



The State of Public Health In North Dakota

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.

- North Dakota spent \$174 per capita on public health programs in 2006.
- North Dakota has one of the lowest proportions of uninsured individuals in the U.S, with 12.2% of the population without insurance; however this number has increased from 11.4% in 2005.
- The prevalence of obesity in North Dakota has more than doubled since 1990 and increased from 24.5% to 25.4% in the previous year alone.
- The percent of children 19-35 months old that have received complete immunizations has risen in the past year from 82% in 2005 to 85% 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 in Bismarck told us *"Due to funding cuts, one of the most important early detection programs for breast and cervical cancer available for low-income women has been slashed beyond function."*

A Health Worker in Traill District Health Unit, working in Hillsboro wrote: *"Prevention is so much less expensive than treatment but we are no longer able to be out there in the front to keep up with prevention and promotion activities."*

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.