



## *The State of Public Health In New Hampshire*

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.

- In the past year, per capita public health spending in New Hampshire remained the same at \$158.
- In the past year, the rate of uninsured individuals in New Hampshire decreased from 11.7% to 10.3%
- Since 1990, New Hampshire's obesity prevalence increased by 108% from 11.1% in 1990 to 23.1% in 2006.
- New Hampshire ranks number 1 for the rate of children (under age 18) in poverty. This rate has steadily declined since 1990 and is at 5.5% in 2006.

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 told us *"as a result of five full time staff cuts, in response to the budget, morale and program size are both at an all time low."* In response to a follow up question about how cuts affected relationships with the community: *"Credibility often follows dollars, and when there is none to share, partnerships are difficult at best and fall apart at worst."*

According to another Public Health Worker, *"Public Health is as vital as law enforcement and education."*

*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).*