



The State of Public Health In Missouri

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.

- Missouri spent \$153 per capita on public health programs in 2006 and is ranked 25th in the U.S. for per capita public health spending.
- Between 1990 and 2006, the prevalence of obesity increased by 126% in Missouri.
- The rate of uninsured individuals in Missouri increased from 11.5% in 1990 to 12.6% in 2005.
- In addition to all-cause mortality, Missouri has one of the highest death rates due to cardiovascular-related problems in the U.S.

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 in Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services, working in Jefferson City told us *"Funding reductions have resulted in decreased program services to prevent and control chronic disease...cuts have resulted in decreased prevention and control services available at the community level."*

In response to a question related to direct effects of funding cuts, a Missouri Public Health Worker stated: *"In a time when it is known what approaches prevent and control the complications for chronic diseases it is unfortunate to have to reduce these effective approaches due to federal funding cuts."*

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.