

## Cancer Research Funding

### Key Points

- The U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. 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 Government agency, NCI receives its funds from the U.S. Congress (see Questions 1 and 2).
- In recent years, NCI's budget has been relatively flat, averaging approximately \$4.86 billion per year over the past 3 years and \$4.81 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 U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI), and what is its role in supporting cancer research?

NCI is one of the 27 Institutes and Centers that comprise the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and is a component of the U.S. 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 Government agency, NCI receives its funds from the U.S. Congress. These funds support research at the Institute's headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, 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> on the Internet.

### 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 no later than the first Monday in February and reflect the Administration's budget and management priorities for the next fiscal year, which begins approximately 8 months later on October 1. (A 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 annual budget proposal directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress. This authority is unique to NCI and allows it to "bypass" the traditional approvals that all other NIH Institutes and Centers must receive for their budget requests. For this reason, NCI's budget proposal is often



referred to as the "Bypass Budget." The Bypass Budget is submitted to the President before the President's Budget proposal is submitted to Congress. The Bypass Budget may be considered by OMB in preparing the President's Budget proposal.

NCI Bypass 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 Bypass Budget.

**3. What was NCI's budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009? How has the budget changed in recent years?**

NCI's budget for FY 2009 was \$4.97 billion, excluding the additional \$1.26 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds received by the Institute for spending in FY 2009 and FY 2010.

Overall, the NCI budget has been relatively flat in recent years. During the period from 2004 through 2009, NCI's budget averaged \$4.81 billion per year. In FY 2008, it was \$4.83 billion; in FY 2007, it was \$4.79 billion.

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

The following table shows NCI spending in FY 2007, 2008, and 2009 for the 10 most common types of cancer in the United States, based on 2009 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	2007 Spending (in millions)	2008 Spending (in millions)	2009 Spending (in millions)	2009 ARRA Spending (in millions)
Lung	\$226.9	\$247.6	\$246.9	\$48.0
Prostate	296.1	285.4	293.9	47.0
Breast	572.4	572.6	599.5	85.5
Colorectal	258.4	273.7	264.2	44.5
Bladder	19.8	24.1	25.9	2.8
Melanoma	97.7	110.8	103.7	17.6
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	113.0	122.6	130.9	14.0
Kidney	35.2	43.4	45.2	7.2
Leukemia	205.5	216.4	220.6	33.9
Pancreatic	73.3	87.3	89.7	10.7

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> on the Internet. Additional information about NCI's budget is available on OBF's Web site at <http://obf.cancer.gov/index.htm> on the Internet.

**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 also 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: An Annual Plan and Budget Proposal* (<http://plan.cancer.gov>)
- *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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