

## ***Protect NIH and NCI Funding***



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its National Cancer Institute (NCI), one of 27 institutes and centers within the NIH, are a central foundation for national cancer research activities in the United States and abroad. For decades, NCI-funded research has played a role in every major cancer prevention, detection and treatment advance, while also delivering scientific breakthroughs for many other diseases.

Despite cancer's complexity, recent discoveries on genome research and learning how cells replicate is so promising that we are now on the cusp of a whole new realm of understanding that will help us deliver more personalized, less invasive cancer care. The remarkable returns on our continuing research investment are clear:

- Rates of both incidence and mortality from all cancers combined have continued to decline significantly overall for both men and women and for most racial and ethnic populations in the United States. New diagnoses for all types of cancer combined in the United States decreased, on average, almost one percent per year from 1999 to 2006. Cancer deaths decreased 1.6 percent per year from 2001 to 2006;<sup>1</sup>
- We now have 11 million cancer survivors in the U.S. – living proof of the gains we've made. Today, two-thirds of patients survive five years or longer after their cancer diagnosis, compared to only half of patients forty years ago.

Despite these successes, progress in certain areas has not kept pace. Moreover, cancer incidence is projected to nearly double by 2020, particularly among the aging baby boomer population. These trends signal a clear call for action to address specific areas of need and opportunity, including:

- Developing early detection tools and better treatments for those cancers that remain most lethal.
- Addressing existing disparities in health outcomes by putting our cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment knowledge to use in all populations.
- Improving quality of care and reducing suffering by advancing pain and symptom management, and other research supporting quality of life for cancer patients, survivors, and their loved ones.

### ***Funding Will Fuel Even More Research, Promise, and Progress***

We must build on these vital NIH investments to realize the promise emerging from this funding. In the past year alone, this research support has delivered numerous important clinical advances including:

- Initial results from National Lung Cancer Screening Trial found 20% fewer lung cancer deaths among those screened with low-dose helical CT scan. Participants were heavy smokers aged 50-74 years.
- The drug dexrazoxane has been shown to significantly reduce long-term heart damage in children receiving chemotherapy for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia without reducing the effectiveness.
- Research found that the HPV vaccine, Gardasil, is also shown to be effective in the prevention of certain precancerous lesions that cause anal cancer. It has been approved by the FDA for this use.

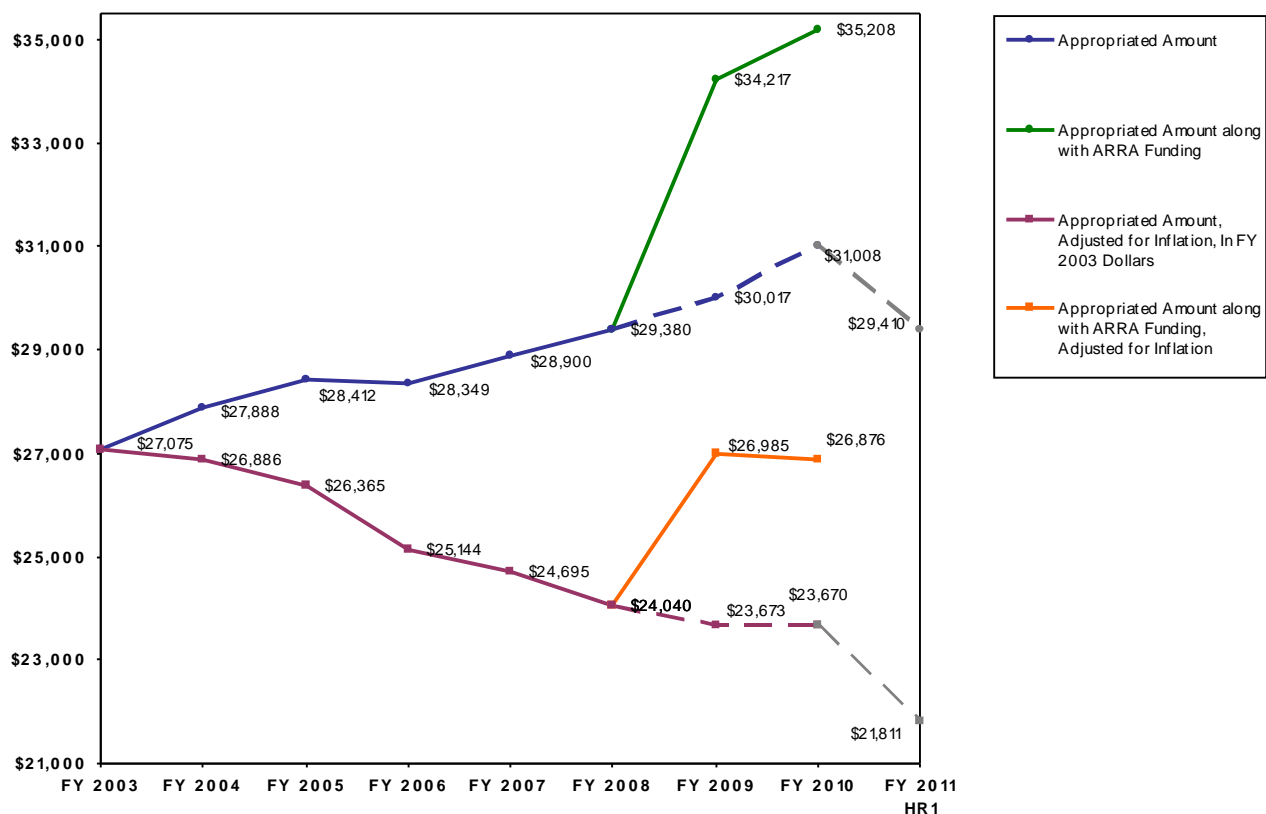
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<sup>1</sup> Annual report to the nation on the status of cancer, 1975–2006 (2010). Available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19998273>

## ***Economic Benefits to Communities***

NIH funding stimulates local economies. More than 80 percent of its budget funds over 50,000 extramural grants to more than 325,000 researchers at over 3,000 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state and around the world. The impact is clear. In fiscal year 2007, alone, for example:

- Each dollar of NIH's nearly \$23 billion investment generated more than twice as much (\$50.5 billion) in new state business activity in the form of increased output of goods and services. This amounts to a \$2.21 return for every NIH dollar spent.
- NIH grants and contracts created and supported more than 350,000 jobs that generated wages in excess of \$18 billion in the 50 states, plus another 800,000 supporting jobs created in the private sector (e.g., pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and medical lab testing jobs).<sup>2</sup>



## ***FY 2011 and FY 2012 Funding for NIH and NCI***

To ensure that the research being supported today yields the cancer treatments of tomorrow, Congress must sustain and expand the support they are currently providing. Once Voice Against Cancer urges Congress to sustain the current level of support for medical research and provide the NIH with a budget that maintains support for ongoing research and builds on past progress.

<sup>2</sup> *In Your Own Backyard. How NIH Funding Helps Your States Economy.* Families USA Foundation (2008) (Report available at [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org)).