Affecting Women's Health**
150 published journal articles, 214 abstracts and presentations and 44 other publications

HHS- Office of Women's Health:

Is the government's champion and focal point for women's health issues to address inequities in research, health care services, and education that have historically placed the health of women at risk.

FDA – Office of Women's Health:

Protects and advances the health of women through policy, science, and outreach and to advocate for the participation of women in clinical trials and for sex, gender, and subpopulation analyses.

CDC- Office of Women's Health:

Works to promote and protect the health, safety, and quality of life of women at every stage of life. CDC surveillance networks evaluate and investigate over 100-150 multistate outbreaks per year.