



How the next Government can deliver good health for all supported by the best research.

Research is a driver of a healthier population, improved public services and economic growth.

The UK is one of the best places in the world for health research. However, with increasing NHS pressures, international competition, emerging health threats and unsustainable funding models, the next Government cannot take this for granted.

The decisions the next Government makes on health and research will be pivotal to UK prosperity and wellbeing. The following five priority areas will be vital to promote good health for all, supported by the best research, for patients, the public and researchers.



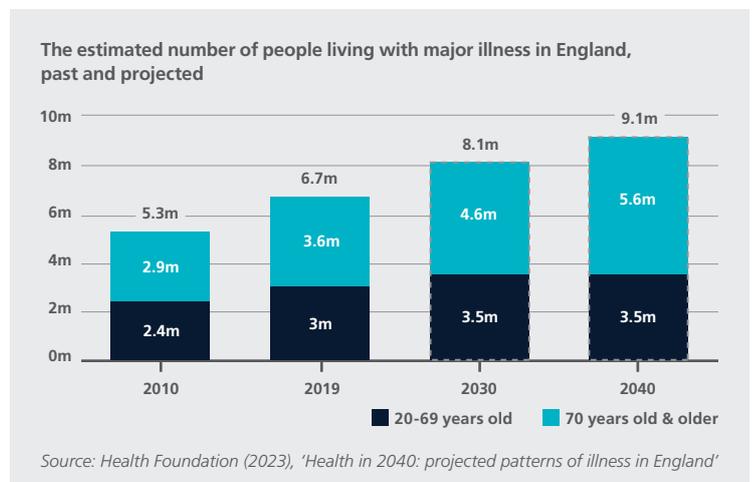
1 Embed health evidence in all policies to prioritise prevention, tackle health inequalities and incorporate health benefits into net-zero ambitions



The number of people living with a major illness is growing. Poor health and health inequalities are caused by complex factors beyond health and social care provision. Most policy areas, including housing, education and climate, impact on health.

The next Government should:

- Apply a **'health evidence for all policies'** approach across Government to **unleash the power of economic, net zero and other policy areas to improve people's health** and tackle complex health inequalities.
- **Invest in research to underpin an evidence-based public health system.**
- **Embed patient and public views into the development of health-related policies.**
- **Harness data, novel methods and technologies for research to improve the health of the public,** linking data on the wider determinants of health and health outcomes at the local, regional and national level.



2 Future-proof UK health research

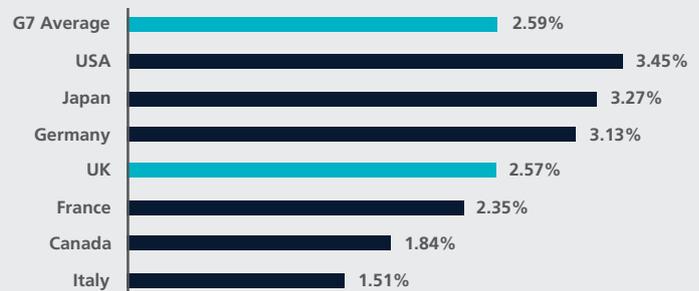


UK R&D investment is not internationally competitive with many G7 and other competitor countries.

The next Government should:

- **Set a target to lead the G7 on R&D investment** with a Cabinet-level approach to R&D.
- **Place people at the heart of the research system, including through investing in** opportunities that are inclusive of a wider range of people and patients.
- **Increase investment in the underpinnings of health research** including through:
 - Reversing the real terms decline in quality-related (QR) funding for UK universities.
 - Partnering with charities to improve the financial sustainability of research.

G7 gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) in 2020



3 Support UK life sciences sector competitiveness



The UK Life Sciences sector is a major driver of employment and growth, employing over 250,000 people and generating a turnover of £80 bn. However, **inward foreign direct investment in UK life sciences fell by 47%** between 2021 and 2022.

The next Government should:

- **Incentivise private investment with internationally competitive R&D tax incentives.**
- **Maintain a strong regulatory and governance environment for clinical research** including through sufficient resourcing for the MHRA and other relevant bodies.
- **Stimulate movement of people between academia, industry and Government, including through creating secondments in Government departments and agencies.**

4 Unlock the power of research in the NHS



Research in the NHS is vital to advancing healthcare through improved patient outcomes and performance. The **NHS-delivered RECOVERY trial** identified dexamethasone as a COVID-19 treatment **saving more than 1 million lives worldwide.**

The next Government should:

- **Commit to ongoing increased investment for research in the NHS, including through National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) .**
- **Fund an NHS research pilot where a proportion of NHS healthcare workers have dedicated time for research.**
- Ensure that the **NHS values and has the capacity to adopt innovative approaches, technologies, and treatments** from AI to diagnostics.
- **Facilitate the use of patient data as a research resource for the good of all.**

5 Open doors for international collaboration and talent



UK R&D needs both domestic *and* international talent to reach its research targets.

The next Government should:

- **Ensure that the UK is attractive and accessible for international researchers including through** a competitive visa and immigration system.
- **Invest in collaborations with partner nations including through working with the community to ensure strong UK participation in Horizon Europe and its successors.**
- **Return to spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the next Parliament** to safeguard the UK's role in tackling global challenges including by investing these funds in research to improve global health.