

# Facts About Cancer

## ACR

American Association  
for Cancer Research

### Facts About Cancer

Cancer is a worldwide health concern affecting people of all ages, races and ethnicities. High quality, innovative, collaborative research has been, and continues to be, the path to finding new and alternative ways to prevent and cure cancer. As a global scientific partner and facilitator of cancer research initiatives, the American Association for Cancer Research works side-by-side with scientists, patients and families as they face cancer's challenges. Tremendous strides have been made in the prevention, treatment and cure of many types of cancers, but **much more work needs to be done.**

### CANCER RESEARCH SAVES LIVES.



### The Cancer Crisis

- In the United States, men have approximately a one-in-two lifetime risk of developing cancer and women have a one-in-three risk.
- Cancer is the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 85 and the second-leading cause of death overall.
- The risk for developing cancer increases with age. More than three-fourths (77 percent) of all cancers are diagnosed in people 55 years of age or older.
- This year, approximately 1.53 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and about 570,000 will die of the disease.

Source: *Cancer Facts and Figures 2010*, published by the American Cancer Society

### The Cost of Cancer

- According to the NCI, an estimated \$263.8 billion will be spent on health care costs for cancer in 2010
  - \$102.8 billion for direct medical costs, including health expenditures;
  - \$20.9 billion for lost productivity due to illness; and
  - \$140.1 billion for lost productivity due to premature death.
- On average, the life of each person who dies from cancer is cut short by an estimated 15.5 years.\*\*

Sources: *Cancer Facts & Figures 2010*, published by the American Cancer Society

\*\**Cancer Trends Progress Report*, National Cancer Institute

### Cancer Research Saves Lives

- There are nearly 12 million cancer survivors in the United States as of 2007.
- Among adults, the five-year survival rate for all cancers combined has increased 18 percent since 1975. It is now approximately 68 percent.
- The five-year survival rate for all childhood cancers combined has increased 30 percent since 1976. It is now nearly 80 percent.
- Advances made in cancer research have significant implications for the treatment of other diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, HIV/AIDS and macular degeneration.

Source: *Cancer Trends Progress Report*, National Cancer Institute

### The Benefit of Research

- On average, each dollar of NIH funding generated more than twice as much in state economic output in fiscal year 2007.
- In 2010, federal investment in NIH research led to the creation of 487,900 jobs and generated \$68 billion in new economic activity across the country.\*
- A 10 percent reduction in cancer deaths would be worth \$4.7 trillion in social value – the value of reduced mortality and increased quality of life.\*\*
- A one percent reduction in cancer deaths would be worth \$500 billion, almost 2.5 times what the U.S. spends each year on the disease.\*\*\*

Source: Families USA Foundation, *In Your Own Backyard: How NIH Funding Helps Your State's Economy*

\*United for Medical Research

[http://www.unitedformedicalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/UMR\\_An-Economic-Engine.pdf](http://www.unitedformedicalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/UMR_An-Economic-Engine.pdf) An-Economic-Engine.pdf

\*\*Murphy, Kevin M, and Robert H. Topel, "The Value of Health and Longevity." *Journal of Political Economy* 114 (2006): 871-904

\*\*\*Murphy, K.M. and Topel, R.H. *Journal of Political Economy*, 2006;114:871-9

### American Association for Cancer Research

615 Chestnut Street, 17th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Telephone: (215) 440-9300  
Toll-Free Telephone: 1-866-423-3965  
Fax: (215) 440-9313  
[www.aacr.org](http://www.aacr.org)  
[volunteer@aacr.org](mailto:volunteer@aacr.org)  
[give:workplacegiving@aacr.org](mailto:give:workplacegiving@aacr.org)

### Office of Science Policy & Government Affairs

1425 K Street, NW, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20005  
Telephone: (202) 898-6499  
Fax: (202) 898-0966  
[www.aacr.org](http://www.aacr.org)  
[govaffairs@aacr.org](mailto:govaffairs@aacr.org)