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In 2003, Shriners Hospitals for Children will spend an all-time high of over \$1.65 million every 24 hours to provide medical care for children. This expert orthopaedic, burn and spinal cord injury care is given at absolutely no charge.

The 22 Shriners Hospitals in the U.S., Canada and Mexico have a total budget of \$605 million for the entire year, \$541 million of which makes up the research and operating budget that funds patient care, teaching, administrative expenses, depreciation, and the daily expenses of the entire Shriners Hospitals network.

An important part of the Shriners Hospitals operating budget is dedicated to research. In 2003, about \$25 million has been set aside to fund the Medical Research Program, which includes 123 investigative research projects. Since Shriners Hospitals' structured research endeavors began in the mid-1960s, over \$424 million has been invested in research projects that have changed the way burn, orthopaedic and spinal cord injury care is given throughout the world.