Cash Rules Everything Around Me: R01 Funding and the Diversity of Ideas

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SIPS2017
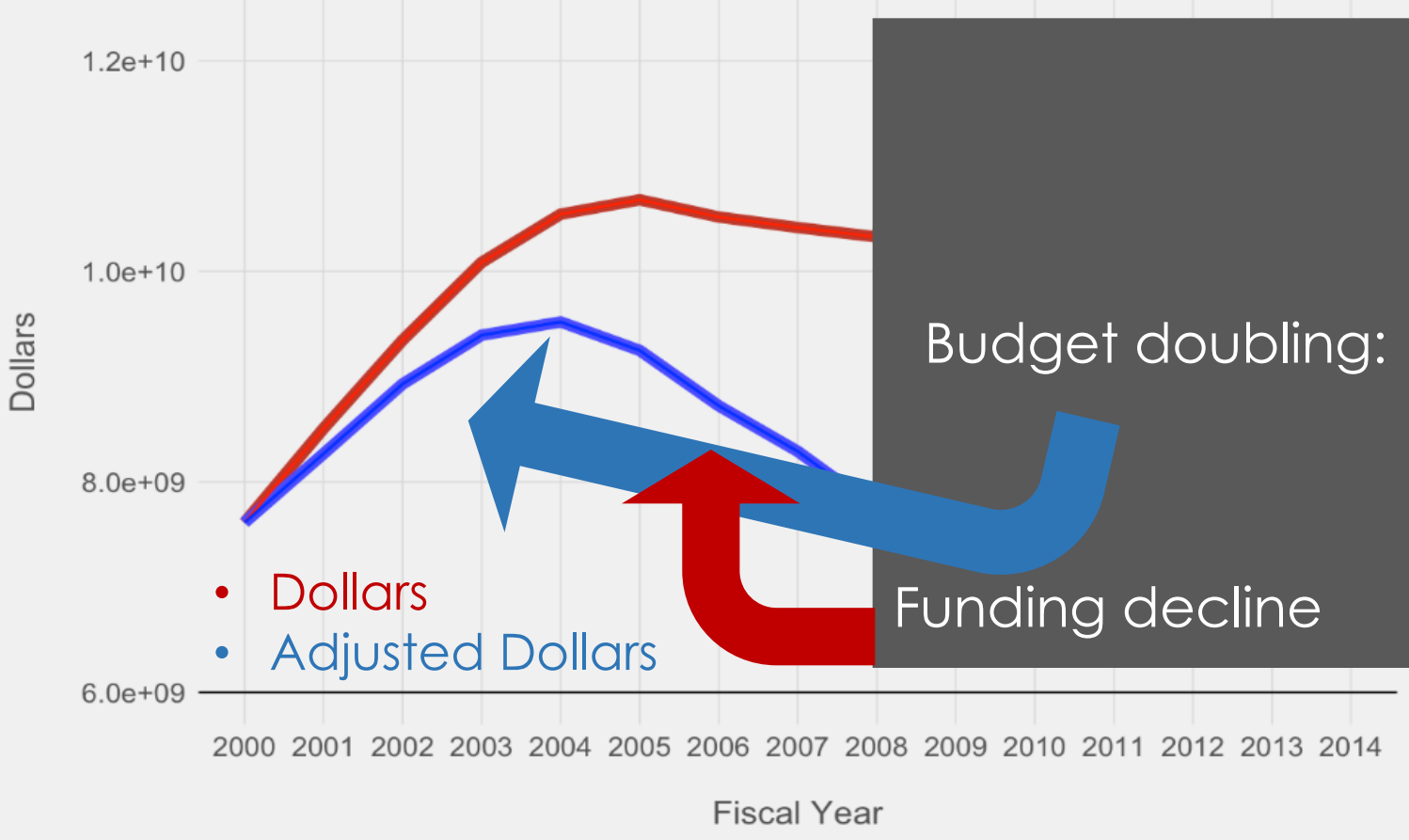@NickFoxStats

The NIH and R01 Grants

- Receives and reviews grants for public funding

- R01 (and equivalent) awards provide bulk project funding

- Top line budget comes from annual federal budget

The NIH and R01 Grants

Figure 2. Amount dispersed by NIH per year for R01-equivalent awards

- Dollars
- Adjusted Dollars

Budget doubling: 1998-2003

Funding decline

The NIH and R01 Grants

- Where does the money go?

- Does it concentrate with people who already have funding?

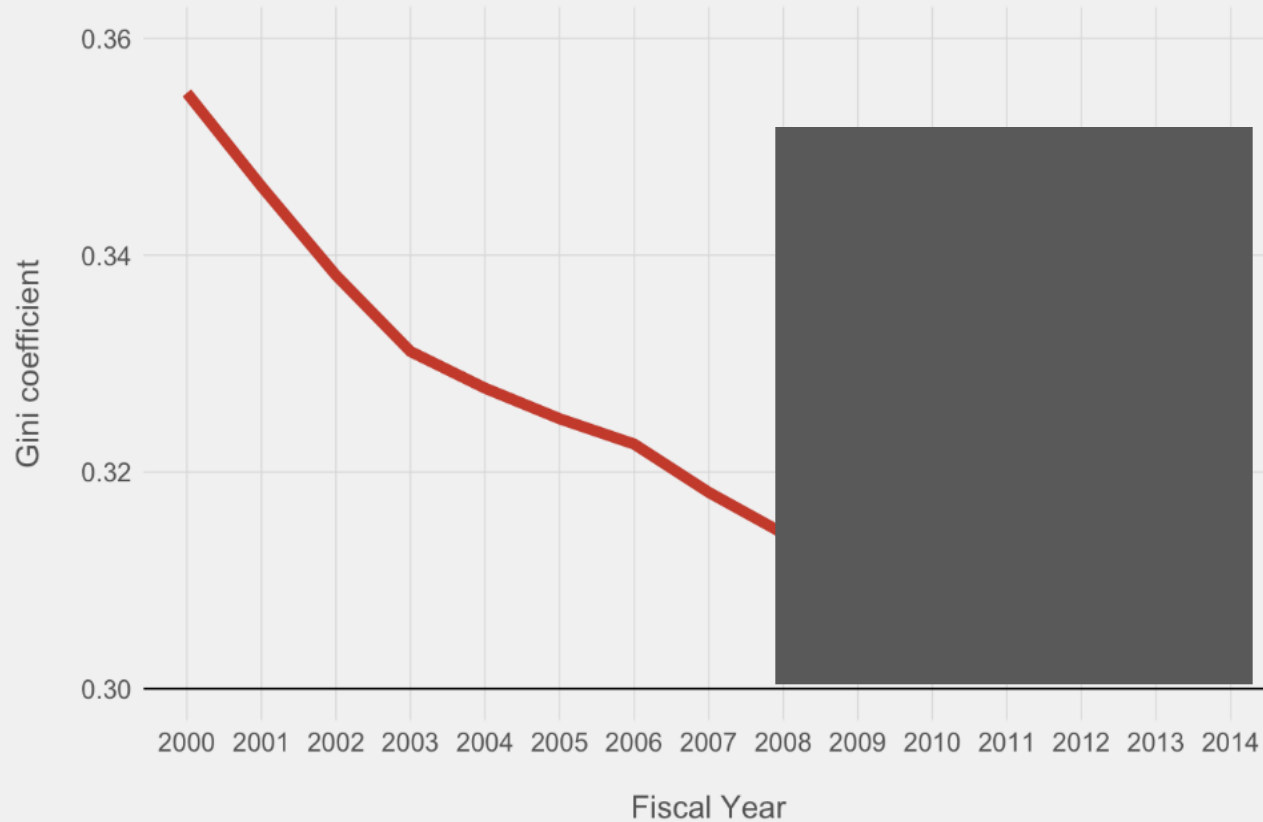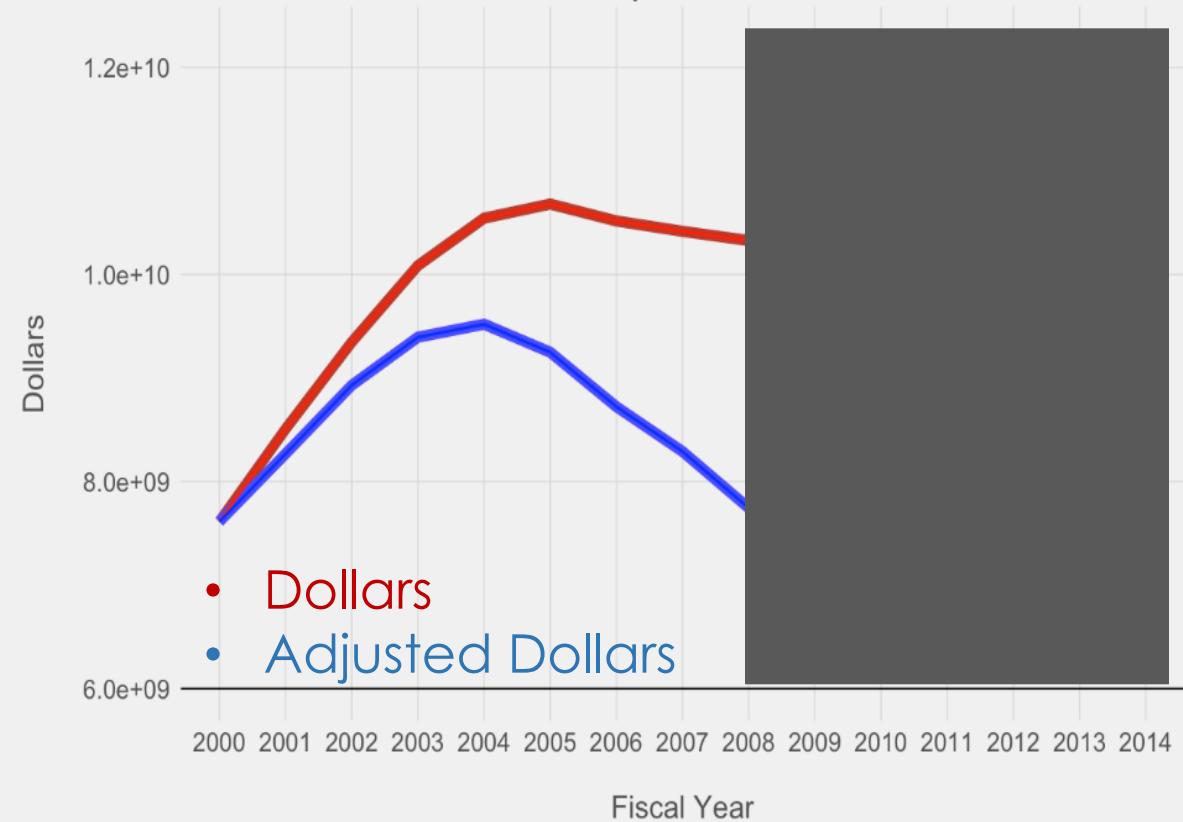Figure 1. Gini coefficient within R01-equivelent awards 2000 - 2014

Figure 2. Amount dispersed by NIH per year for R01-equivalent awards

No!

- Gini coefficient – measures degree of inequality (often income inequality)

Figure 1. Gini coefficient within R01-equivelent awards 2000 - 2014
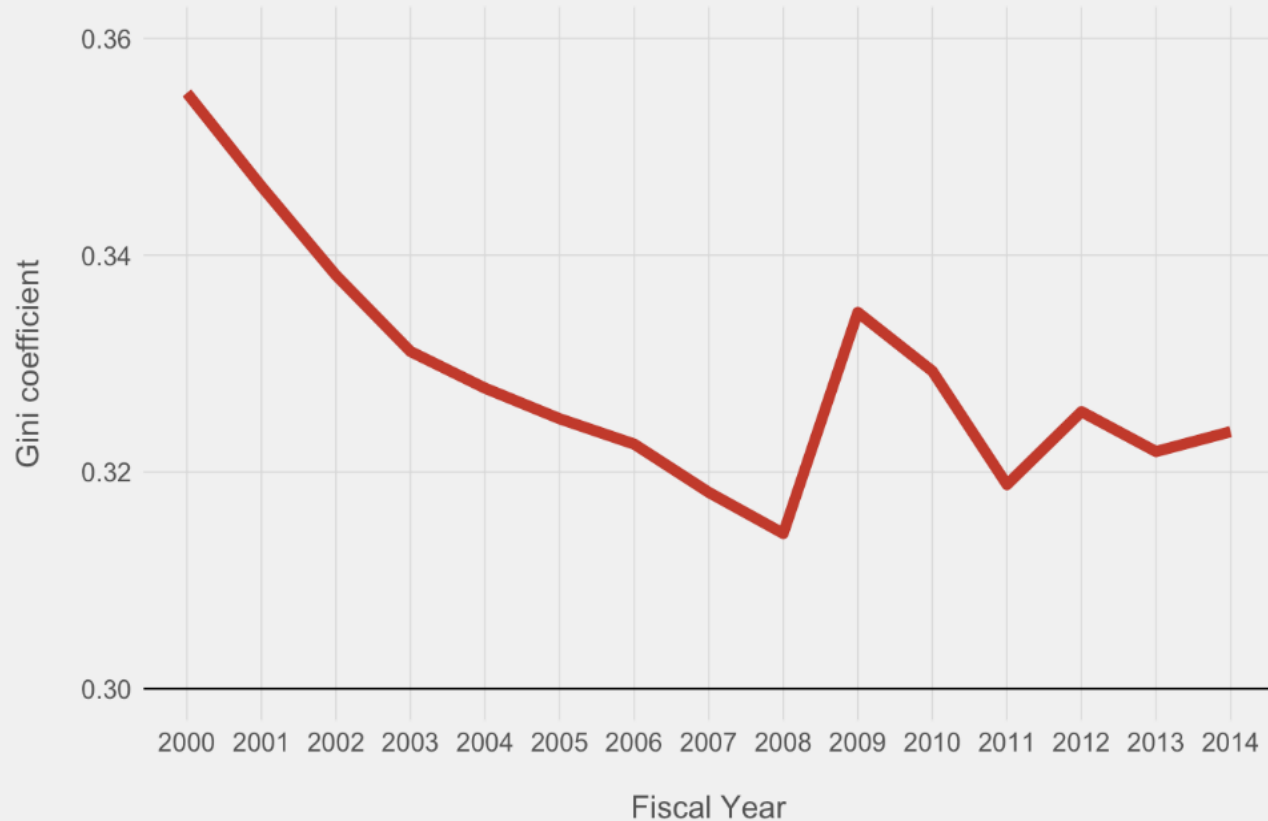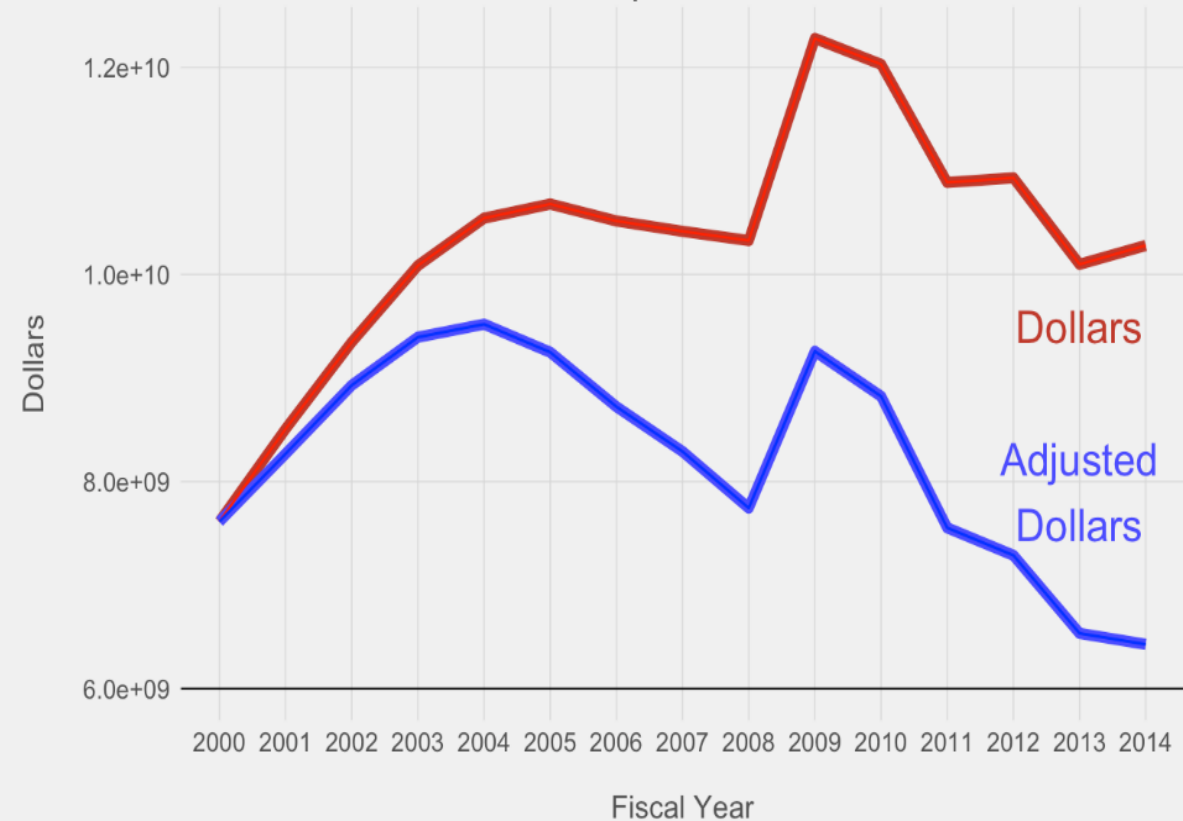
Figure 2. Amount dispersed by NIH per year for R01-equivalent awards

But wait!

- Gini coefficient – measures degree of inequality (often income inequality)

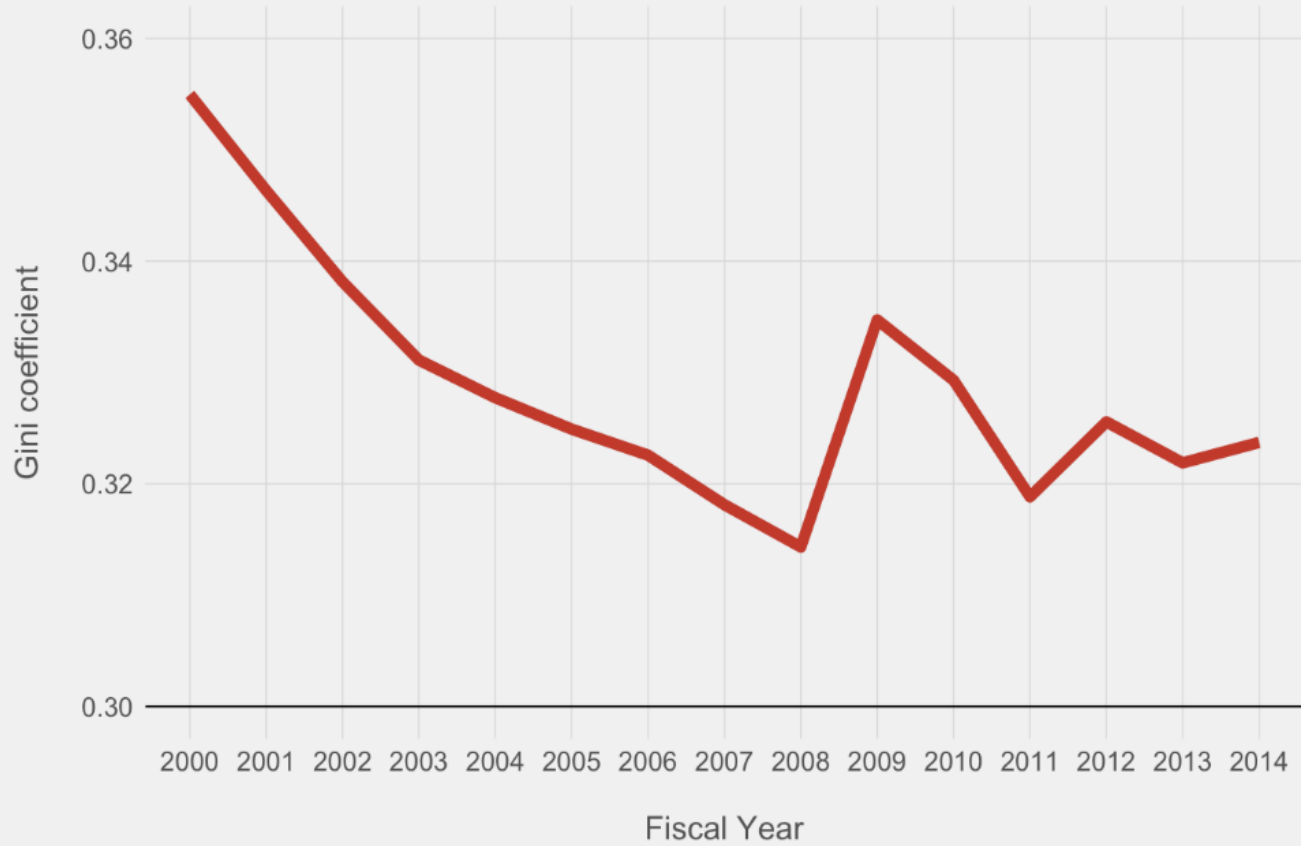Figure 1. Gini coefficient within R01-equivelent awards 2000 - 2014

Figure 3: Number of unique investigators receiving R01 equivalent funds per fiscal year
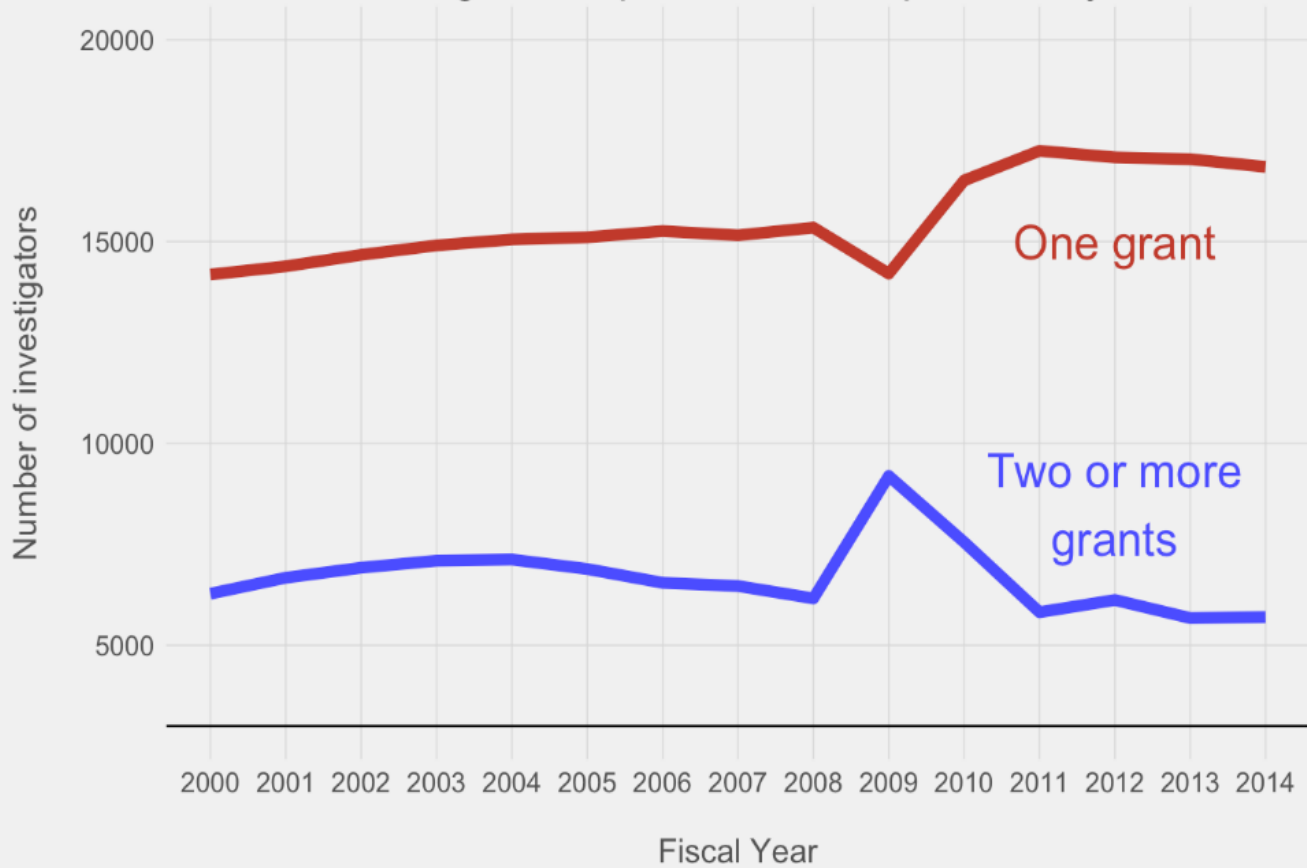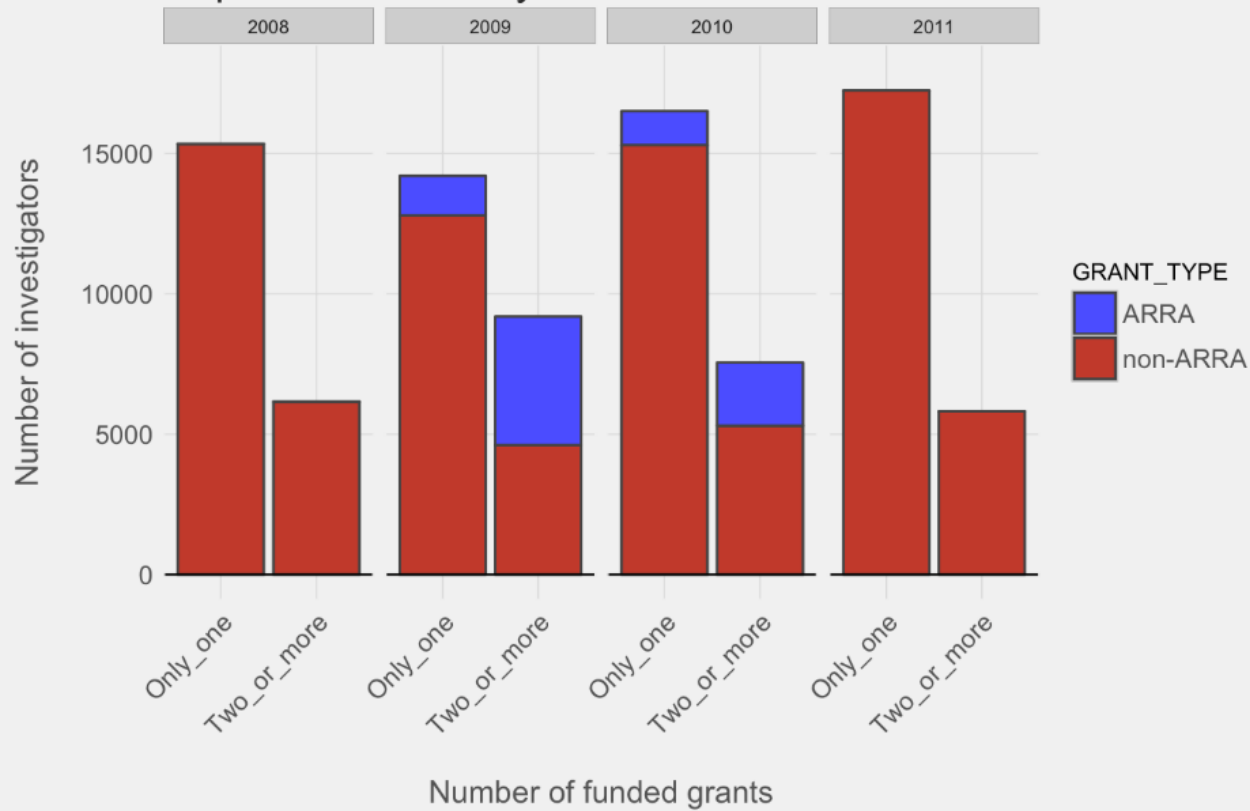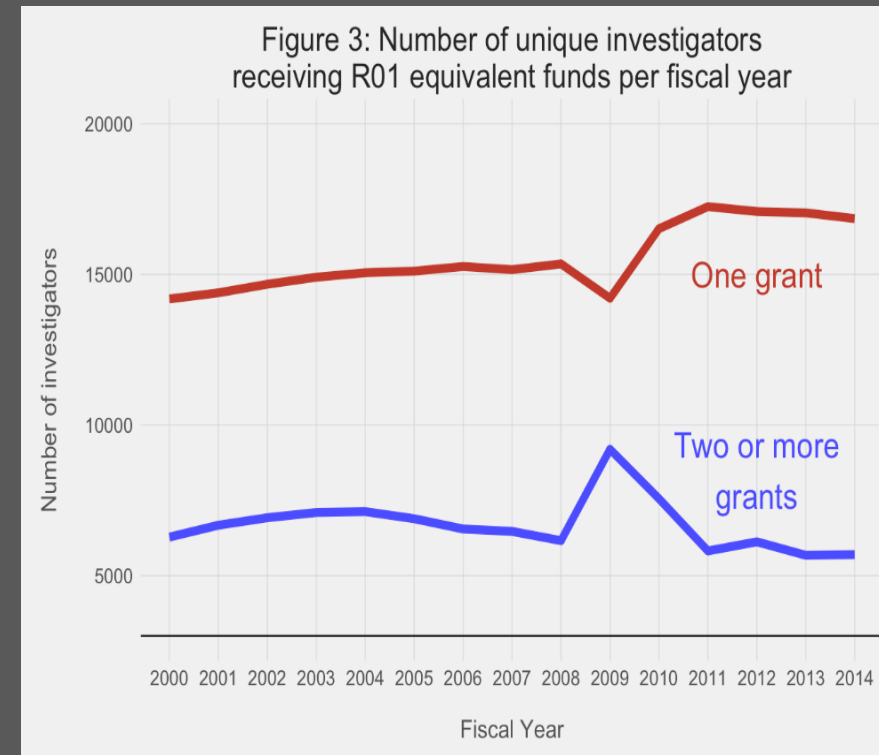
Figure 4: Number of unique investigators receiving R01-equivalent funds by ARRA status: FY2008-FY2011

- Problems with concentrating funds:
  - Less about funds
  - More about diverse idea pool

  - Uncorrelated approaches maximize reward while minimizing risk.

  - The NIH budget will have to be increase (right? …. right?).

  - When that increase comes, it is important to maximize idea diversity by supporting a broader base of scientists.

Figure 3: Number of unique investigators receiving R01 equivalent funds per fiscal year

- Thanks!