

# Investments

## in Biomedical Research and Training

by Health Research Alliance Member Organizations

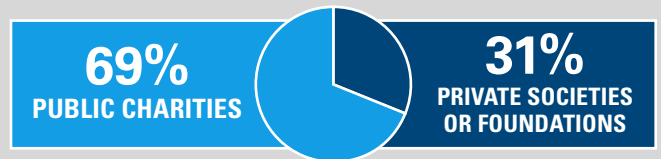


### 2010 TO 2019 GRANTMAKING REPORT

This report highlights Health Research Alliance contributions to health-related research, training and career development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## The Health Research Alliance

An alliance of nonprofit funders whose [membership](#) grew from 51 members in 2010 to 84 in 2019 to over 100 in 2022

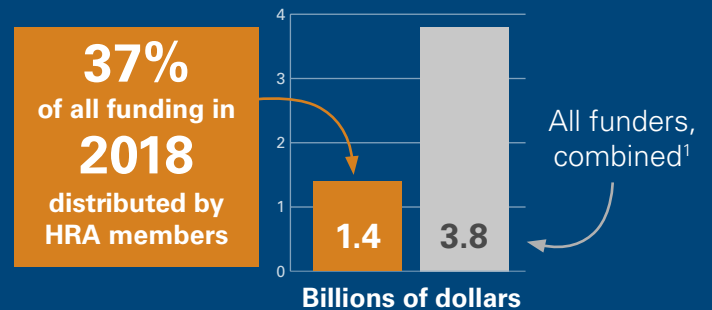


### Awards distributed, 2010 to 2019

<b>HRA members awarded</b> <b>\$12 Billion</b> for biomedical research to improve human health	<b>median award size</b> <b>\$154,000</b> per year
	<b>median duration</b> <b>23 months</b>

### Sector context

Funding distributed by the nonprofit sector in 2018



## In this report

<b>Who We Fund</b> Awardee demographics: gender and race/ethnicity	<b>What We Fund</b> Award purpose and research topics	<b>Our Future</b> HRA actions on inequities and career development
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Visit [www.healthra.org](http://www.healthra.org) to learn more about how HRA is maximizing the impact of biomedical research funding.

# Who We Fund: Awardee Demographics

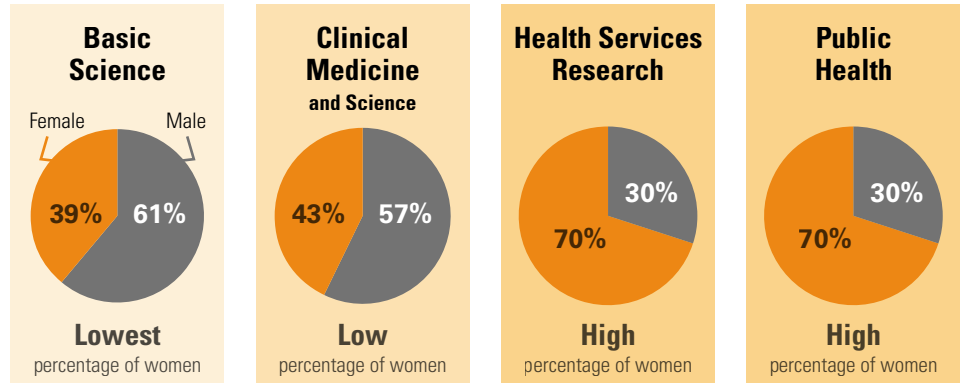
## Representation of women

HRA recognizes the importance of expanding gender classification as gender terms evolve.

However, due to the small number of non-binary respondents (2, or 0.007% of total respondents), the data depicted here is female/male only.

### Gender representation varies across RESEARCH TOPICS

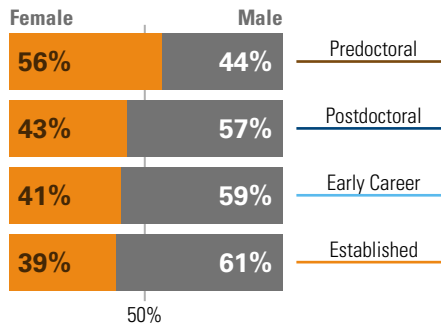
Gender ratio of the award recipients in each [Broad Research Area](#),<sup>1</sup> based on all awards from 2010 to 2019



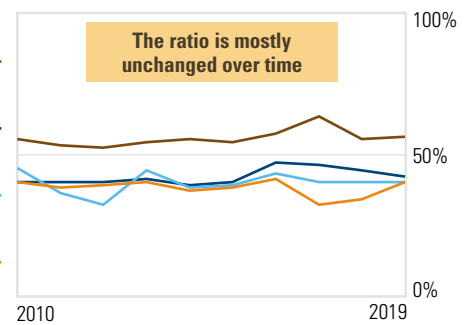
### Gender representation varies across CAREER STAGES

Gender ratio of the award recipients at each career stage, overall and over time

#### All awards, 2010-2019



#### Percent female, by career stage

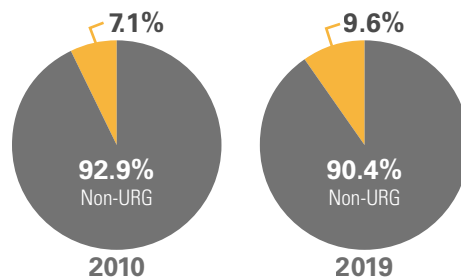


## Racial/ethnic representation

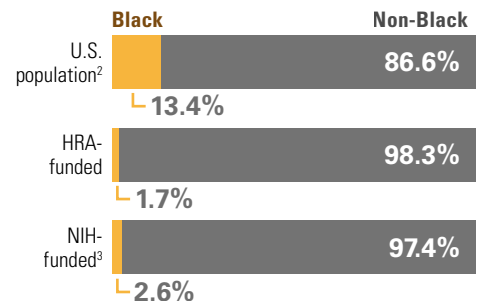
**Underrepresented groups (URG)** in this case refers to racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in science.

### MORE PROGRESS NEEDED to address inequality in representation of racial and ethnic groups

#### Award recipients from underrepresented groups



#### Black or African American representation, 2019



1. "Broad Research Areas" is a categorization scheme developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC, Australia) and used by HRA Analyzer.

2. [US census](#)

3. [National Institutes of Health](#)

# What We Fund: Award Purpose and Research Topics

## Award Purpose

### HRA members strengthen future research by funding **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

These awards fund high quality research while supporting the next generation of innovative biomedical researchers →

**34% of all HRA funding dollars support career development and training initiatives**

Compared with less than 10% at the National Institutes of Health.

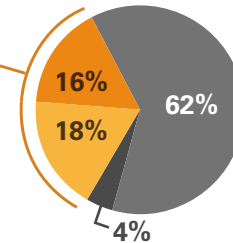
#### Career Development

Defined as supporting researchers who have earned their advanced degree (PhD, MD), completed training, and are at an early career stage.

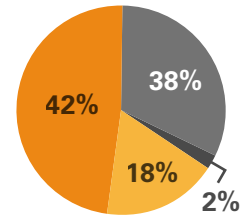
#### Training

Defined as supporting future researchers, those still in school or completing training, for careers in biomedical sciences.

#### By dollars awarded



#### By number of awards



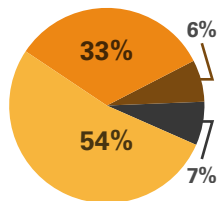
■ Career Development
 ■ Research  
■ Training
 ■ Other

## Research Topics

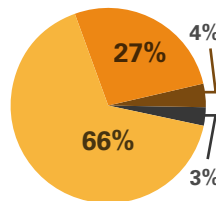
### HRA member funding is efficiently focused on **KEY HEALTH TOPICS**

Award dollars are targeting biomedical research on leading causes of death in the U.S. →

#### Broad Research Areas, by dollars awarded



#### Broad Research Areas, by number of awards



**Basic Science** is experimental or theoretical work, primarily to acquire new knowledge.

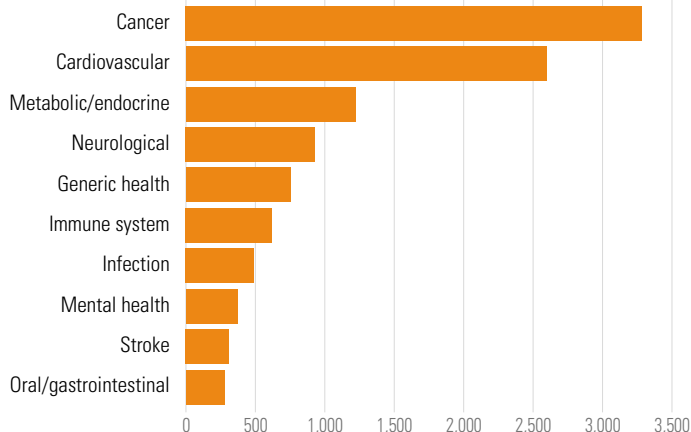
**Clinical Medicine and Science** deals with the practice and study of medicine based on the direct examination of the patient.

**Public Health** research deals with prevention and control of disease through population surveillance and promotion of healthy behaviors.

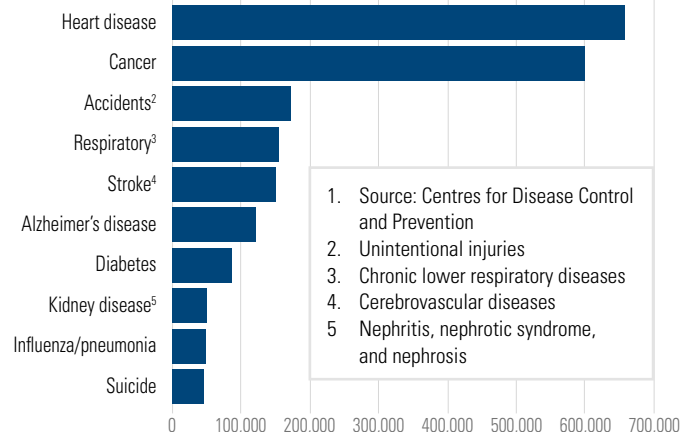
**Health Services Research** studies many factors that affect health care access, quality, cost, and ultimately health and well-being.

### Spending according to Health Research Classification System

All awards 2010 – 2019 (dollars in millions)



Leading causes of death in the U.S., 2019<sup>1</sup>



1. Source: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention  
 2. Unintentional injuries  
 3. Chronic lower respiratory diseases  
 4. Cerebrovascular diseases  
 5. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis

# What We're Doing: HRA Actions to Address Race and Gender Inequities and Career Hurdles for Early Career Investigators

## HRA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Community

Recognizing that diversity of scientific teams is imperative because it leads to more innovative and creative ideas, HRA created the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Community](#) to provide a collaborative space for members to identify barriers to researchers' full participation in the scientific workforce. Goals of the DEI Community are to provide learning opportunities, develop resources, and identify tools to amplify members' efforts to measurably

advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in their grant programs and processes. Recent actions include conducting an inventory of HRA member programs and strategies to increase diversity and equity, a summary of and recommendations for collecting demographic data with the aim of measuring progress, and a major focus on identifying and implementing strategies to reduce bias in peer review.

## HRA's Research Workforce and Early Career Development Community

A clear priority for HRA members is the support of scientists early in their careers, from undergraduates to assistant professors. This is a critical period in career development and the right support can significantly advance both the scientific careers of these Early Career Investigators (ECIs) and the pace of scientific discovery. [The Research Workforce and Early Career Development Community](#) works to identify successful funding mechanisms as well as promote and evaluate mentorship practices to ensure the success of ECIs. Financial support in tandem with mentorship and training will help sustain the scientific workforce and advance scientific progress.

This community collaborates with the DEI Community to collect [consistent data](#) on ECI awardees across the HRA membership. This will help members to implement and evaluate strategies to advance careers of early career researchers from underrepresented groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe disruptions to the training environments and research projects of early career researchers. The Research Workforce and Early Career Development Community is investigating ways to address these challenges, both within individual organizations and as collaborations across the HRA membership.

## About this report

This report provides data summaries describing HRA grant spending from 2010 to 2019 based on a database, [HRA Analyzer](#), which tracks HRA member organizations' awards.

Compliance with data reporting varies year to year, with 77% of member organizations entering some data over this time period. 50% of organizations submitted data consistently. The completion rate for gender information within the reported data was 60% and completion rate for race/ethnicity information was 46%. Therefore, this report should be understood as only a summary of available data and not a complete picture.

[HRA Analyzer](#) is a tool that enables us to provide a clearer picture of the nonprofit biomedical research funding landscape and to evaluate HRA strategic goals for the future. HRA Analyzer is a customized version of Digital Science's web-based database known as [Dimensions](#).

Most HRA Analyzer data is either self-reported by awardees or determined by staff at the funding organizations. Some data, including machine learning-based [research and disease classifications](#), is provided by Dimensions.



[www.healthra.org](http://www.healthra.org)

**This report is based on data from 2010 to 2019**

To read about the impact of COVID-19 on HRA grantmaking in 2020–2021, see [Health Research Alliance Covid-19 Member Survey Results](#).