The Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at NCI achieves its mission by generating new knowledge and helping to ensure that the products of cancer control research are effectively applied in all segments of the population. Through innovative research initiatives, leadership, and the synthesis of knowledge and its dissemination, we continue to build this program to be the nation’s model for cancer control science.

As a window into the many ways DCCPS provides return on investment, we highlight here just a few snapshots of progress in the past fiscal year.

The DCCPS grant portfolio included approximately 800 grants valued at nearly $450 million, with work in the US and more than 40 countries aimed to reduce risk, incidence, and deaths from cancer, and to enhance the quality of life for cancer survivors.

DCCPS funded 239 new grants -- an increase in awards from the previous fiscal year. The breadth of research supported by DCCPS includes surveillance, epidemiology, health services, behavioral science, and cancer survivorship.

In FY2013, the division provided funding support to 37 new investigators. DCCPS provides information, tools, and resources to help new grantees successfully manage their grants and advance their careers.

In FY2013, the NCICancerCtrl Twitter channel gathered more than 18,500 followers in 2013, who scan our tweets to stay informed about cancer control news from NCI. The channel is one of the top 3 most followed of NCI’s 23 Twitter accounts.

In 2013, RTIPS celebrated its 10th anniversary. RTIPs is a searchable database of more than 140 research-tested cancer control interventions and program materials for program planners and public health practitioners.

In 2013, there were 527,000 hits on two DCCPS-developed tools on the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) website: the Catalogue of Surveillance Systems and the Measures Registry. DCCPS represents NCI as an NCCOR partner with four NIH institutes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the US Department of Agriculture on this collaborative initiative to reduce childhood obesity.
As of 2013, SEER-Medicare had clinical, demographic, and death information on approximately 1.6 million cancer cases from the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results registries for research on a wide range of cancer control and population sciences in older Americans.

DCCPS has 35 agreements with investigators in 8 counties to provide access to Patient-reported Outcomes version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (PRO-CTCAE) data. By partnering with these investigators, we stimulate testing of PRO-CTCAE in clinical trials and observational studies, and promote partnerships for data sharing and collaborative analyses.

In FY13, 275 Grid-Enabled Measures (GEM) were added to the database, bringing GEM’s total to 719 measures. In addition, 82 constructs were added, and 3 workspaces were initiated. As of 2013, GEM has a total of 1,164 registered users from 838 organizations.

In 2013, DCCPS released the latest version of the Health Disparities Calculator (HD*Calc). HD*Calc helps researchers to better understand cancer-related health disparities by allowing users to import SEER data or other population-based health data and calculate any of 11 disparity measurements.

Last year, more than 3,000,000 smokers interacted with the Smokefree.gov resources, with a conservative estimate of 200,000-300,000 smokers using these resources to successfully quit smoking.

In October 2013, Smokefreegov’s YouTube video “Quitting Is a Journey” had nearly half a million lifetime views. That same month, SmokefreeWomen also broadened its reach with more than 26,200 views of the video “September Challenge: Find Ways to be More Active With Your Family.”

More than 500,000 Asian participants enrolled in EGRP-associated cancer epidemiology cohorts as of 2013. Cohorts with diverse population groups help researchers to identify differences in incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of cancer among specific population groups in the US.

As of 2013, approximately 1,750,000 participants enrolled in EGRP-funded cohorts. Cohort-based studies help researchers to better understand the complex etiology of cancer, and have provided fundamental insights into key environmental, lifestyle, clinical, and genetic determinants of cancer and its outcomes.

On average, the Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS) website had 7,000 views per month in FY13. HINTS collects nationally representative data about the American public’s use of cancer-related information and monitors changes in the rapidly evolving field of health communication.

In 2013, State Cancer Profiles website, a tool for prioritizing cancer control efforts, had 328,440 views in FY13. State Cancer Profiles provides dynamic views of cancer statistics and is the most frequently accessed of all Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T. resources.

In 2013, 653 studies were published using Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) data. The SEER Program in DCCPS, a premier source for cancer statistics in the US, celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013.
In FY13, there were 12,682 views of the “Did You Know” video series, providing the public and researchers with concise statistics about particular cancers. In 2013, videos highlighted lung, cervical, colorectal, melanoma, liver, and breast cancer statistics from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program.

Cancer Survivor Prevalence data published by DCCPS in 2013, project the number of cancer survivors to increase by 31%, to almost 18 million, by 2022, representing an increase of more than 4 million survivors in 10 years. The Office of Cancer Survivorship in DCCPS conducts and supports research to examine and address physical, psychological, social, and economic effects of cancer and its treatment.

DCCPS staff published 244 journal articles in FY13. Cancer Control Publications (CC Publications) is a searchable database of more than 20,000 publications from DCCPS staff and DCCPS-funded research. The database facilitates literature reviews, shares information on the state of the science, and helps researchers identify gaps in knowledge in order to write novel grant applications.

This year’s Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer reported a decline in overall cancer death rates of 1.8% among men and children, and 1.4% among women — a trend that began approximately 20 years ago. NCI, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries have collaborated since 1998 to create the report.

In 2013, DCCPS sponsored the Special Issue on Cancer in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, “Advances in Cancer and Brain, Behavior, and Immunity: A Decade of Progress.” This special issue commemorates 10 years since publication of the DCCPS landmark volume on biobehavioral mechanisms of behavioral and psychological influences on cancer in 2003.

In August 2013, DCCPS published the monograph Comparing Cancer Care and Economic Outcomes Across Health Systems: Challenges and Opportunities in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute Monographs. Numerous institutions in 5 countries collaborated with NCI scientists to develop the monograph, which highlights the multiple benefits of comparing patterns of cancer care, costs, and outcomes across health systems, within a single country or across countries.

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The Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer showed that in 2010, fewer than half (48.7%) of girls ages 13 through 17 had received at least one dose of the HPV vaccine, and only 32% had received all three recommended doses. Understanding these vaccination trends can help cancer control planners develop evidence-based strategies and targeted interventions to increase vaccination rates.