Funding allocations for the National Institutes of Health are somewhat aligned with mortality rates for those diseases although there are some notable exceptions. Spending on cancer research compared to heart disease, and the low rate of funding for Alzheimer’s compared to it’s ranking as fifth deadliest disease are notable. In addition, there are some striking differences in risk factors for men and women, especially as it relates to violence, self-inflicted and otherwise.

Mortality Rate per 100,000

- Heart Disease: 191.5
- Cancer: 185.1
- Lung Disease: 45.9
- Stroke: 41.4
- Alzheimer’s: 27.3
- Parkinson’s: 23.7
- Prostate Cancer: 18.2
- Liver Disease: 17.3
- Kidney Disease: 14.6
- Breast Cancer: 13.3
- Diabetes: 12.7
- Pneumonia: 10.8
- Kidney Disease: 7.4

NIH Spending in 2011 in Millions

- Heart Disease: $1,236
- Cancer: $5,448
- Lung Disease: $1,278
- Stroke: $317
- Alzheimer’s: $448
- Parkinson’s: $1,076
- Prostate Cancer: $284
- Pneumonia: $745
- Kidney Disease: $557
- Breast Cancer: $715
- Diabetes: $448
- Lung Disease: $317
- Heart Disease: $1,278

Heat Disease killed 19,886 more people than cancer. However, cancer received more than four times the amount of funding.

Breast cancer funding will drop from $715 Million in 2011 to $674 Million in 2015.

Suicide rates among men are four times that for women.

The homicide rate for men is 8.3, making it more deadly than Parkinson’s.