



American
Public Health
Association



APHA PHACT Campaign

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION CAMPAIGN



The State of Public Health in Indiana

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 Indiana 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 Indiana spends only \$9.70 a year on the public health needs of each resident, the 2nd lowest amount in the nation. Total public health spending in Indiana, including federal sources such as money from HRSA and CDC, amounts to an average of \$117 per person, an amount that is still well below the national median.
- **Disease:** Indiana has rates of obesity, cancer-related death, cardiovascular related death, and premature death that are much higher than the national average.
- **Access to Care:** 11.8 percent of the general population is uninsured. In addition, 7.8 percent of children under the age of 18 likewise have no access to health insurance.
- **Health Disparities:** African Americans living in Indiana experience 62 percent more premature death. Deaths from cancer are 32 percent more common in African-Americans than in whites.
- **The Road Ahead:** Indiana has made recent improvements in many public health areas, such as decreasing the percentage of individuals without insurance. However, the state still faces many public health challenges, including the 5th highest smoking rate in the nation (24.1 percent of the population).

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 Health in Indianapolis, Indiana told us, *"Cutting the federal funding provided to states is reducing the funding that will trickle to the Local Health Departments and the community served. Doing more with less leads to significant project cuts, reduced travel, and an overall inability to greatly expand to currently underserved areas."*

Another Public Health Worker from Terre Haute, Indiana described, *"The anticipated cuts in 2007 will affect our public health preparedness programs significantly. Another anticipated cut in federal 317 funds will affect our entire 'fall between the cracks' population because VFC does not pay for those who have any insurance even when the deductible is very high or they do not pay for immunizations."*

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.