



National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

“Nursing research examines the biomedical and behavioral processes that underlie health and the environment in which health care is delivered.”¹

~ Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for academic nursing representing more than 875 member schools throughout the country.

AACN member schools educate more than 520,000 students and employ more than 57,000 faculty.

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OVERVIEW OF NINR

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), is one of 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NINR drives scientific research, which is a cornerstone of nursing practice, playing a crucial role in advancing evidence-based interventions, guiding policy, and supporting the nation’s health. Supporting NINR and keeping it as an independent Institute will ensure ongoing investment for nurse scientists working to shape a healthcare system that is innovative, responsive, and patient-centered.

UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF NINR

Since becoming an independent entity within NIH, NINR has helped to advance community-based care models, especially in underserved areas, while boosting collaboration and championing translational research for health promotion and disease prevention. Below are major outcomes that underscore the value of NINR:

- **Ongoing Collaboration:** NINR has a strong history of collaboration and breaking down silos at NIH, which aligns with the holistic approach inherent in nursing education and practice. NINR allows nurse scientists to promote a team-based environment, further enhancing integrated research across other NIH Institutes and Centers.
- **Reinforcing Connection:** The connection between nursing education and research must be safeguarded, as many researchers also serve as faculty, educating students to become tomorrow's frontline providers. This link not only yields mentorship for the next generation of nurse scientists, but also fosters a strong community of nurse researchers addressing patient needs.
- **Preparing the Next Generation of Nurses, Faculty, and Scientists:** The vital work of our nurse scientists directly shapes nursing education, supports faculty and nursing schools, and informs best practices, all contributing to a stronger healthcare system through patient-centered care across the lifespan.

NINR BY THE NUMBERS

Nursing is the largest healthcare profession, however; NINR remains underfunded. NINR funds 80% of training grants and 70% of Center grants, which support nursing education and research.² Despite the high return on investment from nursing research, NINR received \$197.693 million—0.407%—of the NIH's \$48.581 billion budget for FY 2024. NINR has consistently comprised only 0.4% of the overall NIH budget since 1997.³ Projections indicate that NINR needs a fivefold increase, totaling over \$763 million, to adequately fund nursing science.³ The chart below demonstrates NINR's proportion of total NIH funding:

Fiscal Year	NINR Funding (Million \$)	% of Total NIH Budget	Total NIH Budget (Billion \$)
FY 1997 ³	59.721	0.469%	12.741
FY 2007 ³	137.404	0.471%	29.179
FY 2017 ³	150.273	0.438%	34.301
FY 2024 ⁴	197.693	0.407%	48.581

THE ESSENTIAL WORK OF NINR SCIENTISTS & RESEARCHERS

Through the innovative work of nurse scientists, we've seen significant advancements in healthcare:

- **Low Birthweight Infants:** Nurse scientists developed a transitional care model for early discharges, improving infant health and saving approximately \$18,560 per infant in hospital and physician costs.⁵
- **Alzheimer's Symptom Management:** NINR, in collaboration with the National Institute on Aging, explored treatments for Alzheimer's disease, contributing to key genetic discoveries and a better understanding of the disease.⁶
- **Pressure Sores:** The Braden Scale, created to assess the risk of pressure sores, is now used globally in hospitals and nursing homes, helping reduce \$9 billion in annual healthcare costs.⁷
- **Inadequate Nursing Staff:** Research in Magnet hospitals found that positive work environments reduce turnover and burnout, improving patient safety and staff satisfaction, highlighting the need for better support for healthcare providers.⁷

*"The time is right for the NINR to become a leader in addressing some of the most important healthcare issues facing our society. For the NINR, and for all of nursing science, the possibilities are endless."*⁸

~ Dr. Patricia Grady

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