

The Future of Clinical Trials at CIHR

ACT meeting 2025-09-26

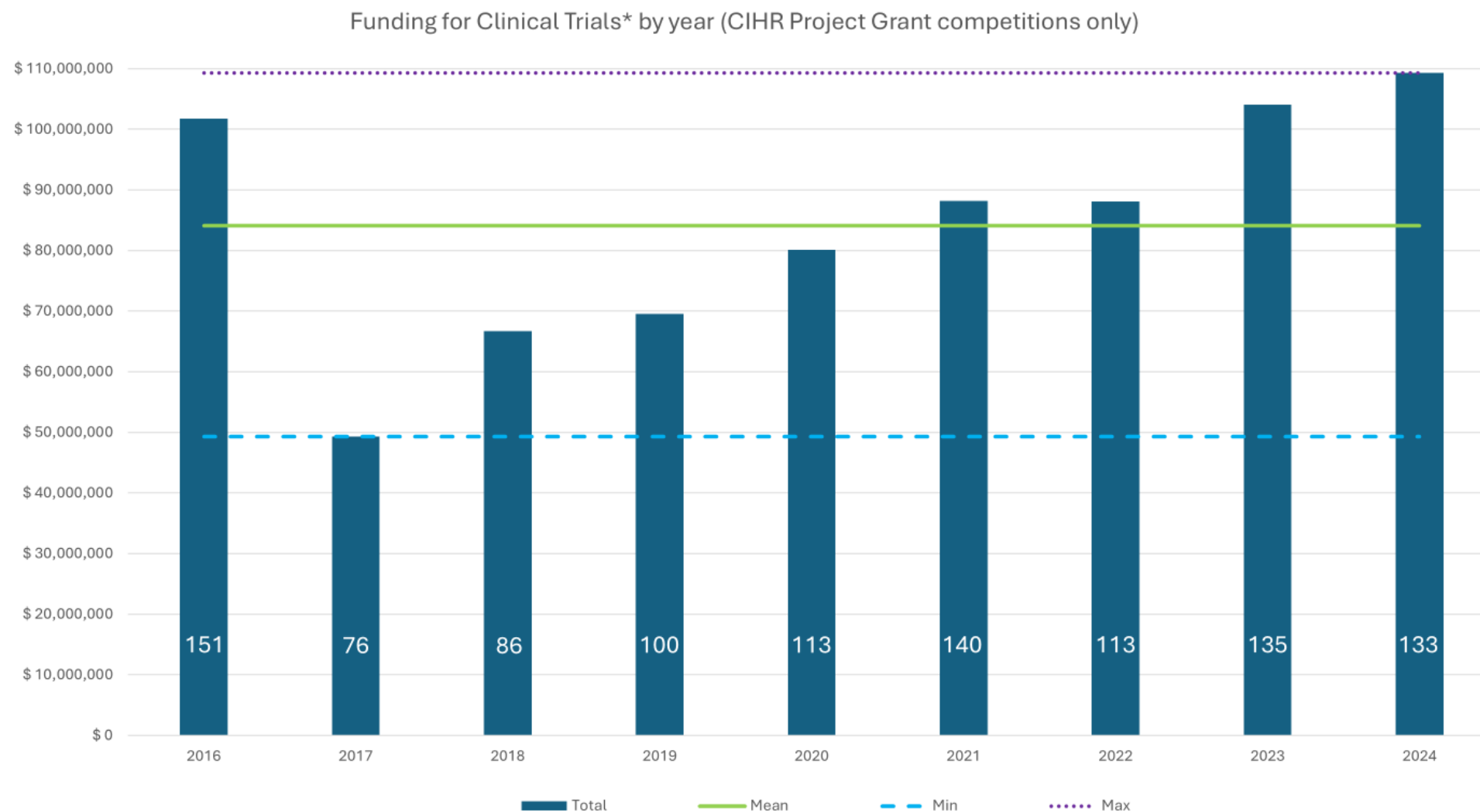


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Trends in CIHR Trial Funding



* As declared by the applicant at the time of application submission.

Since ACT was originally funded

- Clinical Trials Fund fully allocated
- Evolution of the Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy and creation of Health Emergency Readiness Canada (HERC)
- [Review of the Federal Approach to Pandemic Science Advice and Research Coordination \(2024\)](#)

*"Canada must continue **investing in, maintaining, and enhancing** its clinical trial capacity and infrastructure to be better prepared for the next pandemic or health emergency. This includes **streamlining research ethics approvals and data and specimen sharing processes** for anticipated areas of research, and the establishment of emergency processes for **working with industry**, as well as **investing in processes** that can be leveraged for other health emergencies."*

Political context

- New government with clear priorities on defense, economic sovereignty, major projects; New Minister of Health
- Comprehensive expenditure review – significant cross-government reductions over several years – decisions to be finalized by Cabinet later this year
- Awaiting tabling of Fall Budget which will help to set direction for next steps (November 4)
- Capstone organization proposal

CIHR renewed focus on clinical trials

- New President of CIHR, strong focus on research impact
- International alignment on best practices – CIHR is a signatory to the WHO joint funders statement, which highlights
 - transparency
 - patient and community engagement
 - representativeness of trial populations
- Related changes (and others) to be proposed for RCT application headings and evaluation criteria for future competitions
 - To be applied to all clinical trials-related funding opportunities
 - Any changes will be communicated well in advance of the next application cycle

A vision for the future

- Greater emphasis on funding for identified strategic priorities
- Supporting/promoting and eventually requiring use of tools to support clinical trials efficiencies
 - CanReview where possible, alternative approaches where not yet possible
 - ACT-developed agreements where possible
 - Use of a core set of informed consent templates
- Improving access to trials - portfolio hospital approach and decentralized trial models
- Further integration and alignment of research networks

A challenge for the ACT community

What can we all do to collectively support continued integration and improvements in clinical trials processes?

- Ensuring research is inclusive and includes broad engagement all through the life cycle of a project with patients, communities and decision-makers
- Communicating on the importance and value of clinical trials
- Promoting uptake of trial efficiencies within your institutions
- Building and maintaining connections
 - With international partners
 - With each other
 - With those who are not here today



Thank you!

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