



## *The State of Public Health In Vermont*

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.

- Vermont spent \$93 per capita on public health programs in 2006, one of the lowest rates in the nation.
- Between 2005 and 2006, the rate of uninsured people in the state increased from 11.2 % to 11.4 %.
- In the past year alone, the state's infant mortality rate has increased by 13%.
- Vermont ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. in lowest prevalence of adult obesity, with 20.2% of adult residents obese; however, this percentage is still a significant increase from a rate of 10.7% in 1990.

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 Program Director at the University of Vermont College of Medicine told us: *"We have had Title VII grants for Family Medicine Residency training on cultural diversity. Because of funding cuts...our six years of highly regarded teaching will end in June, 2006."*

A Public Health Worker from Shelburne responded that his organization has *"needed to cut education programs and public health programs for underserved populations."*

*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).*