

\*All data sources viewable via link on back

## Gaps in Women's Health

- **84% increase of lung cancer** in non-smoking women while dropping 36% among men from 1979 to 2021, and continues to rise
- **2x rate of mortality** following ER admission for a heart condition
- **80% of women** will have fibroid tumors at some point
- Black women are **3.5x more likely** to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women
- Breast cancer impacts **1 in 8 women** — type of screening is a matter of life or death yet is not accessible
- **50% mortality rate** for ovarian cancer
- **Menopause triggers** increased risk for heart disease, cognitive decline, autoimmune conditions, cardio metabolic syndrome, and many more conditions
- Maternal and OB-GYN deserts are in **1,000+ counties**
- **Approximately 1 in 2 women** will experience a bone fracture due to osteoporosis in their lifetime

*This fact sheet references diseases and conditions that solely, disproportionately and/or differently impact the health of women from head to toe across their lifespan.*

**80% of autoimmune patients are women**

**66% of people over 65 years old with Alzheimer's are women**

## Sex Matters in Data & Scientific Understanding

**Adverse drug events are twice as common in women**

- Women live **5 years longer** than men but often **in poorer health**
- Most pre-clinical studies use **exclusively male mice**
- **Medical decisions** are based on clinical trials, data, algorithms and machine learning **based on mostly white men**
- Adverse drug events are **twice as likely in women as men** due to lack of inclusion and data collection and analysis because women metabolize drugs differently
- Urological-gynecological surgeries similar to male urological surgeries are **reimbursed 30% less on average**
- Significant **advertising censorship** in women's sexual health and wellness
- **Only 31.3%** OB/GYNs report having a **menopause curriculum** in their residency program

# Investment

- Women's health is a **\$1T market opportunity**
- **Doubling current NIH investment** in the 4 areas of heart, brain, autoimmune and lung cancer (\$350 million) would **generate \$14 billion for our economy**
- Women's health investments are undervalued by 20%
- Firms making \$10-\$50 M investments are **not investing in women's health startups**
- Funds primarily investing in women's health are **micro-fund investors** except one —<\$1 million investment per company when PE healthcare deals are ~\$200 billion
- **Only 10% of VCs** with check writing power are female
- Female entrepreneurs are **63% less likely to get VC funding**
- **76% of women's health companies have a female founder** — **3x rate of others**
- **But, investments are rising:**
  - **Over 60%** of women's health-focused companies were founded during 2016-2022
  - **1,000% increase** in the number of businesses in this space over the past 10 years
  - **314% increase** in women's health VC investment since 2018

Only  
8-11% of NIH  
grants fund  
women's health

Only 2% of  
VC investment  
and 2% of Big  
Pharma R&D  
is in women's  
health innovation

## Policy Priorities

- **Protecting and increasing funding** for women's health research
- **Ensuring sex-based data collection**, analysis and utilization
- **Paving the FDA pathway** for women's health innovation
- **Ending reimbursement discrimination**
- **Ensuring access to care** for rural and urban populations
- **Eliminating barriers** to reproductive care
- **Incentivizing closing gaps** in women's health
- Preserving Medicaid **women's health services and programs**



## ABOUT WHA

**Women's Health Advocates** is uniting people to educate government decision-makers on women's health gaps and policies and funding needed to advance the health of women.

Our coalition consists of people in all 50 states covering all sectors of women's health as patients, physicians, investors, entrepreneurs, executives in business and nonprofits, and public health and policy experts.

View all data  
sources and  
learn more



[womenshealthadvocates.org/facts](http://womenshealthadvocates.org/facts)