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Fact Sheet: Government Funding of Aborted Fetal Tissue Use

Taxpayers fund aborted baby parts sales with millions of dollars every year. The NIH reports spending a minimum of **$76 million** in Human Fetal Tissue-specific grants and nearly **$1.4 billion** in Stem Cell Research grants in 2014.[1] These figures represent minimal estimates because the NIH category definitions "***do not reflect the entire NIH research portfolio and budget***"[2] and projects under $500,000 may not be reported. Some research projects may use fetal tissue but be reported as another category.

Federal law has explicit statutory requirements that must be met before the federal government funds fetal tissue experiments. These include requirements that abortion patients to consent to tissue donation only *after* already having consented to abortion, the timing or method of the abortion not be altered for tissue procurement, the abortion comply with all applicable State laws, and full disclosure of any interest the abortion provider has in the tissue donation.[3]

The University of Washington Birth Defects Research Laboratory is a major supplier of aborted fetal tissue and receives over a half-million dollars each year in NIH grant money. They seem unconcerned about the law for fetal tissue procurement, and note in their grant applications:

> *Changes in termination practice, including newer medical, non-surgical procedures, and the use of agents to ensure delivery of nonviable specimens, have created **new obstacles to obtaining sufficient amounts of high quality tissue** required for research. **To overcome these problems and meet increasing demand**, the Laboratory has developed new relationships with both local and distant clinics.*[4]

Recent government-funded fetal tissue experiments include:

- 2013 and 2014 studies transplanting cells from **17-22 week aborted fetal brains** into lab mice, funded with grants from the NINDS and NIMH divisions of NIH[5,6]
- Experiments in 2012 with **beating fetal hearts** purchased from StemExpress were funded with multiple grants from NIH[7,8]
- 2013 study using **normal 24-week fetal eyes "harvested within minutes of death"** with funding from multiple NIH grants.[9]

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[1] "Estimates of Funding for Various Research, Condition, and Disease Categories (RCDC)," *NIH RePORT*. 5 February 2015. http://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx

[2] emphasis added. "Reasons Funding Levels Might Change," *NIH RePORT*. http://report.nih.gov/rcdc/reasons.aspx

[3] 42 USC 289g-1. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/289g-1

[4] Glass, Ian. "Laboratory of Developmental Biology," Project No. 5R24HD000836-46, *NIH RePORTER*. 2010. http://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_description.cfm?aid=7762234&icde=0

[5] Goldman et al, "Forebrain Engraftment by Human Glial Progenitor Cells Enhances Synaptic Plasticity and Learning in Adult Mice." *Cell Stem Cell*, 7 March 2013. http://www.cell.com/cell-stem-cell/fulltext/S1934-5909(13)00007-6

[6] Goldman et al, "A Competitive Advantage by Neonatally Engrafted Human Glial Progenitors Yields Mice Whose Brains Are Chimeric for Human Glia." *J of Neuroscience*, 26 November 2014. http://www.jneurosci.org/content/34/48/16153.abstract

[7] Wu et al, "Early Stem Cell Engraftment Predicts Late Cardiac Functional Recovery." *Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging*, 7 May 2012. http://circimaging.ahajournals.org/content/5/4/481.full

[8] Wu et al, "Safe Genetic Modification of Cardiac Stem Cells Using a Site-Specific Integration Technique." *Circulation*, 11 September 2012. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3481839/

[9] Metlapally et al, "Scleral Micro-RNA Signatures in Adult and Fetal Eyes." *PLOS ONE*, 21 October 2013. http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0078984