



The State of Public Health In New York

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.

- New York's per capita public health spending in 2006 was \$316, making New York the fourth-ranked state in the U.S. for per capita spending on public health programs.
- Since 1990, the rate of violent crimes has decreased by 56%.
- The prevalence of obesity in New York has more than doubled since 1990, from 9.8% of the population being clinically obese, to 22.2% in 2006.
- Despite a decrease in incidences, New York still has the highest incidence of infectious disease in the U.S. with 43.5 cases per 100,000 people 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 Gansevoort told us "Cuts compound the impact of increased costs of conducting programs. Programs and contractors have less money to work with, vital epidemiologic and surveillance efforts are curtailed and the residents of the state receive less services to protect their health."

A staff member at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx wrote: "Staff no longer dedicate themselves to HIV activities due to program infrastructure decimation."

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.