

## Incidence and Mortality Rate Trends

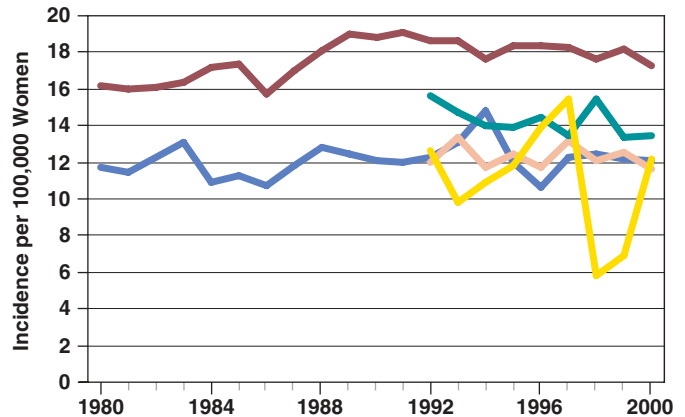
Ovarian cancer accounts for approximately four percent of all women's cancers and is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related death among women. The incidence rate for ovarian cancer has been slowly declining since the early 1990s. Ovarian cancer has the highest mortality of all cancers of the female reproductive system, which reflects, in part, to a lack of early symptoms and proven ovarian cancer screening tests. Thus, ovarian cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, after the cancer has spread beyond the ovary. White women have higher incidence and mortality rates than other racial and ethnic groups.

It is estimated that approximately \$1.8 billion\* is spent in the United States each year on treatment of ovarian cancer.

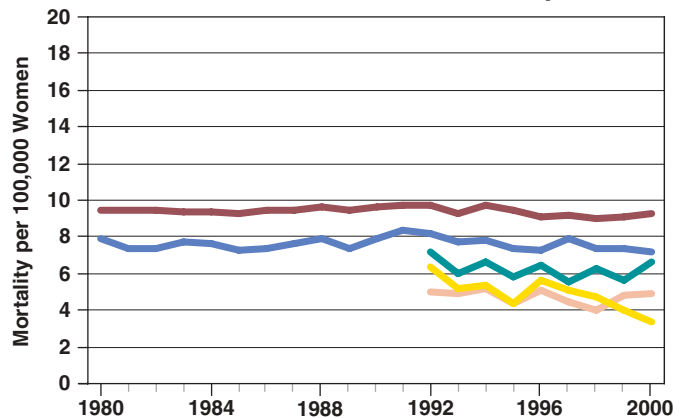
\*In 1996 dollars, as determined by Brown, Riley, Schussler, and Etzioni and reported in the National Cancer Institute's *Cancer Progress Report - 2003 Update* at: <http://progressreport.cancer.gov>

Source for incidence and mortality data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts are available at: [http://seer.cancer.gov/faststats/html/inc\\_ovary.html](http://seer.cancer.gov/faststats/html/inc_ovary.html) [http://seer.cancer.gov/faststats/html/mor\\_ovary.html](http://seer.cancer.gov/faststats/html/mor_ovary.html)

U.S. Ovarian Cancer Incidence



U.S. Ovarian Cancer Mortality



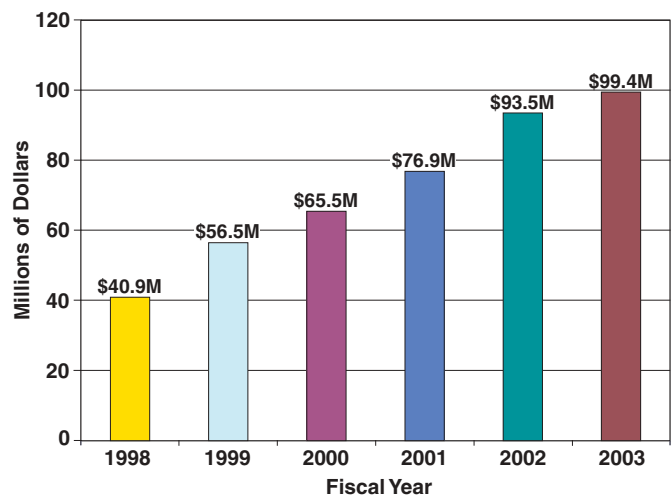
Whites    Hispanics\*    African Americans  
Asians or Pacific Islanders\*    American Indians/Alaskan Natives\*  
\*Incidence and mortality data not available for earlier years.

## Trends in NCI Funding for Ovarian Cancer Research

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) investment in ovarian cancer research has increased from \$40.9 million in fiscal year 1998 to \$99.4 million in fiscal year 2003.

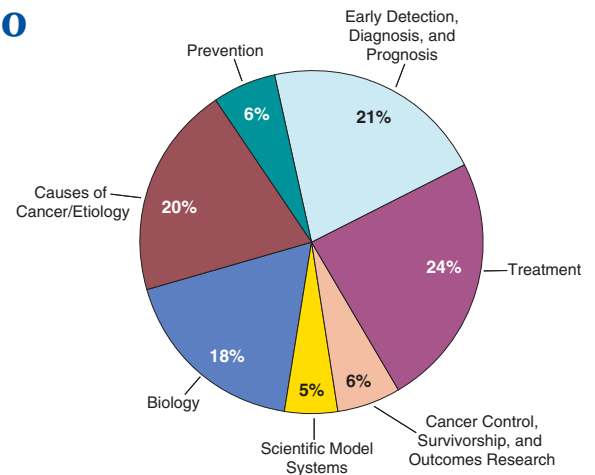
Source: NCI Financial Management Branch <http://www3.cancer.gov/admin/fmb>

NCI Ovarian Cancer Research Investment



# NCI Ovarian Cancer Research Portfolio

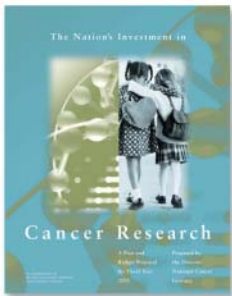
The pie chart shows the distribution of NCI ovarian cancer research dollars by scientific area for fiscal year 2002. Such portfolio analyses along with the recommendations of the Progress Review Groups (PRGs) are used to (1) identify research gaps, (2) develop strategic plans that will address future research needs, and (3) track and assess progress.



**NCI Ovarian Cancer Research Portfolio\***  
Percentage of Total Dollars by Scientific Area  
Fiscal Year 2002

\*A description of the relevant research projects can be found at the NCI Cancer Research Portfolio website at <http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov>.

## Examples of NCI Research Initiatives Relevant to Ovarian Cancer



- Four ovarian cancer-specific **Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs)** are moving results from the laboratory to the clinical setting. <http://spores.nci.nih.gov/ovarian/ovarian.html>
- The **Risk of Ovarian Cancer Algorithm (ROCA) Study**, a collaboration between Cancer Genetics Network and Ovarian Cancer SPORE investigators, is aimed at finding ovarian cancer early in women at high risk for the disease. <http://epi.grants.cancer.gov/ovarian/>
- Researchers in the NCI and Food and Drug Administration **Clinical Proteomics Program** have identified a novel protein pattern signature with potential use as a tool for early detection of ovarian cancer. Further validation of serum protein signatures is under way in the recently established **clinical reference laboratory** where serum samples from women with and without ovarian cancer are being evaluated. [http://ccr.ncifcrf.gov/tech\\_initiatives/clinical\\_proteomics.asp](http://ccr.ncifcrf.gov/tech_initiatives/clinical_proteomics.asp)
- The **Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial (PLCO)**, a large-scale clinical trial, is determining whether specific cancer-screening tests are reducing deaths from these cancers. <http://www3.cancer.gov/prevention/plco/index.html>
- The **Breast and Ovarian Cancer Family Registries (CFRs)** contain information and specimens contributed by more than 6,000 families with a history of breast and/or ovarian cancer. <http://epi.grants.cancer.gov/BCFR/index.html>
- The **Director's Challenge: Toward a Molecular Classification of Tumors** includes three projects focused on molecular classification of ovarian cancers based on genetic and molecular alterations in tumors. <http://dc.nci.nih.gov/>
- The **Gynecologic Cancers PRG**, a panel of prominent scientists and patient advocates, assessed the state of the science and identified future research priorities. <http://prg.cancer.gov>
- The intramural **Gynecologic Malignancies Faculty** is a group of NCI scientists that work together to develop better methods for the advancement of ovarian cancer research in the areas of molecular etiology, epidemiology, prevention, cell biology and treatment. <http://ccr.cancer.gov/faculties/faculty.asp?facid=132>
- The **Ovarian Cancer Home Page** directs visitors to up-to-date information on ovarian cancer treatment, prevention, genetics, causes, screening, testing, and other topics. <http://www.cancer.gov/ovarian>