Tobacco Control Research Branch (TCRB)
tobaccocontrol.cancer.gov

About TCRB

Mission
TCRB leads and collaborates on research and disseminates evidence-based findings to prevent, treat, and control tobacco use in order to create a world free of tobacco use and related cancer and suffering.

TCRB funds research grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts; sponsors conferences and symposia; and communicates the findings of cutting-edge tobacco control science.

Organizational Structure

This epidemiologic model highlights the breadth of the topics included in the branch’s research portfolio.

Major Research Initiatives

Cancer Center Cessation Initiative: This initiative was launched as part of the NCI Cancer Moonshot program to help cancer centers build and implement sustainable tobacco cessation treatment programs to address tobacco cessation with cancer patients. Financial and technical resources are provided to expand existing efforts by NCI-Designated Cancer Centers to help their patients who are smokers to stop smoking, thereby improving long-term treatment outcomes.
cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/cessation-initiative.html

Tobacco Control Policies to Promote Health Equity Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) PAR-20-302, PAR-20-303: The purpose of these FOAs is to support observational or intervention research focused on reducing health disparities in tobacco use and secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure in the U.S. Specifically, the FOAs are intended to stimulate scientific inquiry focused on innovative tobacco prevention and control policies, and ultimately reduce disparities in tobacco-related cancers and promote health equity among all populations.

Smoking Cessation and Lung Cancer Screening

Smoking Cessation and Lung Cancer Screening: This NCI-sponsored initiative supports research on smoking cessation treatment for long-term smokers who are screened for lung cancer using low-dose computed tomography (LDCT). Members of the Smoking Cessation at Lung Examination (SCALE) Collaboration selected measures they considered important for research in this setting. Research is being conducted using pooled data on common measures from the 8 clinical trials.
cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/scale-collaboration.html, gem-measures.org/Public/wsoverview.aspx?wid=33&cat=8

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Tobacco Regulatory Science Program: This is a joint effort by the NIH and the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) under an interagency partnership to foster tobacco regulatory science and protect public health. Tobacco regulatory research funded at NCI is helping to develop an evidence base to inform the work of the CTP to regulate the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products.
cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/tob-regulatory-science.html
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Selected Projects

Tobacco Control Monograph Series: The NCI Tobacco Control Monograph Series provides ongoing and timely information about emerging public health issues in smoking and tobacco control. Monographs 1-22 are available online to download.  
cancercontrol.cancer.gov/monographs

Tobacco Use Supplement to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey (TUS-CPS): Since 1992, the TUS-CPS has served as a key source of national and sub-national data on tobacco use behavior, attitudes, and policies in the U.S. Data through 2019 are currently available, along with supporting technical guidance documents for analyses.  
cancercontrol.cancer.gov/tus-cps

Collaborative Research on Addiction (CRAN): The mission of CRAN is to provide a strong collaborative framework to enable the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and NCI to integrate resources and expertise to advance substance use, abuse, and addiction research and public health outcomes. The NIH recently renewed its financial commitment to the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, the largest long-term study of brain development and child health ever conducted in the United States.  
addictionresearch.nih.gov/

International Research on Tobacco Use: TCRB supports and conducts international tobacco control research on a variety of topics, such as understanding the use and characteristics of non-cigarette tobacco products, evaluating low-cost tobacco cessation interventions, and assessing the impact of tobacco control policies in distinct environments. TCRB also collaborates with a range of partners in building the evidence base needed to support global tobacco control and prevention.  
cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/tcrb/international/index.html

Smoking Cessation Resources

Smokefree.gov Initiative: The Smokefree.gov Initiative (SFGI) provides smokers who want to quit with free, evidence-based smoking cessation information and on-demand support. SFGI includes 6 mobile-optimized websites, 9 SMS text programs, 2 smartphone apps, and 6 social media platforms, available in English and Spanish. Special programs exist for women, teens, veterans, and people older than age 60.  
smokefree.gov

1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669), National Network of Tobacco Cessation Quitlines: The National Network of Tobacco Cessation Quitlines is a state/federal partnership that gives tobacco users in every state access to the tools and resources they need to quit smoking. Users can call the toll-free number to be connected to the quitline in their state.

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