



National Institute of Nursing Research

Mission | To lead nursing research to solve pressing health challenges and inform practice and policy – optimizing health for all.

Who We Are

Nursing incorporates the individual, their health, and the conditions of their daily life into research and the delivery of care. Nurses seek to understand the health preferences and decisions of individuals, families, and communities and lead scientific discoveries to deliver high quality, compassionate, evidence-based care.

In the many clinical and community settings in which nurses practice, they interact with individuals and families more closely than any other health profession. This frequent interaction underpins nursing's holistic understanding that the whole

person and their surrounding context must be considered and addressed at multiple levels across the lifespan. Given this perspective, nurses are uniquely positioned to lead the development of scientific evidence to inform and improve clinical practice, healthcare systems, and community care to protect and improve health and well-being for all.

NINR leverages the unique person-centered, holistic perspective of nursing to support solutions-oriented research that considers the conditions of people's lives. These solutions address real-world health challenges and drive innovations to maximize health for individuals, families, communities, and populations.

What We Do

NINR-funded investigators lead scientific discoveries of innovative **systems and models of care**, breakthroughs in **disease prevention and health promotion**, and advances in **population and community health** that empower individuals, families, communities, and populations to optimize their health and well-being. From identifying the best approaches to strengthening healthcare system's ability to prevent and treat chronic disease to working alongside communities and other partners to foster health-promoting behaviors, NINR is advancing research that tackles everyday challenges that matter most to people and their health.

With support from NINR, research teams across the Nation are expanding the evidence base necessary to improve health and the quality of care, reduce healthcare costs, and quickly move new scientific discoveries into clinical and community practice.

Nursing research addresses the conditions of people's lives to improve a broad spectrum of health outcomes

Nurses see firsthand how the conditions of people's lives affect their health. That's why NINR ranks 2nd at NIH in supporting research training to ensure that nurses gain the skills they need to bring this perspective to research.

QUICK FACTS

November 2025 marks **NINR's 40th anniversary**.

In October 2024, NINR announced **School Health as a new priority area**.

NINR areas of interest*

(NIH ranking as % of budget)

- Behavioral and social sciences research (1st)
- Clinical research (1st)
- Social determinants of health (2nd)
- Maternal health (2nd)
- Health services (2nd)
- Clinical trials (2nd)
- Research training (2nd)
- Prevention (3rd)
- Rural health (3rd)

The power and potential of nursing

Over 4 million strong, nurses are both the largest health profession and the largest of all professions in the Nation. Nurses are the **backbone of our health systems**, and have ranked as the **most trusted profession for 22 years in a row**.

Through this trust, nurses partner with patients, families, and communities to advance research and improve outcomes.

Nursing is interdisciplinary by nature

Nurses serve as crucial connectors between various healthcare specialties and the patients they serve.

Their work across disciplines makes nurses invaluable in research settings, where they **bridge the gap between clinical practice and scientific inquiry** and translate findings into practical, person-centered, novel interventions.



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Learn more about NINR, our mission, and the research we fund at www.ninr.nih.gov.