

HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group



Funding for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) R&D in 2009

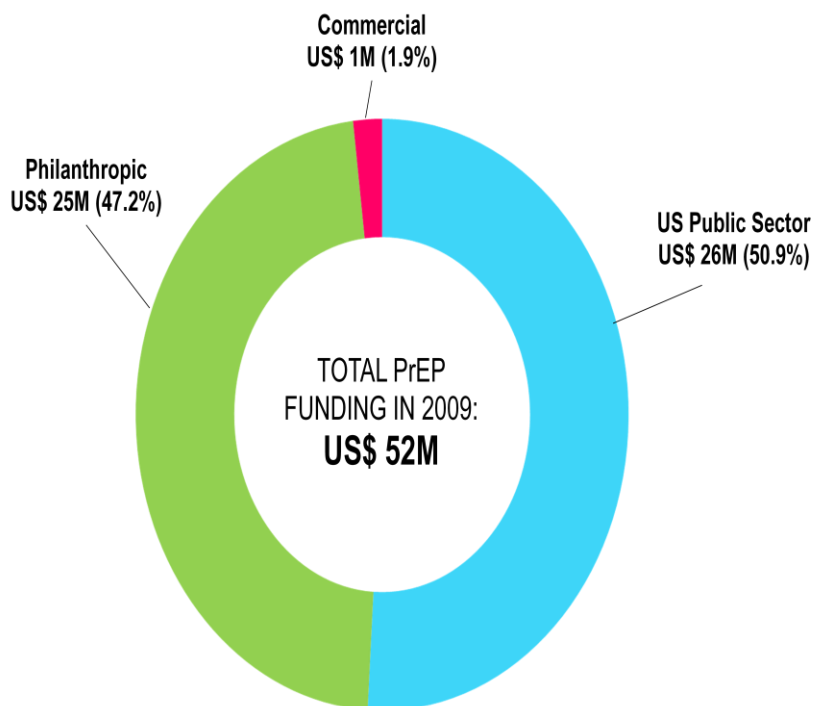
The *HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group* uses a comprehensive methodology to track annual investment and analyse trends in HIV prevention research and development (R&D) that can be compared from year to year and across funders. In its most recent report, *Advancing the Science in a Time of Fiscal Constraint: Funding For HIV Prevention Technologies in 2009*, the Working Group took a look at trends for PrEP R&D funding in the context of a declining economy.

Funding for PrEP R&D

Global public-sector and philanthropic investment in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) using antiretrovirals (ARVs) over the last eight years totaled US\$173 million and has been increasing steadily, with annual funding more than quadrupling from 2005 to 2009. Despite the onset of a global recession, preventive PrEP R&D investment increased by 18% between 2008 and 2009. In 2009, funding for oral PrEP was US\$52 million or US\$8 million more than in 2008.

There are five ongoing oral PrEP effectiveness trials and four ongoing safety trials. In 2009, the St. Stephens AIDS Trust began a safety trial of Tibotec's antiretroviral TMC278 (rilpivirine) injected intramuscularly, as a possible long-acting PrEP drug (which is also included in these totals).

The iPrEx study, testing the safety and effectiveness of daily tenofovir/emtricitabine in preventing HIV transmission in 3,000 HIV-negative men who have sex with men, is expecting to release results in early 2011. In addition, a study funded by the US Centers for Disease Control testing daily dosage of tenofovir (CDC 4323) to prevent HIV infection in injection drug users in Bangkok, Thailand is expecting to release results by early 2011. These trials will provide the first effectiveness results for daily oral use of ARVs for HIV prevention.



PrEP R&D Funding in a Time of Scientific Opportunity

Given the onset of a global recession beginning in 2008, increased funding for PrEP R&D is clearly positive news. While this increase in funding is encouraging, the climate of fiscal uncertainty raises reasons for concern related to the structure of funding sources, including: 1) current funding levels do not adequately anticipate the costs of potential late-stage research; and 2) funding stability is concentrated in a few funders, specifically the US government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Additional cause for concern relates to the uncertainty over whether current long-term commitments will be renewed at current rates and the rising cost of bio-medical research.

Please visit www.hivresourcetracking.org for a copy of the full report *Advancing the Science in a Time of Fiscal Constraint: Funding For HIV Prevention Technologies in 2009*. The *HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group* is composed of the AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention (AVAC), International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).