

**BENCHMARKING CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY'S 2005-07 INVESTMENT IN CANCER RISK AND PREVENTION
RESEARCH AGAINST OTHER CANADIAN CANCER RESEARCH ALLIANCE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The purpose of this analysis was to establish a baseline regarding Canadian Cancer Society's (CCS) investment in cancer risk and prevention research as it relates to other Canadian Cancer Research Alliance (CCRA) member organizations. In addition, it was conducted to help identify gaps and opportunities in cancer risk and prevention research investment, which could inform future program design and strategic direction for CCS.

Data from the [CCRA special report on investment in cancer risk and prevention research](#) was used to compare the CCS's 2005-07 investment in cancer risk and prevention research to other CCRA member organizations' 2005-07 investment in cancer risk and prevention research. More specifically, CCS cancer risk and prevention research funded, research projects funded, and researchers funded (categorized by research focus, risk factor, research type, and funding mechanism) was compared to other CCRA member organizations as a whole.

CCSRI also conducted an analysis of CCS's investment in cancer risk reduction and prevention research from 2006-2011. That analysis includes more recent cancer risk and prevention initiatives and activities and focuses on three general areas including total CCS cancer risk and prevention research investment, number of CCS cancer risk and prevention individual investments (i.e. research grants, career and training awards), and number of CCS cancer risk and prevention principal investigators.

Data caveats

Given the 2005-07 timeframe, this analysis does not capture more recent cancer risk and prevention initiatives and activities including the Canadian Cancer Society Prevention Initiative, the Canadian Cancer Society (Nova Scotia Division) Endowed Chair in Population Cancer Research, the University of British Columbia Canadian Cancer Society Chair in Cancer Primary Prevention, The Occupational Cancer Research Centre, CAREX Canada, Chair in Environment-Cancer Guzzo-Cancer Research Society in partnership with the Université de Montréal, the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project, and the Groupe de recherche et de prévention en environnement cancer (GRePEC). Also, for the purposes of this analysis, data from multi-funded initiatives including the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance

(CBCRA), Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Initiative (CPCRI), and the Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI) were excluded.

Selected Key Findings (2005-07)

- CCS was responsible for 15% of the total investment in cancer risk and prevention research by all CCRA member organizations and 23% of cancer risk and prevention researchers funded by all CCRA member organizations. This suggests that CCS is a major funder of cancer risk and prevention research¹.
- Overall, there was less investment by all CCRA member organizations in research that attempts to identify, develop, and test interventions that may prevent cancer (i.e. interventions) than in research that attempts to identify causes of cancer (i.e. causes). However, CCS invested a greater percentage of its total investment in interventions research (43%) than other CCRA member organizations (21%).
- CCS's largest risk-factor investment was in tobacco (36.7% of total investment) whereas other CCRA member organizations largest risk-factor investment was in genetic susceptibilities (37.7% of total investment). CCS's investment in tobacco, which included funding to the former Centre for Behavioural Research & Program Evaluation (now known as the Propel Centre for Population Health Impact at the University of Waterloo), accounted for 48% of the overall investment in tobacco by all CCRA member organizations.
- Operating grants represented the largest investment for both CCS (63.4% of total investment) and other CCRA member organizations (61.1% of total investment); equipment/infrastructure grants followed representing 31.9% of CCS's total investment and 18% of other CCRA member organizations' total investment. Overall, the bulk of all CCRA member organizations investment in cancer risk and prevention research is made through these two funding mechanisms.
- CCS's investment in trainee awards (3% of total investment) and career awards (1.5% of total investment) was considerably smaller than other CCRA member organizations investment in trainee awards (7% of total investment) and career awards (13.7% of total investment).

¹ In fact, according to the [CCRA report on Investment in Cancer Risk & Prevention Research, 2005-2007](#), CCS is the second largest funder of cancer risk and prevention research behind the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (page 20 of the CCRA report).