

HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group

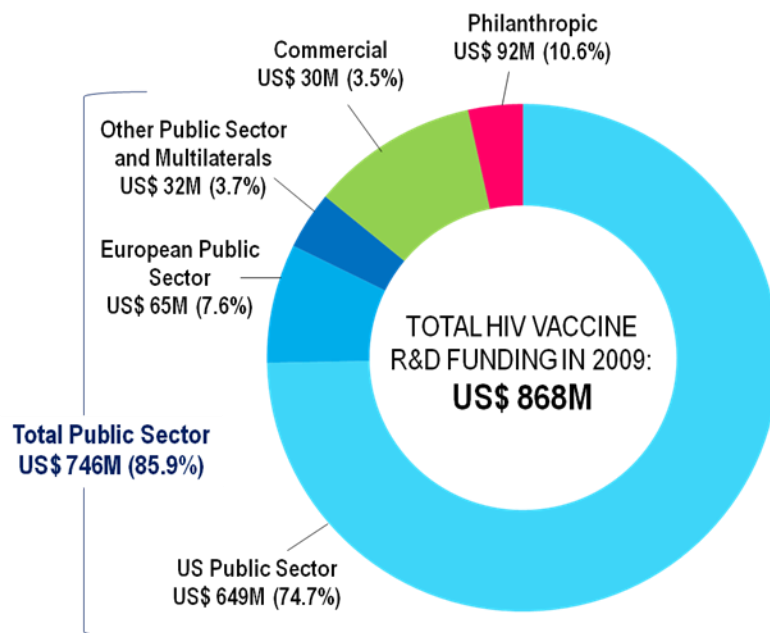


Funding for HIV Vaccine R&D in 2009

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 HIV vaccine R&D funding in the context of scientific advances in a declining economy.

Funding for HIV Vaccine R&D

Despite the onset of a global recession, preventive HIV vaccine R&D investment remained steady between 2008 and 2009. In 2009, total global investment in preventive HIV vaccine R&D was an estimated US\$868 million, the same level as 2008. Of that total, the public sector provided US\$746 million (86%), the philanthropic sector provided US\$92 million (11%), and the commercial sector accounted for US\$30 million (3%). This year of stable funding followed a 10% decrease in preventive HIV vaccine R&D from 2007 to 2008. In 2009, preventive HIV vaccine R&D investment by the European Commission (EC) and European countries declined 5%, and investment by countries outside of Europe and the US declined 23%. The US increased its investment in preventive HIV vaccine R&D by 5%, but this increase was primarily accounted for by stimulus funding for the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).



In 2009, expenditures on HIV vaccine R&D were allocated across five categories. Preclinical research (37%) and basic research (29%) account for the majority of expenditures. In order of magnitude, the other three categories receiving funding were clinical trials (23%), cohort and site development (10%), and policy and advocacy development (<1%).

HIV Vaccine R&D Funding in a Time of Scientific Opportunity

In 2009, results of the RV 144 trial conducted by several partners, including the NIH, the US Military HIV Research Program and the Thai Ministry of Public Health, demonstrated modest protection by the ALVAC/gp120 candidate vaccine, but perhaps more importantly showed for the first time that an HIV vaccine was possible. The recent discovery of novel broadly neutralizing antibodies by a research consortium led by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and by the NIH Vaccine Research Center has also generated new excitement and scientific momentum.

Given the onset of a global recession beginning in 2008, level funding for HIV prevention is positive news. While this stability in funding is encouraging, it masks some reasons for concern related to the structure of funding sources and the implications of level or "flat" funding. Chief among these concerns are that: 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 NIH and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Another cause for concern is that this stability reflects investments under current long-term commitments, which may or may not be renewed at current rates, and also hides the decline in purchasing power due to 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).