

*Unlocking Secrets to  
Better Health Care*

Unlocking Secrets to Better Health Care

# Agenda

- Who and what we are
- Problems Health Services Research (HSR) addresses
- Solutions

## The Coalition for Health Services Research

- Mission is to support the research that unlocks the secrets of
  - Quality
  - Affordability
  - Accessibility
- Advocacy arm of **AcademyHealth**

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# AcademyHealth

- Is a **non-partisan** professional society for health services researchers and health policy professionals.
- Comprises 4,000 individual members and 130 organizational affiliates.
- Membership includes policy analysts, researchers, and practitioners, and groups such as universities, associations, think tanks, and individual corporations.

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## What is Health Services Research (HSR)?

HSR identifies the most effective ways to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high-quality care, reduce medical errors, and improve patient safety.

### HSR Examines:

- How people get access to care
- How much care costs
- What happens to patients as result of this care

## Where the Health Care Dollar Goes - 2003

Hospital Care - 30.8 cents  
Physician & Clinical Services - 22 cents  
Rx Drugs - 10.7 cents  
Administrative - 7.1 cents  
Nursing Home Care - 6.6 cents  
Dental Services - 4.4 cents  
Public Health - 3.2 cents  
Other Medical Products - 3.1 cents  
Other Professional Services - 2.9 cents  
Other Personal Health Care - 2.9 cents  
Home Health Care - 2.4 cents  
Construction - 1.5 cents  
Research - 2.3 cents  
**Health Services Research - 0.1 cents**  
TOTAL.....\$1

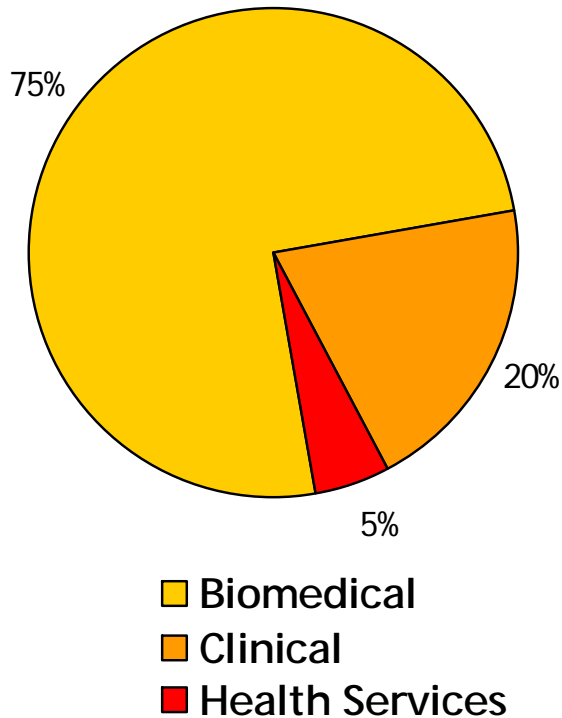


Source: *Health, United States, 2005* – National Center for Health Statistics

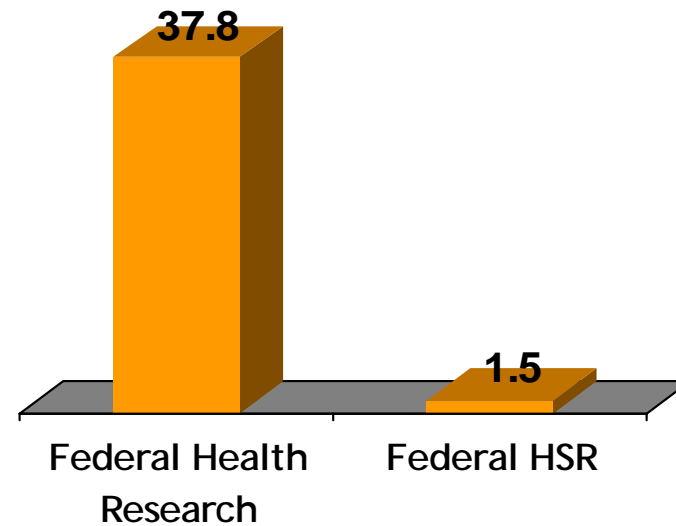
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# Where the Health Care Research Dollar Goes

Federal Health Research  
by Type



Federal HSR Spending Compared to  
All Federal Health Research  
(in billions)



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## Problems Are Well Documented

- **Quality:** IOM Report “To Err Is Human” reported that up to 98,000 Americans a year die from medical errors.
- **Affordability:** Many studies show those without adequate health insurance have poorer outcomes and suffer premature death more often than the insured.
- **Availability:** Disparities and lack of access to care in rural and inner city areas also result in poorer outcomes.

## Making Sense of Things

Investment in HSR pays **dividends** in:

- Improved Quality
- More Affordable Care
- Increased Availability

**The Washington Post**  
**Procedure on Women**  
**in Labor Adds Risk**

□ **Improved Quality:**  
**Effectiveness of Episiotomies**

A 2005 study showed that episiotomies (a preemptive incision used during childbirth to prevent tissue tearing) have no positive benefit, and probably result in more complications and cause more pain than if no incision were made during childbirth.

May 2005, AHRQ study at behest of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

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## □ More Affordable Care:

### Comparison of Antipsychotic Drugs

2005 study found:

- Oldest drug (perphenazine) was as effective as newer drugs and caused no additional side effects.
- Newer drug (Zyprexa) helped patients control symptoms slightly better than others, but caused additional serious side effects.

This study enables greater flexibility in care and informs patients and providers about costs and quality of care.

**Health Care Quality and Disparities:  
Lessons from the First National Reports**

▣ **Increased Availability:**  
**National Healthcare Disparities Report**

Demonstrated that:

- ▣ Disparities based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status are pervasive.
- ▣ Some Disparities are Diminishing.  
Disparities experienced by African Americans and Asians decreased, but for Hispanics and the poor, the reverse is true.

Source: AHRQ, 2005

## HSR Can Help Make Health Care Markets More Effective

- Determining most effective payment mechanisms
- Providing evidence to determine which treatments work best
- Reducing the emotion involved in decision making
- Giving better information to both consumers and providers

## More Information = Better Health Decisions

As part of the health research continuum - HSR is used by:

- **Policymakers** to improve the health care system.
- **Payers** to make the best use of their health care dollar.
- **Providers** to determine the best course of treatment.
- **Patients** to make sense of it all.

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## More Information = Better Health Decisions

- New knowledge will improve quality and increase affordability, availability, and accessibility.
- Increased spending on new medicines and equipment makes no sense if the system cannot safely and effectively deliver the care.
- The need for more information is national in scope and requires a national approach.

**Solution: increase the level of federal funding for HSR**

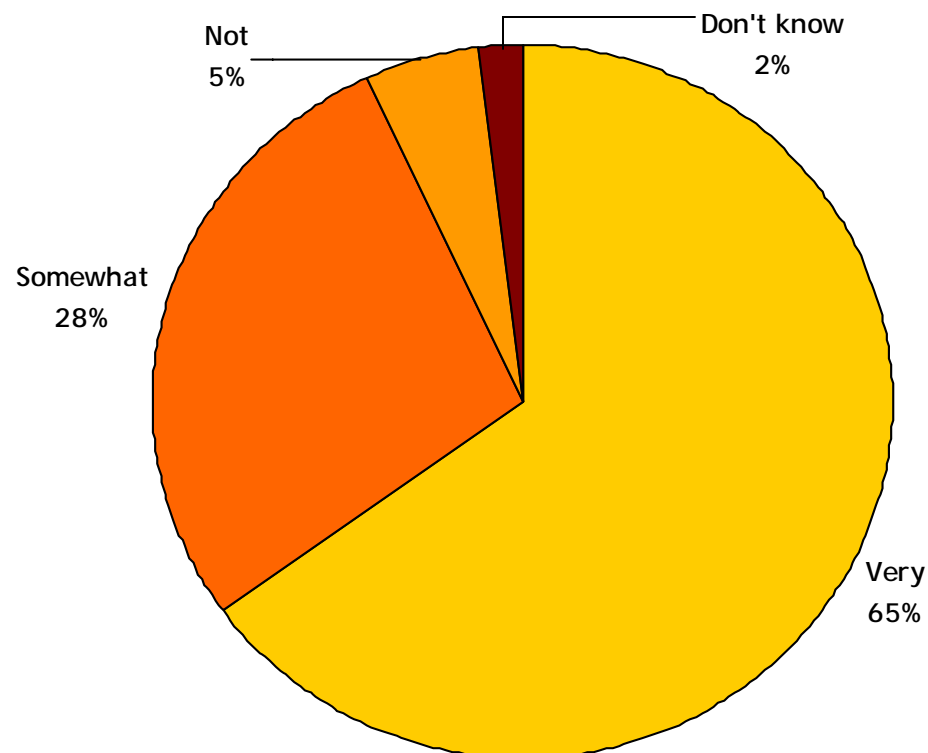
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## Current HSR Funding

AHRQ	\$319 million	To evaluate the <b>\$1.8 trillion</b> health care system.
NIH	\$908 million	To translate <b>\$28 billion</b> in basic and clinical research into practice.
CMS	\$28 million	To evaluate <b>\$295 billion</b> of Medicare spending.
NCHS	\$109 million	To gather data to help evaluate <b>\$1.8 trillion</b> health care system.
VHA	\$134 million	To evaluate the <b>\$29 billion</b> veterans health system.

## Americans Support Health Services Research

A type of research called health services research seeks to translate discoveries from research into medical practice. How important do you think it is for the United States to invest in health services research?



## Use Reauthorizations of AHRQ & NIH to:

- Strengthen the field's infrastructure
- Increase funding for comparative effectiveness research and insulate agencies conducting reviews
- Improve coordination of HSR throughout the federal government

## Use Reauthorizations to:

- For AHRQ, secure funding for a broader range of research topics
- For NIH, increase share of funding for HSR in overall budget

## Use appropriations to:

- Increase funding for AHRQ to \$440 million in FY 2007
- Increase overall federal HSR spending to \$5 billion over time

## Contact Us

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