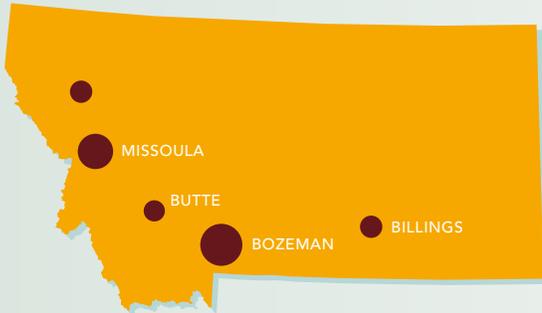


MONTANA

Medical researchers funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are working every day to improve health, discover cures and provide hope to people the world-over affected by disease. This work, however, has a secondary benefit: it supports employment and economic activity across the United States, including in Montana.



ADDING TO MONTANA'S ECONOMY

In FY2017, 14 institutions in Montana received

69 research awards
totaling nearly \$36 million

While the bulk of the research awards went to Montana State University in Bozeman and University of Montana in Missoula, others supported a range of institutions and businesses throughout the state. This research funding, when cycled through the economy, generated **\$76 million in total sales** for Montana businesses:



Supporting nearly **600 jobs** in Montana; and



Generating approximately **\$7 million in tax and fee revenues** for state, county and municipal governments statewide.

BOOSTING THE LABOR FORCE IN MONTANA

Jobs in the scientific R&D sector in Montana pay on average 2.2 times more than those in other sectors. In 2017, this was \$75,600 vs. \$34,000. And, for young workers (under 25), the difference was also significant — 2.1 times the average pay in other fields, \$26,400 vs. \$12,700. With one of the nation's oldest populations, attracting and keeping young workers is important for Montana's future growth.



REDUCING PUBLIC HEALTH COSTS

In Montana, **30% of the population** (less than the national average of 35%) is enrolled in Medicare and Medicaidⁱ and spending on these programs amounts to **6% of Montana's total GDP** (the national average). Residents in Montana tend to be healthier on average than those in other states as measured by the rate of certain chronic diseases and health conditions.ⁱⁱ

COMPARED TO OTHER STATES, MONTANA RANKS:

34th for rate of deaths from **cancer**

34th for rate of **cardiovascular disease**

42nd for rate of deaths from **Alzheimer's disease**

46th for rate of **diabetes**

46th for rate of **obesity**

50th for rate of deaths from **opioid overdose**



This state snapshot accompanies the UMR report, "The Economic & Fiscal Impact on Select States of NIH-funded Medical Research."

NIH-funded research that leads to improved treatments and cures for disease can help Montana address the state and local fiscal challenges of rising health care costs.



MEDICAL RESEARCH AT WORK IN MONTANA

Linda firmly believes that as long as there is life, there is hope. This philosophy has served her well since today she is a 14-year cancer survivor. Billings, MT resident Linda Wetzel credits medical research — and her participation in a clinical trial — with saving her life.

In late 2004, she was diagnosed with Stage IV B-cell non-hodgkins lymphoma throughout her entire body. An aggressive mass had spread across her abdomen, compromised her left kidney and had metastasized to her bone marrow. She was, in her own words, “more dead than alive.” With her cancer so advanced, she volunteered for an aggressive experimental treatment. The treatment was grueling, but after six months, her cancer was in remission. Unfortunately, nine months later the cancer returned. That’s when her doctor approached her about participating in a clinical trial that was using patients’ own stem cells to treat their disease. Convincing Linda to participate was the easy part.

The trial involved even more aggressive chemotherapy, plus blood transfusions and the harvesting of stem cells from Linda’s body, and eventually, the return of those stem cells to her body. While the procedure was ultimately life-saving, it was a harrowing two months. During this time her family twice began funeral preparations, but through research and with the help of many doctors and nurses, she made it through and her cancer has been in remission since June 28, 2006.

Today, Linda is the very proud mom of four of her own sons and two foster sons. She has watched both a son and a foster son return home from serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of whom is participating in a clinical study of concussive brain injury — his decision to participate was easy given his mom’s experience.

*Linda credits
medical research
— and her
participation in
a clinical trial —
with saving
her life.*



United for Medical Research is a coalition of leading scientific research institutions and industries, and patient and health advocates that have joined together to seek steady increases in funding for the National Institutes of Health. Learn more at www.unitedformedicalresearch.com. For examples of the amazing things that NIH research is making possible, visit www.amazingthingspodcast.com.

¹ According to the most recent statistics available from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

² [Diabetes and Obesity: “The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America 2018”](#)

[Cardiovascular Disease: Kaiser J Family Foundation State Health Facts](#)

[Cancer Deaths: National Cancer Institute State Cancer Profiles](#)

[Alzheimer’s Disease Deaths: Alzheimer’s Association “2018 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures”](#)

[Opioid Overdose Deaths: Kaiser J Family Foundation State Health Facts](#)