



American
Public Health
Association



APHA PHACT Campaign

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION CAMPAIGN



The State of Public Health in Illinois

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 Illinois 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 Illinois spends an average of \$21.50 a year on the public health needs of each resident, which is well below the national median of \$33.26 a year and places Illinois 31st in the nation. Total public health spending in Illinois, including federal sources such as money from HRSA and CDC, amounts to an average of \$190 per person, the 12th highest level in the nation.
- **Infectious Disease:** Illinois has the 6th highest rates of Alzheimer's (210,000 cases in 2000) and cancer (59,130 new cases in 2008). The state also has high rates of infectious disease, with the 5th highest rate of tuberculosis (569 cases in 2006) and the 6th highest rate of AIDS (32,314 cases in 2005).
- **Access to Care:** 14 percent of the population is uninsured, placing Illinois right at the national average for uninsured residents. Furthermore, 9.5 percent of children under the age of 18 are uninsured, which also falls close to the national average.
- **Health Disparities:** African Americans living in Illinois experience 102 percent more premature death than whites. Residents living in urban centers experience 42 percent more premature death than those who live in the suburbs
- **The Road Ahead:** Although Illinois has made recent improvements in many public health areas, such as increasing the percentage of high schoolers who graduate in four years, the state 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 the Department of Public Health in Springfield, Illinois told us, *"Even though our program has four different funding sources, all staff (3.5 staff) are paid out of one federal funding source. If federal funding is cut or eliminated, then the injury and violence prevention program is in jeopardy. The planning and implementation of our programming will be drastically affected. We have hosted strategic planning meetings with other organizations, but our ability to implement the action steps is questionable due to cuts in staff and funding."*

Another Public Health Worker from Oak Park, Illinois described, *"Youth, chronic disease, and maternal and child health programs have been affected by funding cuts. We cannot increase services."*

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.