



*Celebrating 15 Years*  
OF ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH

PRESS STATEMENT

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## NEW REPORT DOCUMENTS DEVASTATING IMPACT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CUTS FOR WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH

**WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease and coalition of more than 90 organizations call on Congress to stop cuts**

**Washington, DC, July 15, 2014**—WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease as part of the Coalition for Health Funding (CHF) released a report today documenting the dire consequences of Congress' deep cuts to public health and health research programs. *Faces of Austerity: How Budget Cuts Hurt America's Health* ([LINK TO http://www.cutshurt.org/](http://www.cutshurt.org/)) illustrates the eroding U.S. public health infrastructure and the underfunding of all public health and health research programs, including those benefiting women's heart health.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in American women, and is responsible for one in every three female deaths in the U.S. Public health and health research funding cuts decrease the effectiveness of federal programs to improve women's heart health and leave research projects underfunded or unfunded, which jeopardizes the health of women living with and at risk for heart disease. For example:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation (WISEWOMAN) program provides chronic disease risk factor screenings, lifestyle programs, and referral services to low-income, under-insured or uninsured women who are at risk for cardiovascular disease. This program needs consistent funding so it can reach more women living with and at risk for cardiovascular disease.
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) conducts research to prevent the most common diseases and conditions that affect post-menopausal women through its Women's Health Initiative. To date, WHI has resulted in 76,000 fewer cases of cardiovascular disease. Funding cuts could jeopardize the future of this program.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices (RAED) program is designed to save the lives of people in rural areas who suffer from cardiac arrest. Cuts would result in an increase in preventable deaths from cardiac arrest in rural areas.

While there is limited sequester relief in 2015, the full impact of sequestration hits again in 2016 and for years to come. This would further imperil programs aimed at reducing the incidence of women's heart disease and improving the quality of life of women living with heart disease. *Faces of Austerity How Budget Cuts Hurt America's Health* ([LINK TO http://www.cutshurt.org/](http://www.cutshurt.org/))

features more than 20 testimonials from real Americans telling stories about how public health and health research funding cuts have impacted their lives. As such, it is an important reminder for the public and lawmakers alike about the potentially devastating consequences of these cuts, particularly when it comes to women's heart health. We hope the report will serve as a catalyst to bolster federally-funded programs and research for women's heart health. The health of American women depends on it.

Read the *Faces of Austerity How Budget Cuts Hurt America's Health* report here:  
<http://www.cutshurt.org/>.

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*WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease is the nation's only patient centered organization serving the 42 million American women living with or at risk for heart disease – the leading cause of death for women. WomenHeart is solely devoted to advancing women's heart health through advocacy, community education, and the nation's only patient support network for women living with heart disease. WomenHeart is both a coalition and a community of thousands of members nationwide, including women heart patients and their families, healthcare professionals, and health advocates, all committed to helping women live longer, healthier lives. To join or donate, visit [www.womenheart.org](http://www.womenheart.org).*

*The National Coalition for Health Funding is the oldest and largest non-profit alliance working to preserve and strengthen public health investments in the best interest of all Americans. Its member organizations represent more than 90 million patients, health care providers, public health professionals, and scientists.*