

Agency	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	F16 PBR	FY16 AADR
<b>NIH</b>	<b>\$30.7b</b>	<b>\$29.07b</b>	<b>\$30.07b</b>	<b>\$30.31b</b>	<b>\$31.31b</b>	<b>\$32b</b>
<b>NIDCR</b>	<b>\$410.3m</b>	<b>\$386.8m</b>	<b>\$397.8m</b>	<b>\$397.7m</b>	<b>\$406.7m</b>	<b>\$425m</b>

The American Association for Dental Research (AADR) calls on Congress to prioritize funding for the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) for FY2016. Rolling back sequestration cuts and providing increased funding will go a long way to improve the health of all Americans.

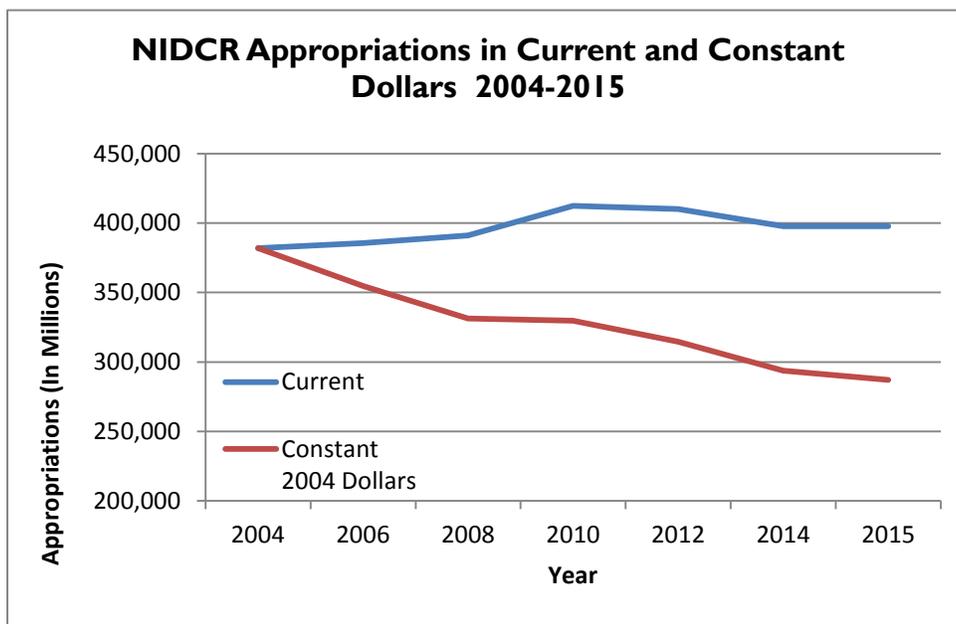
NIDCR is the largest institution in the world dedicated exclusively to research to improve dental, oral and craniofacial health. The health of the mouth and surrounding craniofacial (skull and face) structures is central to a person's overall health and well-being. Left untreated, oral diseases and poor oral conditions make it difficult to eat, drink, swallow, communicate and maintain proper nutrition. Scientists also have discovered important linkages between gum (periodontal) disease and heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and pancreatic cancer.

Treating oral health conditions is costly: the nation spent \$111 billion on dental services in 2013. While tooth decay and gum disease are the most prevalent threats to oral health, complete tooth loss, oral cancer, and craniofacial congenital anomalies, such as cleft lip and palate, impose heavy health and economic burdens on Americans. Below are examples of the important research supported by NIDCR:

- **Point of Care Diagnostics:** Salivary diagnostics are measures that draw and analyze saliva to test for conditions such as HIV, human papillomavirus (HPV), substance abuse, caries, periodontitis and oral cancer. As a result of research supported by NIDCR over the last decade, diagnostics also are showing great promise in screening for diabetes, heart disease, lung cancer, ovarian cancer and pancreatic cancer.
- **Enhanced Tissue Regeneration:** NIDCR-funded scientists have developed effective techniques to prevent inflammation from interfering with the use of stem cells to form bone and cartilage for oral, dental and craniofacial purposes. The isolation and enrichment of stem cells is also being explored, which would enhance the cells' ability to regrow bone and cartilage, with potential impacts throughout the health sciences sector.
- **HPV-Related Oral Cancer:** Scientists predict that this will be the most common HPV-related cancer by 2020. HPV-induced oral cancers among men are likely to exceed HPV-induced cervical cancers within the next eight years. In fact, HPV is now causing more oral cancers than smoking. But simply identifying the presence of HPV in a mouth swab or a blood draw does not definitively indicate the presence of cancer. More research is needed for the early detection of HPV-related oral cancer, and for the development of therapies that would lead to the prevention of cancer progression.

- **Cleft Lip and/or Cleft Palate** – Craniofacial anomalies such as cleft lip and/or cleft palate are among the most common birth defects. Both genetic and environmental factors contribute to oral clefts. Studies supported by NIDCR are providing important new leads about the role genetic factors and gene-environment interactions play in the development of these conditions.
- **Evidenced-Based Practice:** NIDCR awarded a seven-year grant that consolidates its dental practice-based research network initiative into a unified nationally coordinated effort. The consolidated initiative, the National Dental Practice Based Research Network (NDPBRN) is headquartered at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry. A dental practice-based research network is an investigative union of practicing dentists and academic scientists. The network provides practitioners with an opportunity to propose or participate in research studies that address daily issues in oral health care. These studies help to expand the profession’s evidence base and further refine care.

When adjusted for inflation, the NIDCR budget is 25 percent, or \$94 million, less than it was in 2004. This creates an atmosphere that discourages new scientific investigators and seriously jeopardizes the chances for promising breakthroughs in prevention and treatment.



*The American Association for Dental Research is a non profit with nearly 3,400 members in the United States. AADR’s mission is to advance research and increase knowledge for the improvement of oral health; to support and represent the oral health research community; and to facilitate the communication and application of research findings. AADR is the largest division of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) with nearly 11,000 members worldwide.*

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