



The State of Public Health In Michigan

Years of cuts to vital public health programs and agencies on both the federal and state levels have taken their toll and further complicate our efforts to support ongoing disease and injury prevention activities and to ensure we are prepared for an infectious disease outbreak, or other public health emergency. The current Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill, which funds most federal public health programs, contains increased funding levels for many of these programs for the first time in recent years.

- Michigan's per capita public health spending remained unchanged at \$154 from 2004 to 2006.
- The rate of uninsured population decreased slightly from 11.6% of the population in 2005 to 11.4% in 2006 without health insurance. Since 1990, this rate has risen by 58%.
- Between 2005 and 2006, Michigan surpassed the national average for rate of immunized children between the ages of 19 and 35 months; with 82.7% now immunized, it ranks 24th nationwide.
- 26.2 percent of Michigan's population was clinically obese in 2006; smoking prevalence decreased from 23.2% in 2005 to 22.0% in 2006.

Sources: *America's Health Rankings, 2006 Edition: A Call to Action for People & Their Communities*; *The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts*.

In response to an informal electronic survey sent out to our membership and 53 state affiliates:

A Public Health Worker told us ***"Funding cuts mean reducing the scope of services we can provide and also shifting some paid positions to contracted, un-benefited positions."***

Another Public Health Worker expressed that "as a result of five full time staff cuts, in response to the budget, morale and program size are both at an all time low." In response to a follow up question about how cuts affected relationships with the community: "Credibility often follows dollars, and when there is none to share, partnerships are difficult at best and fall apart at worst."

Founded in 1872, APHA is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world. The association aims to protect all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and strives to assure community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States. www.apha.org.