



The State of Public Health In Nevada

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.

- Nevada spent \$155 per capita on public health programs in 2006, which is the same amount it spent in 2005.
- Nevada has the lowest immunization coverage in the U.S. and in the past year, immunization coverage declined yet again from 68.4% to 66.7% of children ages 19 to 35 months receiving complete and vital immunizations.
- In the past year Nevada's rate of uninsured decreased by 6%, improving its rank from 44th in the U.S. to 36th.
- Since 1990, Nevada's incidence of infectious disease declined even further from 23.0 cases per 100,000 in 2005 to 19.6 cases per 100,000 in 2006.

Sources: *America's Health Rankings, 2006 Edition: A Call to Action for People & Their Communities*; *Trust for America's Health The State of Your Health Report, 2006 Edition*; *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.