How *Nature* analysed NIH's grant terminations

Nature was given access to the raw data used in the public Airtable document: NIH Grant Terminations in 2025.

A CSV file was downloaded on Monday 7 April.

To retrieve only grants that were confirmed as cancelled, the data were filtered to show only the rows where 'cancellation_source' was listed as 'HHS reported', 'Self reported or 'Self and HHS reported'. About 770 grants were counted.

The code used to do this analysis is available at a public GitHub repository here: https://github.com/chris-creditdesign/nature-nih-grant-terminations-data-wrangling/tree/main

Terminated grant tally

The 'project_title' and 'project_abstract' for each terminated grant was searched for terms related to HIV, trans health, COVID and climate.

The terms used are as follows:

Trans health related: 'affirming care', 'assigned at birth', 'assigned male at birth', 'assigned female at birth', 'gender diversity', 'gender identity', 'gender affirming care', 'non-binary'', 'nonbinary' or 'transgender'.

COVID: 'COVID-19', 'SARS-CoV-2' or 'COVID'.

HIV: 'HIV' or 'AIDS'.

Climate: 'Climate', 'environmental justice'

The proportion of grants terminated was determined by dividing the count of terminated grants in each field of study by the total number of terminated grants and multiplied by 100.

Fields under fire

The data were retrieved to show only grants where the 'fiscal_year' is 2024 and the 'project_type' is 'Full grant'. 487 grants were counted.

NIH RePORTER was used to search for grants related to "LGBTQ+", "Transgender health", "HIV" and "Vaccine hesitancy". The search criteria used was:

Fiscal year: 2024; Agency/Institute/Center: NIH; Admin: Yes; Funding: Yes; Award Type: New, Competing Renewal, Noncompeting Project; End Date: On or After: 02/20/2025; Advanced text search: Limit to: Project Title, Project Abstracts

The text search terms used were “Transgender”, (“HIV” or “AIDS”) not (“archive” or “archival”), “LGBT” or “LGBTQ” or “LGBTQ+” and “Vaccine hesitancy”.

The NIH RePORTER search results were exported as CSV files. The number of terminated grant project titles with corresponding project titles in the NIH RePORTER list by field were counted.

The percentage terminated was determined by dividing total matching terminated grants by total number of grants by field and multiplying by 100.

Institutes losing the most

The data was grouped by ‘program_office’ and a total for ‘award_remaining’ was calculated for each group. (Some money on grants has already been spent. The ‘award_remaining’ reflects the amount that the Trump administration has effectively taken back.)

Funding data for 2020 to 2023 by institute were downloaded from the NIH Almanac section 1 and section 2.

Funding data for 2024 by institute were downloaded from NIH RePORT.

An average per year for 2020 to 2024 was calculated from all of this data.

The termination impact index was calculated by dividing the award remaining amount by the average funding for 2020-24 by institute and multiplying by 100.

Grant cuts by state

Funding amounts by US state for the years 2020-2024 were downloaded from PORT.

The Airtable document *Nature* worked with categorized each grant by state where the funding research grantee is located. The info was summed by state for terminated grants, looking at the ‘award_remaining’. The termination impact index was determined by dividing total award remaining in each state by the average annual funding 2020-2024 by state and multiplying by 100.

Results of the US election 2024 were referenced from the National Archives.