# Groundbreaking Long COVID Economic and Research Calculations

This page serves as the central repository for the original economic and scientific impact calculations presented in *DEI Delusion: The Hidden Impact of Research in BIPOC Communities*. These calculations quantify the staggering cost of government inaction on Long COVID and the lost economic potential of a U.S.-led medical breakthrough.

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## The Cost of Inaction vs. Investment in Long COVID

### 1. NIH Long COVID Research Funding Cuts vs. Economic Losses

- **Congress allocated:** $1.15 billion to NIH RECOVER over four years (2021-2024).
- **NIH cut funding to:** $51 million for 2024.
- **Annual economic losses due to Long COVID:** $3.7 trillion (Brookings, 2022).

**Math Breakdown:**

- If **NIH had increased investment to $10 billion over four years**, that would be:
    - **$10 billion ÷ 4 years = $2.5 billion per year**
    - **$2.5 billion ÷ $3.7 trillion annual loss** = **0.27%** of the total economic losses.
- Instead of making even this modest investment, the government is **absorbing a $3.7 trillion annual loss**.

### 2. Workforce Losses and GDP Impact

- **Total U.S. workforce out due to Long COVID disability:** 4 million people (Brookings).
- **Average GDP contribution per worker:** $143,000 per year.

**Math Breakdown:**

- **Total GDP loss:**
    - **4 million workers × $143,000 = $572 billion annually**
- **Potential GDP recovery if 50% of workers were accommodated or treated:**
    - **50% of 4 million = 2 million workers**
    - **2 million × $143,000 = $286 billion annual recovery**

This shows that **workplace accommodations and medical interventions could recover at least $286 billion per year**.

### 3. Healthcare Costs vs. Prevention and Treatment Investment

- **Annual healthcare cost of Long COVID:** $544 billion (Harvard Economist David Cutler).
- **Proposed annual research and treatment investment:** $50 billion.

**Math Breakdown:**

- **Percentage of healthcare cost that would be covered by this investment:**
    - **$50 billion ÷ $544 billion = 9.19%**

This means a **relatively small 9.19% investment** could **significantly reduce the overall burden**.

## The Untapped Market of Long COVID Treatments

- **Estimated global Long COVID patient population:** 65 million (WHO, 2024).
- **Potential revenue if an FDA-approved treatment captured even 10% of the global market:**

**Math Breakdown:**

- If treatment costs **$10,000 per patient** and captures **just 10% of the global market**:
    - **65 million × 10% = 6.5 million treated patients**
    - **6.5 million × $10,000 per patient = $65 billion in potential revenue annually**
- If the treatment remains **on the market for 10 years**, that's:
    - **$65 billion × 10 years = $650 billion in total market potential**

This is a **trillion-dollar economic opportunity**, and yet the U.S. is failing to invest in research that could dominate this industry.

## The Bottom Line: Short-Term Cuts, Long-Term Financial Disaster

- A **$50 billion annual investment** in research, treatment, and workplace accommodations could have **saved trillions in economic losses**.
- Instead, by dismantling federal Long COVID programs, the administration is **choosing to let the U.S. economy absorb a $3.7 trillion loss annually** rather than making **targeted investments in solutions**.

# Sources for Calculations

These sources were used to verify and construct our original calculations:

- **Long COVID Economic Impact:** Brookings Institution
- **Workforce Losses from Long COVID:** Brookings Institution
- **Annual Healthcare Costs of Long COVID:** Harvard Economist David Cutler
- **NIH Long COVID Funding Cuts:** NIH RECOVER Initiative, Federal Budget Reports
- **Executive Order on the Reduction of Federal Bureaucracy:** White House Executive Orders Archive, 2025
- **Global Market for Long COVID Treatments:** World Health Organization
- **Chronic Disease and U.S. Healthcare Spending:** CDC Chronic Disease Report, 2023
- **Disparities in Federal Research Funding:** JAMA

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- **Journalists, policymakers, and researchers** are encouraged to cite and build upon these groundbreaking calculations.
- For media inquiries visit www.BIPOCEquityAgency.com