

# Women's Health Access Matters

# DID YOU KNOW?

## Before 1993,

most testing done in clinical trials and diagnostic and device development was conducted on men.



Cardiovascular disease is the **#1 KILLER** of women in the US, causing **1 in 3 deaths a year.**



## Not until 2016

were female mice mandated to be included in research by NIH.



## UP TO 20%

of coronary events in women occur in the absence of known risk factors.

About **1 in 16 women** age 20 and older (6.2%) have coronary artery disease, the most common type of heart disease.



More than **500,000** women die from heart disease in the United States each year



almost **2X** as many women as breast, lung, ovarian and uterine cancers combined.

In 2020 cardiovascular disease cost our economy over

## \$555 BILLION



The 2019 NIH coronary artery disease budget equates to

## 17¢

PER WOMAN

## \$4

PER MAN



Heart disease kills approximately **one woman every minute.**

Women are **50%** more likely to die in the year following a heart attack than men.

## Just 4.5%

of the \$444 million 2019 NIH coronary artery disease budget went to women-focused research.



# WHAT NEXT?

According to The WHAM Report\*, if we double NIH funding for coronary artery disease research specifically focused on women, adding \$20 million, the funding:

Pays for itself  
**95X**  
OVER

Generates nearly  
**\$2 Billion**  
in returns to the economy

 **9,500%**  
return on investment

Returns nearly  
**12,000**  
lost productive years  
to our workforce 

## THE BACKGROUND:

WHAM (whamnow.org) was created in response to the considerable funding gap, historical exclusion, and underrepresentation of women in health research.

Women are the majority of the U.S. population, nearly 50% of the workforce, and control over 60% of personal wealth. In the U.S., women are responsible for over 85% of consumer spending and make over 80% of healthcare decisions. When women are pulled from the workforce because of inadequate treatment options or to care for their families, there are direct consequences – for our businesses and our economy.

The data on the reverse side of this page represents a very small sampling of the inequities and bias that exist in women's health research. While some progress has been made since 1993, when the National Institutes of Health mandated that women and minorities be included in any government-funded health research, there is still a long way to go.

The lives of women and men will vastly improve through research that is equally inclusive of women and men in trials – and female and male animals in preliminary research. By conducting research in parity and reporting gender outcomes separately, health breakthroughs will be accelerated and health outcomes around the world improved. As women benefit from this research and reduce their burden of disease,

they will improve their own wellbeing, which is directly connected to the wellbeing of our economy.

WHAM is committed to supporting research that investigates diseases and conditions that exclusively, differently or disproportionately affect women.

### OUR FOCUS

- Autoimmune Disease
- Brain Health
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Disease

### WHAM IS FOCUSED ON THREE INITIATIVES:

**THE WHAM COLLABORATIVE:** The WHAM Collaborative is a group of leading scientists focused on women's health research who help inform everything WHAM does.

**THE WHAM INVESTIGATOR'S FUND:** WHAM funds cutting edge investigators to study women's health and the role of sex and gender in outcomes. WHAM collaborates with leading institutions in the U.S. focused on women's health.

**THE WHAM REPORT:** The WHAM Report shows the impact of accelerating sex and gender-based health research on women, their families, and the economy. The WHAM Report will be a benchmark of change in this field and available to all.

To the best of WHAM's and RAND's knowledge this is the first analysis of its kind and is likely to become a seminal part of the arsenal in advocating for increased investment in women's health research. The research methodology and the microsimulation models have been vetted by a diverse panel of experts convened by RAND.

We encourage other leaders, including advocates, economists, scientists, public health experts and policy makers to draw from and act upon the results of this report. Together, we can drive meaningful change.

### OUR VISIONARY COLLABORATORS:

We are very grateful for the support of our Visionary Collaborators. WHAM's Collaborators are premiere institutions and organizations who are seen as leaders and pathfinders in each of our four disease areas creating the criteria that will ultimately affect how women's health research is conducted.



Women's  
Health  
Access  
Matters®

Please find additional infographics and social media toolkits on [thewhamreport.org](http://thewhamreport.org).

WHAM is making this data available open source so that researchers can use it to amplify their work and drive new research. Please visit [thewhamreport.org](http://thewhamreport.org) to learn more about using this data and citing this report.

[WHAMnow.org](http://WHAMnow.org)

WHAM, 19 East Elm St, Greenwich, CT 06830  
p. 203-661-1173 | [carolee@whamnow.org](mailto:carolee@whamnow.org)

© 2021 WHAM Women's Health Access Matters

\* WHAM commissioned the RAND Corporation to conduct The WHAM Report, a data-driven study of the economic impact to society of increasing the investment in women's health research. To the best of WHAM's and RAND's knowledge, The WHAM Report is the first analysis of its kind to create and calibrate a microsimulation model that examines differences for women's health research investment.