



P O Box 7508, Silver Spring, MD 20907-7508 • Tel: 301-539-9660

FACT SHEET

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) promotes and protects the public health by ensuring that consumers have access to safe foods and cosmetics and safe and effective medical products. It is one of the world's most successful consumer protection agencies and is widely respected for its leadership in science-based regulation. FDA-regulated products account for more than 20 cents of every consumer dollar spent in the United States.

THE PROBLEM

Fifteen years ago, FDA was woefully underfunded across all its program areas and had no immediate prospects for significant increases. In 2008 the FDA's own Science Advisory Board concluded that the FDA lacked the ability to properly perform its job due to insufficient resources

Since then, Congress and the Executive Branch have provided the agency with substantial increases that have ended the period in which the agency was receiving little support. However, even as additional funds have become available to FDA, its mission has grown even faster. Among the reasons are new statutory and public-health driven responsibilities, greater complexity in the science that supports both food safety and medical products, and further globalization of the source of FDA-regulated finished products and ingredients.

THE ALLIANCE

The Alliance for a Stronger FDA, founded in 2007, unites a broad coalition of 150 consumer and patient groups, biomedical research advocates, health professional societies, trade groups and companies. The Alliance advocates for increased budget authority (BA) appropriations to support FDA, and educates policymakers, the media, and the public on the FDA's mission and responsibilities. The credibility of the Alliance is based upon the breadth of its [membership](#), the robust support of FDA by Congress, policymakers, and the public, and the value of the materials and programs that the Alliance provides to and on behalf of the FDA stakeholder community.

THE SOLUTION

The FDA's ability to operate a modern, scientifically-based regulatory program must be continually strengthened. Our goal is to ensure that FDA has the funds to accomplish its mission of safe foods and cosmetics and safe and effective medical products. Consumers and patients benefit from this, as does industry that can be assured of an agency that has the means to provide consistent, standards-based regulation.

The Alliance's efforts over the past decade and a half have contributed to the FDA's BA (taxpayer) funding doubling from \$1.6 billion to \$3.2 billion per year. While the agency is no longer severely underfunded, it is still in need of funding increases to reflect the incredible growth in its responsibilities. Our work involves outreach to policymakers, media, and the public—advocating for additional resources and educating about FDA's mission and responsibilities. . . With your help, we can continue to advance this important effort to protect the public health and safety.

JOIN THE ALLIANCE

Steven Grossman, Executive Director of the Alliance, can be reached at sgrossman@strengthenfda.org, (301) 539-9660. Detailed information about membership of the Alliance can also be found at www.strengthenFDA.org.