



## *The State of Public Health In Nebraska*

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.

- Per capita health spending remained at \$190 in 2006, ranking Nebraska as 12<sup>th</sup> in the U.S.
- Since 1990, the infant mortality rate decreased by 33% and the incidence of infectious disease decreased by 36% in Nebraska.
- In 2006 Nebraska increased its rank to 35<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for rate of adult obesity, with 26 percent of adult residents obese, this percentage is up from 23.1 percent in 2005.

*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 staff member of People's Family Health in North Platt, Nebraska told us "In addition to funding cuts, operating expenses have increased drastically with gas prices, supplies and utilities costing more. As a result, all cuts to grant funding translate into a huge lack of revenue...next year reserve money will not be available if there are not changes to federal and state funding."*

*A Public Health Worker in a Nebraska Public Health Department working in Wayne wrote: "Federal and state cuts put increased strain on counties which makes it very difficult for county governments to be supportive of the promotion, protection and prevention that valuable public health programs offer the community."*

*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).*