

NCI Director's Report: Opportunities and realities for cancer research

W. Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, National Cancer Institute

National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) Meeting

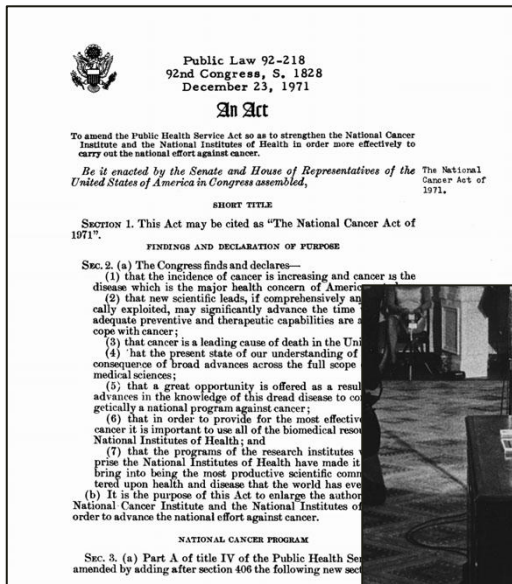
February 8, 2024

@NCIDirector
@TheNCI

Today's Topics:

1. Brief introduction
2. Recent news & events
3. Budget outlook
4. Research highlights
5. Q&A

National Cancer Act of 1971



President Richard Nixon signing the National Cancer Act of 1971.

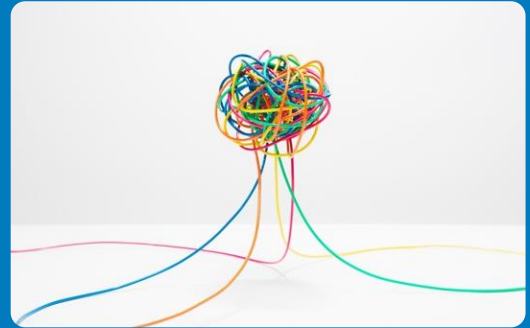
The National Cancer Act:

- Led to creation of the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB)
- Expanded the authority of the NCI director
- Created the National Cancer Program – to be developed by the NCI director with the advice of NCAB

Remembering Edith P. Mitchell, MD, MACP, FCPP



A little about me



Budget outlook

Where we are today



**Potential lapses in
appropriation
averted:**

September 30, 2023
November 17, 2023
February 2, 2024



**Current Continuing
Resolution expires
March 8**
(halfway through the
fiscal year).



**Interim grant policies
have been set.**
Final adjustments will
be made when NCI
receives a full-year
appropriation.

NCI's budget is determined within the federal budget ecosystem

alongside many other
national priorities

Appropriations bills by continuing resolution deadline

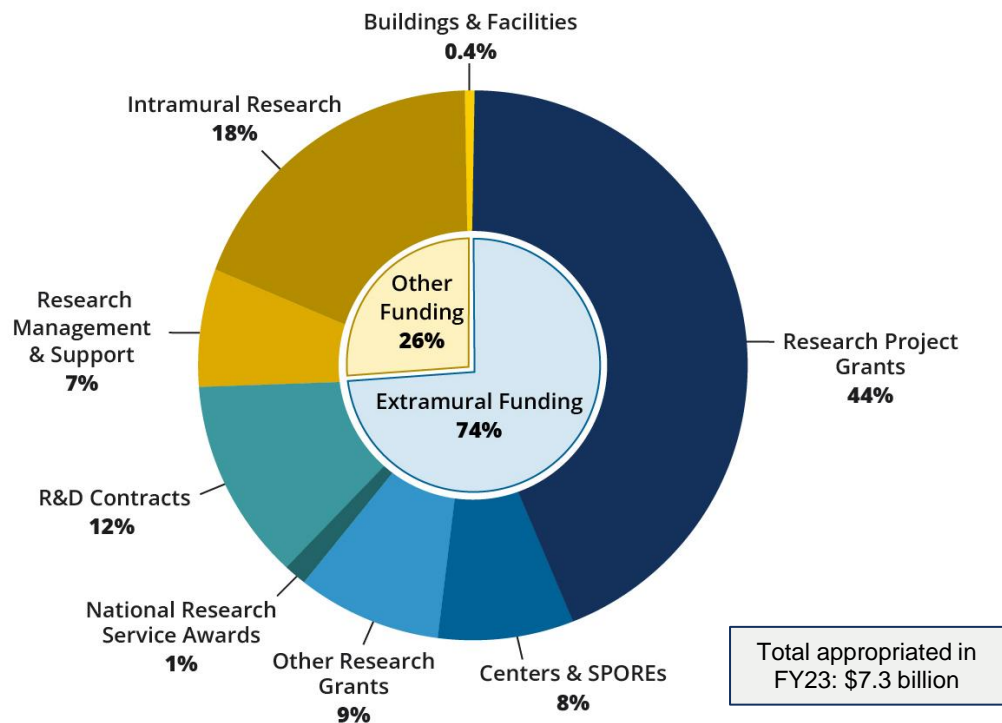
March 1

- Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
- Energy and Water Development
- Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

March 8

- Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
- Defense
- Financial Services and General Government
- Homeland Security
- Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
- ***Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies***
- Legislative Branch
- State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

How NCI spends its budget



Major areas of NCI's work span more than one of the categories in the chart:

- Clinical trials
- Training & career development
- Basic science

These efforts are funded through multiple mechanisms and approaches, including:

- Intramural research
- Extramural research
- National networks
- Research project grants

Budget Outlook: FY24 and FY25

	NCI's Professional Judgment Budget Proposal	President's Budget Proposal for NCI	Actual NCI Budget
FY 2024	\$9.988B	\$7.8B <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6.9% total NCI budget increase for FY24 compared to FY23 enacted• Includes \$216M for Cancer Moonshot	?
FY 2025	\$11.466B	?	?

NCI Fiscal Year 2025

Professional Judgment Budget Proposal

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE



Leading Progress against Cancer
NCI Fiscal Year 2025 Professional Judgment Budget Proposal

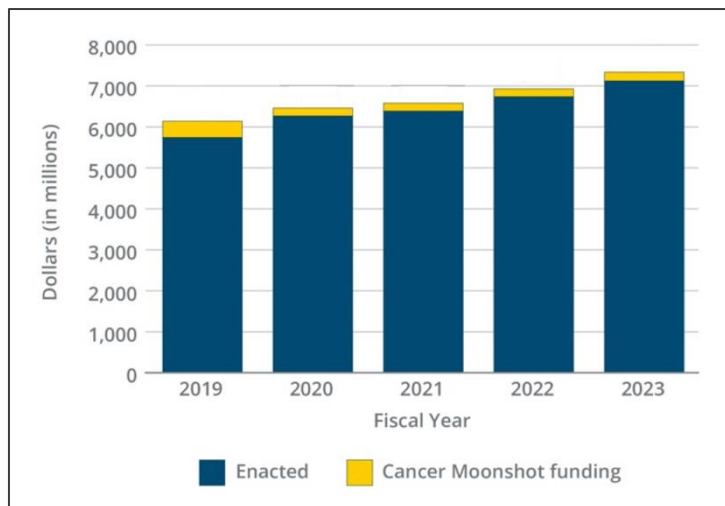
View the budget proposal and the Director's Message:
www.cancer.gov/research/leading-progress

Highlighted Scientific Opportunities

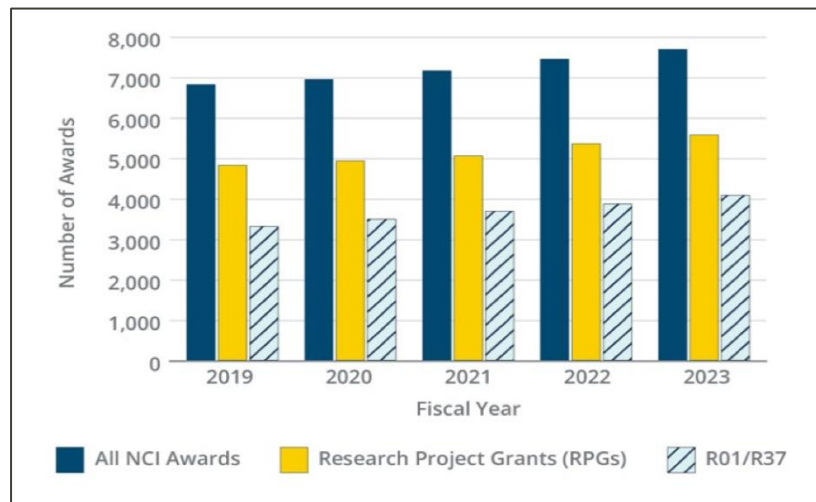
- Improving patients' lives through symptom science research
- Revolutionizing cancer clinical trials
- Clarifying the impact of the environment on cancer risk
- Harnessing the power of cancer data
- Unraveling the complexity of cancer metastasis

NCI has been funding a larger number of awards year over year

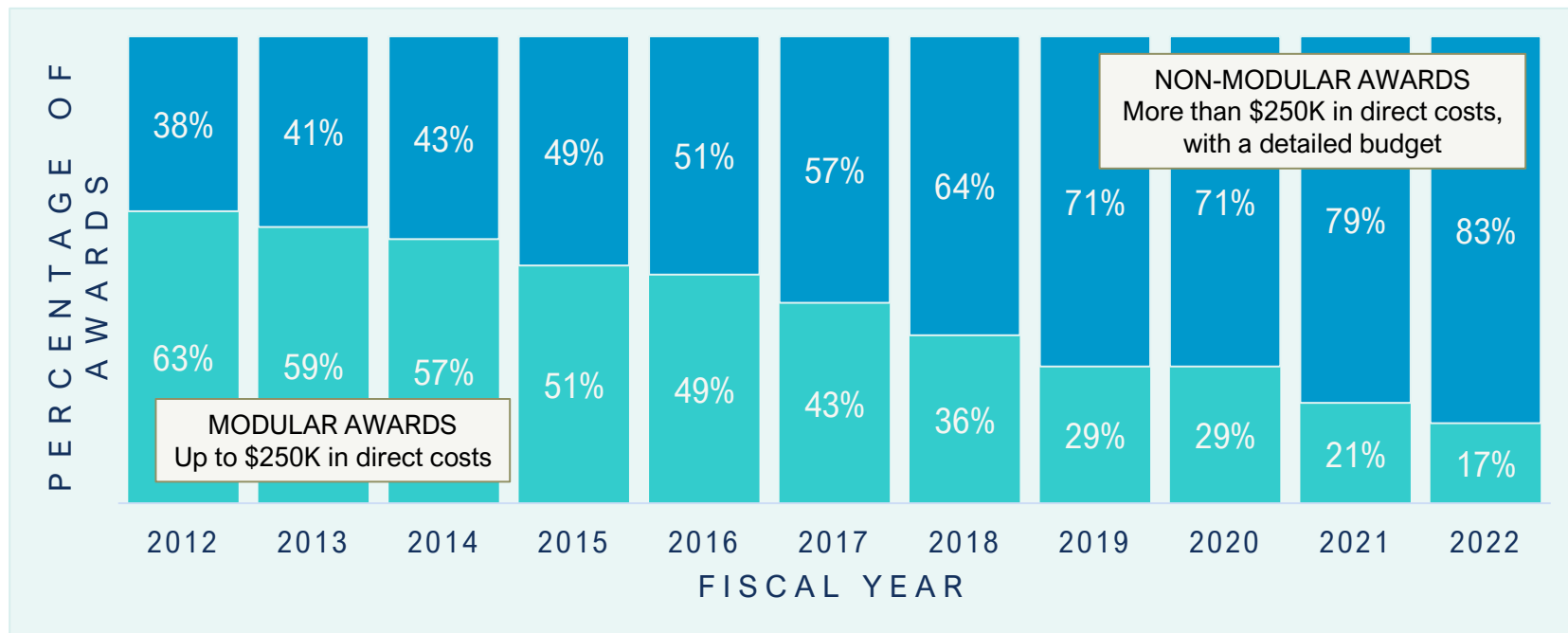
NCI Funding History
FY19 – FY23



NCI Grant Awards (competing and non-competing)
FY19 – FY23



Percentage of modular awards has decreased progressively from 63% in 2012 to 17% (~1 in 6 awards) in FY 2022



Total no. of R01
awards made
(unsolicited)

620	582	578	623	650	650	676	687	797	811	805
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A “flat” budget is not truly flat

- Research costs continue to increase
- FY 2023 was the last year of 21st Century Cures Act funding for the Cancer MoonshotSM
- Non-negotiable expenses for NCI increase each year by \$75-100M

May necessitate cuts across NCI programs – for example:

Research Project Grants (RPGs)

- Decrease the “payline” for new awards
- Fund non-competing awards at lower than 100%

Cancer Center Support Grants (CCSGs)

- Forgo at least some anticipated increases for competing renewals
- Decrease the amount of non-competing CCSGs

Cancer Training Awards

- Make fewer new awards

Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) Grants

- Make fewer new awards
- Reduce the size of non-competing awards

Intramural Research Program

- Cut at least as much as extramural awards

Resources about NCI budget and appropriations



Sept. 6 NCAB: NCI budget overview
www.videocast.nih.gov/watch=52268&start=3723

NCI's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Challenges and Interim Paylines Explained

Subscribe

November 15, 2023, by NCI Acting Director, Dr. Douglas R. Lowy

UPDATE: Since this blog was posted on November 15, Congress passed another short-term continuing resolution that extends funding for the National Institutes of Health at last fiscal year's budget levels through February 2, 2024. In this post, NCI Acting Director Dr. Lowy describes key challenges that this "flat" budget presents to NCI and its effects on NCI's ability to support cancer research. He also discusses newly announced interim paylines for competing grants.



NCI *Bottom Line* blog post on FY24 budget outlook:
www.cancer.gov/grants-training/nci-bottom-line-blog/

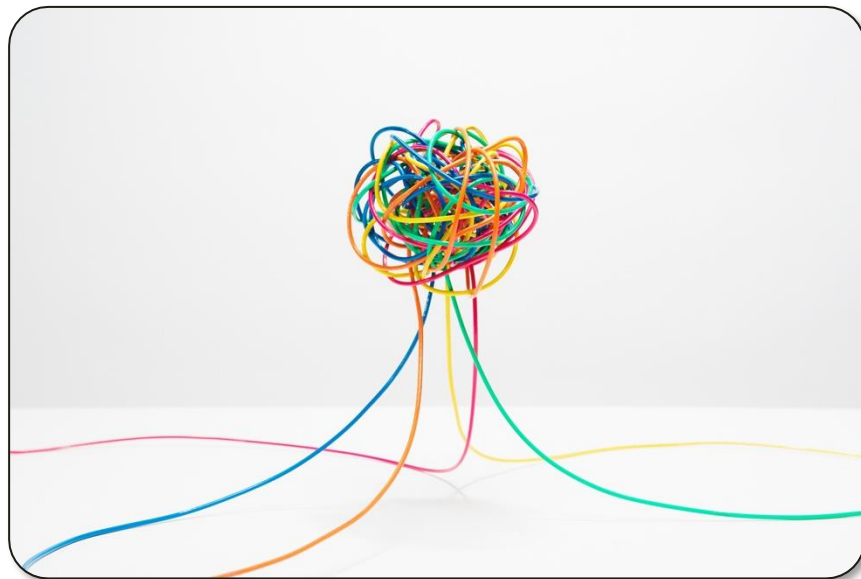


Updated budget and appropriations page:
www.cancer.gov/about-nci/budget



NCI Fiscal Year 2025
Professional Judgment Budget Proposal:
www.cancer.gov/research/leading-progress

Never let a good crisis go to waste...



National Cancer Plan

Everyone has a role.

8 goals:

Prevent Cancer

Detect Cancers Early

Develop Effective Treatments

Deliver Optimal Care

Eliminate Inequities

Maximize Data Utility

Optimize the Workforce

Engage Every Person

- *Changing how we know cancer today.*
- *Reducing cancer mortality.*
- *Improving lives of people with cancer.*



Anniversary of the Reignited Cancer Moonshot



Two years ago today, President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden... committed to supercharge the Cancer Moonshot.

They set new **ambitious but achievable goals** —

- ✓ to **cut the cancer death rate by at least half**, preventing more than 4 million cancer deaths by 2047,
- ✓ and to **improve the experience of patients and their families.**

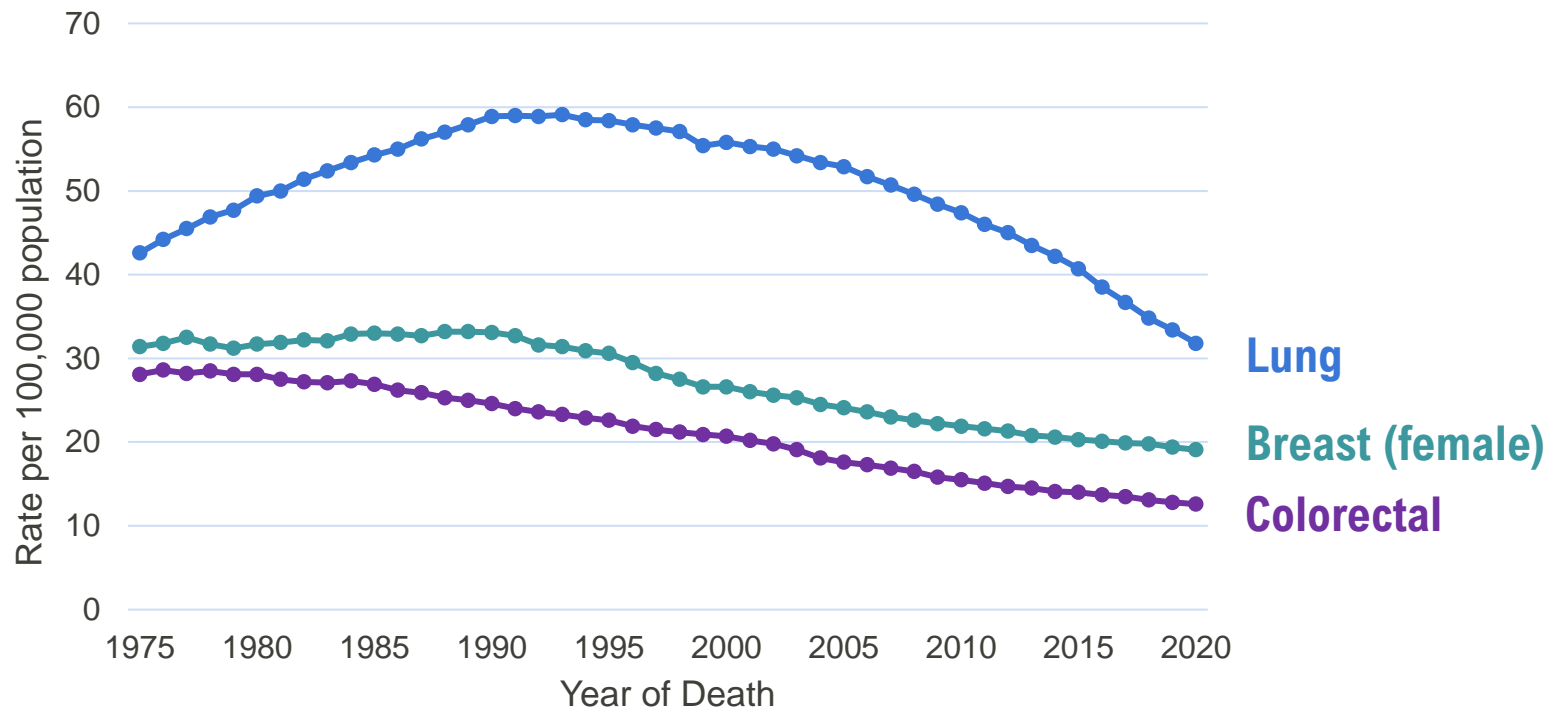


Excerpt from White House Statement by Deputy Assistant to the President for the Cancer Moonshot Dr. Danielle Carnival (Feb. 2, 2024)



President Biden, February 2, 2022

Reductions in cancer mortality over time (select sites)



A few examples of recent wins

Announcement of “SHIP” trial network on self-sampling for cervical cancer prevention at White House (Jan. 25, 2024)



JANUARY 31, 2024

Readout of White House Cervical Cancer Forum

Last week, the Biden Cancer Moonshot hosted the [White House Cervical Cancer Forum](#) to recognize Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and spur action on education, prevention, early detection, and treatment.

As part of the Forum, National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director Kimryn Rathmell announced a new NCI-supported trial to drive progress on cervical cancer prevention. The brand new ‘Last Mile’ Initiative, [Self-collection for HPV testing to Improve Cervical Cancer Prevention \(SHIP\) Trial Network](#) aims to test the performance of



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Self-collection for HPV testing to Improve Cervical Cancer Prevention (SHIP) Trial Network

- SHIP trial network is a great example of:
 - ✓ **Broad collaboration** – within research and beyond, including federal and private sector partners
 - ✓ **Addressing disparities**
 - ✓ **Engaging with the community**, beneficiaries of research

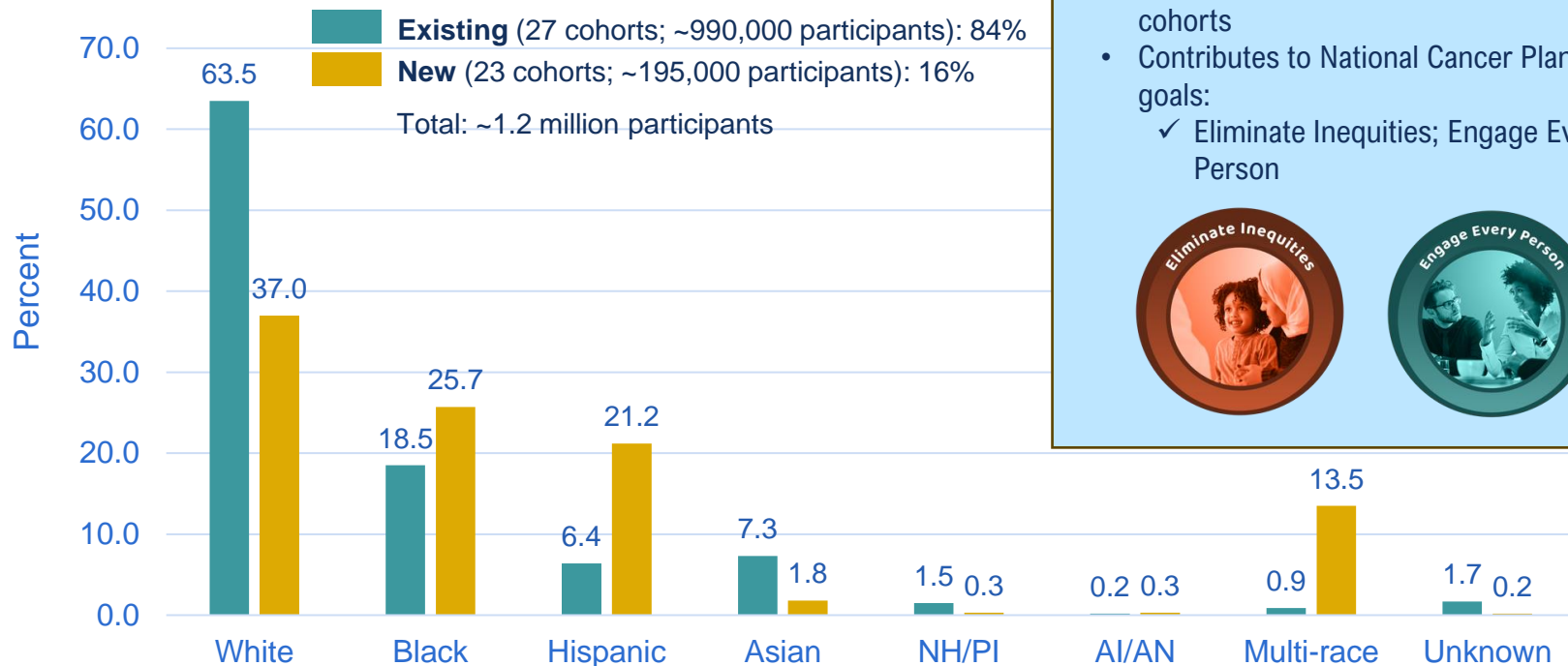
White House Cervical Cancer Forum (Jan. 25, 2024)

Recent wins and accomplishments in cancer research

- ✓ New **immunotherapy for endometrial cancer** (hard-to-treat)
- ✓ First **immunotherapy approved for nasopharyngeal cancer**, Epstein–Barr virus (EBV) vaccine studies underway
- ✓ **Targeted therapy for RET–positive** lung, medullary, and thyroid cancers
- ✓ First FDA-approved **targeted therapy for children with high-risk Hodgkin lymphoma**
- ✓ First FDA-approved **drug (immunotherapy) for advanced alveolar soft part sarcoma** (ASPS), an extremely rare cancer that mainly affects adolescents and young adults
- ✓ **Cancer Moonshot-supported immunotherapy research networks** have made significant advances in cell therapy for solid tumors for both adult and pediatric cancers
- ✓ ...and more at NCI Cancer Currents blog: www.cancer.gov/blog



Enrollment to NCI cancer epidemiology cohorts by race/ethnicity

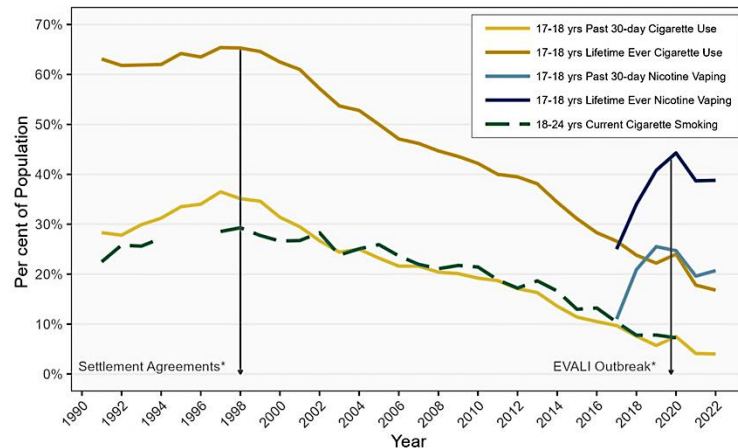


- Significant improvement in diversity of cohorts
- Contributes to National Cancer Plan goals:
 - ✓ Eliminate Inequities; Engage Every Person



New analysis shows declines in cigarette smoking among US adolescents and young adults – but surge in vaping

Prevalence of cigarette smoking and nicotine vaping, US population aged 17-18



Graph shows **declines in cigarette smoking** in young adults (since 1997), **surge in vaping** (2017-19).

Pierce et al. Tobacco Control. November 8, 2023.

Takeaways:

- Addressing smoking (#1 cause of cancer deaths) is important for achieving the Cancer Moonshot goals
- Example of collaboration:** NCI grant recipients used NCI-supported data/resources made available through cross-government partnership
 - Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey (TUS-CPS): NCI-sponsored survey administered as part of US Census Bureau's Current Population Survey since 1992
- Study contributes to the National Cancer Plan goals:
 - Prevent Cancer; Maximize Data Utility



Closing thoughts

The budget outlook is not ideal, but when we feel the pressure of challenging situations, creative solutions can emerge.

We will work creatively, collaboratively, and efficiently to steward the resources we are given for this fiscal year.

Our work is ultimately for the benefit of people, patients and families touched by cancer.

We will use the National Cancer Plan as our roadmap toward ending cancer as we know it. Everyone has a role.



Pressure cooker releasing creativity. Image generated by AI.

Thank You!

www.cancer.gov

www.cancer.gov/espanol

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