



The State of Public Health In Utah

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.

- Utah spent \$72 per capita on public health programs in 2006, less than half of the national average of \$162 per capita.
- The rate of uninsured population increased from 14.1% in 2005 to 16.6% in 2006 in Utah.
- Utah has seen an increase in immunization coverage moving up from 71.3% in 2005 to 74.1% of children immunized in 2006.
- Utah ranked 8th in the U.S. for the lowest prevalence of adult obesity, with 21.2% of adult residents obese.

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 working in Taylorsville responded, ***"I am frustrated that our elected officials deem so many other programs more important than healthcare and basic necessities of life"***

An employee working in health promotion for the disabled reported, ***"Being 100% grant funded in disability and health work, we are all in fear of losing our jobs and no longer being able to provide any health promotion services to this vulnerable population."***

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.