



American  
Public Health  
Association



# APHA PHACT Campaign

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION CAMPAIGN



## *The State of Public Health in Arizona*

Years of flat funding and budget cuts to vital public health agencies and programs at both the federal and state levels have taken their toll on Arizona and the nation as a whole, complicating public health efforts. Additional resources are needed to adequately support improving access to care, controlling diseases, eliminating health disparities, and other public health activities. Make public health a priority this year and help us move towards developing a healthy society.

### The Facts:

- **Public Health Funding:** The state of Arizona spends an average of \$19.38 a year on the public health needs of each state resident, one of the lowest levels in the nation. Total public health spending in Arizona, including federal sources such as money from HRSA and CDC, amounts to an average of \$81 per person, the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest public health funding level in the nation.
- **Access to Care:** This low funding level has led to many negative outcomes in the state: more than 25 percent of children do not receive adequate immunizations, 21 percent of the population is uninsured and 20 percent of children live in poverty.
- **Health Disparities:** African Americans in the state experience 27 percent more premature deaths than do whites. Similarly, residents living in urban areas of Arizona are 25 percent less likely to experience premature death than are those who live in the fringe counties of metropolitan areas.
- **The Road Ahead:** Although Arizona has made some recent improvements in public health, such as significantly reducing its rate of smoking and infectious disease, Arizona still faces many public health challenges.

Sources: United Health Foundation's State Snapshots; Trust for America's Health, *The State of Your Health Report*, 2008 Edition.

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

A Public Health Worker from Phoenix, Arizona told us that, *"Reduced Preventative Health Block grants means fewer chronic disease prevention services provided; WIC program funding has not been able to keep up with expenses."*

A Public Health Worker from Yuma, Arizona described the effect on services her organization provides: *"Low income women over 50 in the community won't be able to get well woman exams."*

Another Public Health Worker from Glendale, Arizona noted the impact on her organization and the community: *"[As a result of budget cuts, there are] less funds and support for community outreach. [Other organizations] seem more hesitant to work with u, or provide letters of support..."* She concluded by noting: *"Funding helps collaborative efforts!"*

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](http://www.apha.org).