

HRCS Reports 2004/05 and 2009/10: Submission Guidance and Data Usage



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Executive Summary

In 2012 the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) published a new analysis of health relevant research in the UK (the report can be accessed via [the HRCS website](#)). Information about research undertaken in 2009/10 and supported by the 12 main public and charitable funders of health research in the UK was compiled and coded using the Health Research Classification System (HRCS). Comparisons were made with the pattern of expenditure on from the [UK Health Research Analysis 2004/05](#).

The UKCRC encourages further analysis of the HRCS and the reporting data collected. As a result, the data from both 2004/05 and 2009/10 analyses are freely available for public use, on the condition that the UKCRC is acknowledged in any publication.

Acknowledging use of this data

This data is made available on the condition that the UKCRC is acknowledged in any publication using the citation "Data taken from the UK Health Research Analysis 2009/10 (UK Clinical Research Collaboration, 2012) <http://www.hrcsonline.net/reports/analysis-reports/uk-health-research-analysis-2009-10/>".

The UK charity and public sector funding organisations that provided this data are interested in any work which makes use of the information. This feedback will be helpful in making the case to continue to compile data. You can let the UKCRC know that you are using the data via the HRCS website [contact us page](#).

HRCS: Conditions of use

The Health Research Classification System itself is open source. You are free to use and distribute the HRCS but you should not alter it or use it for commercial benefit. See [the HRCS website](#) for further details.

Original Submission Guidance

Participating organisations

The largest government and charity organisations that fund health relevant research in the UK participated in this analysis.

The government bodies involved include the four devolved administration Health Departments, and four research councils. The government organisations are:

- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)¹
- Chief Scientist Office, Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates (Scotland)
- HSC R&D Division of the Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland)²
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)³
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)³
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- Department of Health (England)⁴
- National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (Wales)⁵

The full research portfolio of the Medical Research Council has been included in the analysis. The other three research councils have wide, non-health related remits but also fund health related research.

Four of the largest medical research charities in the UK were included in the analysis. Collectively they are estimated to fund more than 70% of UK charitable health related research. These organisations are:

- Arthritis Research UK⁶
- British Heart Foundation
- Cancer Research UK
- Wellcome Trust (Wellcome)

Together the research portfolios of these 12 funding bodies represent the overwhelming majority of non-commercial health related research in the UK.

¹ In 2004/5 BBSRC provided a health relevant portfolio that focused on its ageing research portfolio and in 2009/10, BBSRC provided a portfolio of research which is directly relevant to their Strategic Priority of 'Basic bioscience underpinning health' which in particular encompassed research directly relevant to ageing: lifelong health and wellbeing, regenerative medicine and pharmaceuticals.

² Previously Research and Development Office for the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland).

³ The EPSRC and ESRC provided their health related research portfolios for inclusion in both the 2004/05 and 2009/10 datasets.

⁴ Including the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

⁵ NISCHR is the Welsh Government Health and Social Care Research and Development Unit. It encompasses the previous Wales Office of Research and Development for Health and Social Care (Wales).

⁶ To note that the Arthritis Research UK (then the Arthritis Research Campaign) portfolio was not included in the original UK Health Research analysis, but was included in the subsequent "Donation to Innovation" report. The 2004/05 Arthritis Research UK portfolio was extracted from the "Donation to Innovation" dataset and is included in the current analysis.

Preparation of the data

The UKCRC reports set out in detail (at Appendix 1) the approach taken to select and classify the portfolio data used for the UK Health Research analysis.

Inclusion criteria

There are a number of elements of funding that are essential to support research activity. These include direct costs such as peer reviewed research awards and indirect costs such as "administration" and "building maintenance". This analysis focuses exclusively on the directly funded peer reviewed UK research of the participating funders. It is important to note that the expenditure on this activity will therefore not reconcile with published overall expenditure for these organisations.

The criteria for inclusion in the analysis are as follows:

- Research is funded by a participating organisation
- Research must be taking place within the UK
- Research is of health or biomedical relevance
- The award must be active during the 2004/05 and 2009/2010 financial years
- Research where funding can be directly attributed to a set of clearly defined research objectives and therefore can be classified by type of research activity or area of health or disease i.e. directly funded research, including training awards, projects, programmes, institute and unit awards

The analysis is designed to provide a snapshot of directly funded peer reviewed research that was 'live' (i.e. funded research was taking place) during the 2004/05 and 2009/2010 financial years.

Overall description of the datasets

| Year | Number of awards | Total expenditure (£m) |
|---------|------------------|------------------------|
| 2004/05 | 9,901 | 965 |
| 2009/10 | 11,475 | 1636 |

Column headings

The datasets contain information in the following columns:

| Column Heading | Description |
|-------------------------|---|
| HRCS ID | a unique identifier for each award assigned by the UKCRC |
| Funder | the name of the funding organisation |
| Research Activity Group | top level HRCS research activity code (one of 8 categories) |
| Research Activity Code | detailed HRCS research activity code (one of 48 sub-categories) |
| Health category | HRCS health category code (one of 21 categories) |
| N | proportion of the award categorised (awards can be split across 4-5 categories) |
| Amount_total | annualised spend allocated to the portion of an award |
| Institution | organisation administering the award |
| Town/Region | geographical information relating to the institution administering the award |

Datasets and documents

- The [2004/05 HRCS dataset](#) (CSV format)
- The [2009/10 HRCS dataset](#) (CSV format)

Questions/Comments

Any questions about this data, its re-use and publication should be via the HRCS website [contact us page](#).