

## Cancer Research Funding

### Key Points

- The National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services, is the Nation's principal agency for cancer research and coordinates the National Cancer Program (see Question 1).
- As a federal agency, NCI receives its funds from Congress (see Questions 1 and 2).
- In recent years, NCI's budget has been relatively flat, averaging approximately \$4.9 billion per year over the past 6 years (see Question 3).
- Other federal agencies, state and local governments, voluntary organizations, private institutions, and industry spend substantial amounts of money on cancer-related research (see Question 5).

### 1. What is the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and what is its role in supporting cancer research?

NCI is one of the 27 Institutes and Centers that form the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. In the National Cancer Institute Act of 1937, NCI was established as the Nation's principal agency for cancer research. In the National Cancer Act of 1971, NCI was further charged with coordinating the National Cancer Program.

As a federal agency, NCI receives its funds from Congress. These funds support research at the Institute's headquarters in Bethesda, MD, and in laboratories and medical centers throughout the United States and in other countries.

The cancer research program coordinated by NCI investigates the causes, prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer through various research projects and clinical trials. Information about cancer research projects supported by NCI in the United States and Canada can be found in the NCI Funded Research Portfolio at <http://fundedresearch.cancer.gov>.

### 2. How is NCI's budget determined?

Overall budget proposals for federal government spending—commonly known as President's Budget proposals—are formulated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). As part of this process, NCI and the other NIH Institutes and Centers submit budget documents to OMB. President's Budget proposals are submitted to Congress each year in early February and reflect the Administration's budget and management priorities for the next fiscal year, which begins on the following October 1. (The federal government's fiscal year extends from October 1 through September 30.) Congress considers the proposals and then recommends appropriations for all federal government agencies. Final appropriation amounts must be approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be enacted into law.

In the National Cancer Act of 1971, NCI was given the authority to prepare and submit an additional annual budget proposal directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress. This authority is unique to NCI, and the budget proposal created in response to it is often referred to as the "NCI Professional Judgment Budget." The NCI Professional Judgment Budget is submitted to the President before the President's Budget proposal is submitted to Congress and may be considered by OMB in preparing the President's Budget proposal.



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NCI Professional Judgment Budgets describe in detail the optimum amount of funding needed to make the most rapid progress against cancer and to provide NCI with the resources necessary to lead the National Cancer Program. Typically, the President's Budget proposal for NCI is less than the amount proposed in the NCI Professional Judgment Budget.

**3. What was NCI's budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010? How has the budget changed in recent years?**

NCI's budget for FY 2010 was \$5.1\* billion, excluding the additional \$1.3\* billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds received by the Institute for spending in FY 2009 and FY 2010. Overall, NCI's budget has been relatively flat in recent years. During the period from 2005 through 2010, the NCI budget averaged \$4.9\* billion per year.

*\*Budget numbers are rounded to one decimal place.*

**4. How much does NCI spend each year on research for specific types of cancer?**

The following table shows NCI spending in FY 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the 10 most common types of cancer in the United States, based on 2010 incidence estimates (and excluding basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers).\*\* The cancers are listed in decreasing order of incidence (i.e., from the highest number of new cases to the lowest).

*\*\*Source of spending data: NCI Office of Budget and Finance (OBF).*

Cancer Type	2008 Spending (in millions)	2009 Spending (in millions)	2010 Spending (in millions)
Lung	\$247.6	\$246.9	\$281.9
Prostate	285.4	293.9	300.5
Breast	572.6	599.5	631.2
Colorectal	273.7	264.2	270.4
Bladder	24.1	25.9	22.6
Melanoma	110.8	103.7	102.3
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	122.6	130.9	122.4
Kidney	43.4	45.2	44.6
Thyroid	14.6	14.7	15.6
Endometrial (Uterine)	17.1	18.0	14.2

Information about funding for other types of cancer can be found in the NCI Funded Research Portfolio at <http://fundedresearch.cancer.gov> or the NCI Annual Fact Book at <http://obf.cancer.gov/financial/factbook.htm>. Additional information about NCI's budget is available on OBF's Web site at <http://obf.cancer.gov/index.htm>.

**5. Do other federal government agencies fund cancer research?**

Yes. Other federal government agencies, including other NIH Institutes and Centers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense, fund cancer research. In addition, state and local governments, voluntary organizations, private institutions, and corporations spend substantial amounts of money on cancer-related research.

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### Related NCI materials and Web pages:

- *The Nation's Investment in Cancer Research: Cancer, Changing the Conversation, An Annual Plan and Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2012*  
([http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/budget\\_planning\\_leg/plan](http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/budget_planning_leg/plan))
- *NCI Cancer Bulletin*  
(<http://www.cancer.gov/ncicancerbulletin>)

### How can we help?

We offer comprehensive research-based information for patients and their families, health professionals, cancer researchers, advocates, and the public.

- **Call** NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)
- **Visit** us at <http://www.cancer.gov> or <http://www.cancer.gov/espanol>
- **Chat** using LiveHelp, NCI's instant messaging service, at <http://www.cancer.gov/livehelp>
- **E-mail** us at [cancergovstaff@mail.nih.gov](mailto:cancergovstaff@mail.nih.gov)
- **Order** publications at <http://www.cancer.gov/publications> or by calling 1-800-4-CANCER
- **Get help** with quitting smoking at 1-877-44U-QUIT (1-877-448-7848)

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