

Adding it all up:

Funding for HIV vaccine and microbicide research and development between 2000 and 2005



Background

A comprehensive plan to combat the epidemic requires investment in new, sustainable methods of prevention to complement investments to expand access to existing HIV treatment and prevention options.

In 2004, UNAIDS, the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), the Alliance for Microbicide Development (AMD), and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) established a collaborative project to track trends in R&D funding for both AIDS vaccines and microbicides (the *HIV Vaccines & Microbicides Resource Tracking Working Group*).

Methodology

The Working Group identified key organizations funding vaccine & microbicide R&D and contacted funders for information on projects funded between 2000 and 2005.

A breakdown of global funding allocations by type of activity or stage of product development was estimated from a subset of investments.

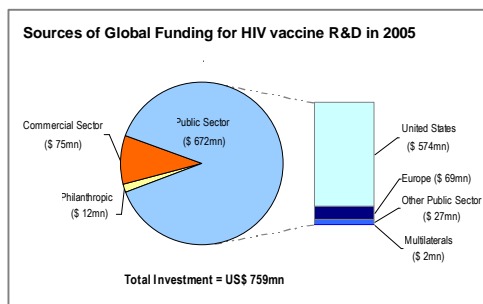
Results

From 2000 to 2005, funding from both the public and the philanthropic sectors for R&D efforts has more than doubled.

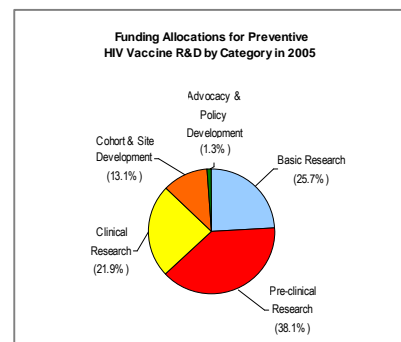
- For HIV vaccines, non-commercial funding increased from US\$327 million in 2000 to US\$684 million in 2005;
- For microbicides, non-commercial funding grew from US\$65 million in 2000 to US\$164 million in 2005.

HIV Vaccine R&D

In 2005, total global investment in HIV vaccine R&D was approximately US\$759 million, an 11.3% increase over 2004 funding levels. Public sector funders provided 88%; the philanthropic sector provided 2% and the commercial sector accounted for the remaining 10% of investment made in 2005.

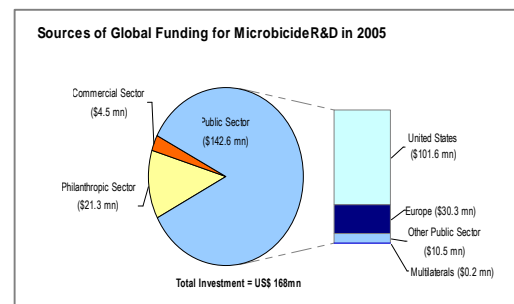


In 2005, non-commercial funding predominately supported basic (25.7%) and pre-clinical research (38.1%). Support for clinical trials accounted for 21.9%, cohort and site development for 13.1% and advocacy and policy development for less than 2% of funding.

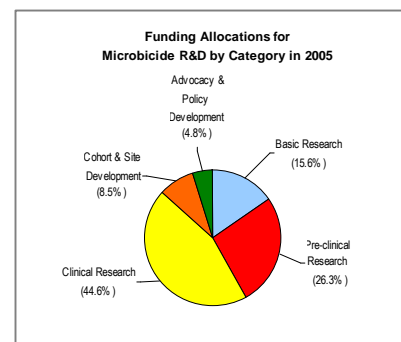


Microbicide R&D

In 2005, total global investment in microbicide R&D was approximately US\$168 million, a 15.1% increase over 2004 funding levels. Public sector funders provided 85% of the funds allocated to microbicide R&D. The philanthropic sector provided 13% and the commercial sector accounted for about 3%.



In 2005, non-commercial funding predominately supported basic (15.6%), pre-clinical (26.3%) and clinical research (44.6%). Support for cohort and site development accounted for 8.5% and advocacy and policy development for 4.8% of funding.



Funding for R&D is only one component of the significant contribution that the public sector makes to vaccine and microbicide R&D. The public sector, particularly in the developing world, provides significant non-financial support.

In countries where trials are planned or ongoing, government salaried collaborators and government-sponsored hospitals and clinics play a crucial role in the conduct of safe and ethical clinical trials, as do national regulatory authorities and ethics committees.

Conclusion

While significant, the levels of investment described above fall short of the estimated resources required to optimally accelerate the development of and assured access to these technologies.

For vaccines, the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise estimated that between US\$1.1 billion to US\$1.2 billion is needed annually to speed the search for a safe, effective HIV vaccine.

For microbicides, the Alliance for Microbicide Development and the International Partnership for Microbicides estimated that US\$280 million per year will be required over the next five years to accelerate development of a safe and effective microbicide.