

**FUND  
A CURE**  
for Pancreatic Cancer

Tell Congress \$1 billion a year is needed now.

Fund A Cure. Now.



for Pancreatic Cancer

## Pancreatic Cancer Research Federal Funding Fact Sheet

**Pancreatic Cancer** is a disease that initially produces tumor(s) in the pancreas, a vital organ which produces insulin and is essential in the human digestive process. Because the pancreas has little nerve endings and is deep inside the abdomen, initially tumors that develop and grow do so undetected. By the time tumor growth produces noticeable physical signs, most notably jaundice and back pain, the tumor is often too large to remove and the cancer cells have migrated out from the pancreas and into the surrounding organs and lymphatic system.

**Mortality Statistics – Pancreatic Cancer** currently claims over **33,000 American lives** each year and only has a **5% five year survival rate**. These figures coupled with the fact that the average life expectancy of a patient diagnosed with pancreatic cancer is only **6 months** makes this disease the single most deadliest cancer in America. Pancreatic cancer is currently **48 times more deadly than AIDS and over 17 times deadlier than breast cancer** based on life expectancy after diagnosis and 5 year survival rates which are now 94% for AIDS and 89% for breast cancer. **75%** of patients diagnosed with this disease **will die within a year of diagnosis**.

**Risk Factors and Treatment** – Known risk factors are cigarette smoking (only account for 30% of all cases), diets high in processed meat, diabetes, chronic pancreatitis, peptic ulcer surgery, being over 60, being of Jewish ancestry, being African-American although it is important to point out most cases present with unknown causes. The only effective treatment is surgery to remove the tumor called a Whipple procedure, followed by radiation and chemotherapy; however, presently less than 25% of patients are eligible for surgery as most patients have cancer that has already spread to other organs making surgery ineffective.

**Federal Research Funding** – The federal government supports pancreatic cancer research through the National Cancer Institute, but currently NCI is only allocating \$73.3 million which is less than 2% of its yearly budget to fight the deadliest cancer. Pancreatic cancer prevention and treatment research has been woefully underfunded by the federal government for decades. Based on research dollars per cancer death pancreatic cancer receives: **6.5 times less money than Breast cancer** (\$572 million allotment); **5 times less than Prostate cancer** (\$296 million); and **2.3 times less than Colorectal cancer** (\$258 million). Though pancreatic cancer kills twice as many Americans than AIDS **it receives 39 times less funding for research** (\$2.9 billion for AIDS).

**Why \$1 billion is needed** – Pancreatic cancer 5 year survival rates have remained dismally low for the last 40 years while the rates of other cancers have improved dramatically. A huge investment in capital is necessary to attract top cancer researchers to study this disease and in particular develop effective screening techniques to catch the cancer when tumors are small and easily removed. Because of its resistance to almost all chemotherapy it will take other forms of treatment such as genetic based treatments to develop viable cures.

**Congressional Action** – Congress must demand that the National Cancer Institute make pancreatic cancer research a top priority and fund this research appropriately. Secondly appropriations need to begin to the Center for Disease Control to develop a nationwide pancreatic cancer screening system. Currently \$0 is placed in the CDC budget for pancreatic cancer while over \$200 million is earmarked yearly for Breast and Cervical Cancer.

Please go to **FundACure.com** and click on the **Tell Congress** page to learn how to contact your representatives.

## Federal Research Funding and Survival Rates by the Numbers

**Pancreatic Cancer** is the deadliest of all major cancer diseases with a 5 year survival rate of only 5%. Prostate cancer and breast cancer have 5 year survival rates of 99% and 89%. Pancreatic Cancer is also unfortunately one of the most under funded diseases by the federal government. Most funding for cancer research comes to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) from the U.S. government through the National Institute of Health (NIH).

The U.S. government funds on average **\$8,564** of research dollars per cancer death, but only **\$2,173** is allocated per cancer death for pancreatic cancer. Why is the deadliest cancer so under funded by our government?

### Estimated New Cases of Cancer and 5 Year US Survival Rates

Site	Estimated new cases, 2007			Five-year survival rates 1996-2002 <sup>1</sup>	2007 US Government Research Dollars in millions	US Research Dollars per new case	2007 Estimated Deaths (Top 5)	US Research Dollars per death
	Total	Male	Female					
<b>All sites <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,444,920</b>	<b>766,860</b>	<b>678,060</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>\$4,792.6</b>	<b>\$3,307</b>	<b>559,650</b>	<b>\$8,564</b>
<b>Pancreas</b>	<b>37,170</b>	<b>18,830</b>	<b>18,340</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$73.3</b>	<b>\$1,972</b>	<b>33,370 (4)</b>	<b>\$2,173</b>
Breast <sup>3</sup>	180,510	2,030	178,480	89	\$572.4	\$3,171	40,460 (3)	\$14,147
Prostate	218,890	218,890	n.a.	99	\$296.1	\$1,352	27,050 (5)	\$10,946
Lung	213,380	114,760	98,620	15	\$261.9	\$1,227	160,390 (1)	\$1,633
Colorectal	153,760	79,130	74,630	64	\$258.4	\$1,681	52,180 (2)	\$4,952
Leukemia <sup>4</sup>	44,240	24,800	19,440	49	\$205.5	\$4,634		
Brain	20,500	11,170	9,330	34	\$148.2	\$7,229		
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma <sup>4</sup>	63,190	34,200	28,990	64	\$113.0	\$1,788		
Melanoma—skin	59,940	33,910	26,030	92	\$97.7	\$1,629		
Ovary	22,430	n.a.	22,430	45	\$96.9	\$4,320		
Uterine cervix	11,150	n.a.	11,150	72	\$82.4	\$7,390		
Liver	19,160	13,650	5,510	10	\$67.7	\$3,533		
Kidney and renal	51,190	31,590	19,600	66	\$33.4	\$652		
Bladder	67,160	50,040	17,120	81	\$24.4	\$363		
Uterine corpus	39,080	n.a.	39,080	83	\$16.6	\$425		
Stomach	21,260	13,000	8,260	24	\$12.0	\$564		

NOTE: n.a. = not applicable.

1. The 5-year relative survival rate indicates that a person will not die from causes directly related to their cancer within 5 years.
2. Includes other sites not shown separately.
3. Survival rates for females only.
4. All types combined.