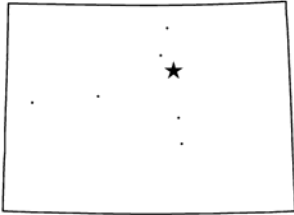


The State of Public Health in Colorado



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 Colorado 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 Colorado spends an average of \$47.21 a year on the public health needs of each resident. While this amount is the 13th highest level in the nation, it still falls short of the \$100+ allocated by many states. Total public health spending in Colorado, including federal sources such as money from HRSA and CDC, amounts to an average of \$92 per person, the ninth lowest level in the nation.
- **Access to Care:** Over 31 percent of pregnant women in Colorado do not receive adequate prenatal care and 17.2 percent of the population is uninsured.
- **Health Disparities:** African Americans experience 47 percent more premature death than do whites. Residents of urban centers experience 45 percent more premature death than residents who live in the suburbs.
- **The Positives:** Colorado is one of the most physically active states with 82.2 percent of adults reporting that they are physically active. Colorado also has the lowest rate of obesity (17.6 percent of adults) and the 2nd lowest rates of hypertension (20.5 percent of adults) and diabetes (4.8 percent of adults).
- **The Road Ahead:** Colorado has made many recent public health improvements, such as a decrease in the state's smoking rate. However, Colorado continues to face many public health challenges, including having the nation's highest rate of West Nile Virus.

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 State Public Health Worker from Denver, Colorado told us that her department has seen, *"Significant reductions in funding from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – injury and traumatic brain injury surveillance and prevention programs [have had their] budget cut 33%."* She also describes the additional challenges for government health agencies: *"[We are] applying for all the federal funds we can. [We are] trying to work with private foundations, but as a state agency we are limited in this."*

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.

Another Public Health Worker from Aurora, Colorado described: *“[As a result of the funding cuts, we are] unable to fully participate in some activities due to less staffing and available time, [and we are] unable to move projects underway forward to completion.”*