

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

January 25, 2024| Lindsey Miltenberger, MA



Society for
Women's Health Research

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 (Press Call, White House Initiative on Women's Health Research)
 - 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



Society for
Women's Health Research