Research Gaps in Women's Health: Committee on the Assessment of NIH Research on Women's Health

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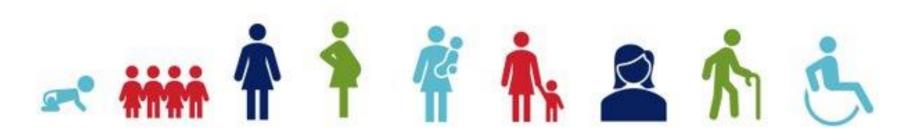
About SWHR

MISSION

Advance women's health through science, policy, and education while promoting research on sex differences to optimize women's health.

VISION

Make women's health mainstream.



An Unsurprising Headline: Women's Health Research is Underfunded and Understudied

- Only 10.8% of NIH funding is spent on women's health (<u>Press Call, White House Initiative on Women's Health Research</u>)
 - Diseases that affect mainly women are underfunded compared with disease burden
 - Gynecologic cancers receive less support than others when accounting for lethality
- Despite representing 51% of the population, women are still underrepresented in some clinical trials (e.g., cardiology, oncology, neurology)
- Male animals are disproportionately used in biomedical research.
 - A 2011 study across 10 fields of biology found that 80% of animals used were male
 - In neuroscience, male animals outnumber female animals by about six to one

Factors to Consider When Prioritizing Research

- Basic research (sex differences research) could inform understanding of disease and improve outcomes
- Opportunity to elevate unique needs of women in areas that differently or disproportionately affect women
- Potential health impacts (e.g., accounting for disease burden, prevalence, costs of care)
- Consideration of issue being addressed through other funding mechanism

Opportunities to Excel Progress at NIH

- Representation in Clinical Trials
 - Women are still underrepresented in clinical trials
 - Subpopulations of women are still underrepresented in clinical trials
- Emphasis on Women's Research Workforce
- ORWH Structural Considerations
 - Additional funding to allow ORWH to administer grants
 - ORWH reporting structure
 - Accountability and enforcement of SABV policy

THANK YOU

