



American  
Public Health  
Association



# APHA PHACT Campaign

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION CAMPAIGN



## *The State of Public Health in Delaware*

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 Delaware 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:** Delaware spends an average of \$47.64 a year on the public health needs of each resident. Although above the national average, this amount still falls short of the \$100+ allocated by many states. Total public health spending in Delaware, including federal sources such as money from HRSA and CDC, amounts to an average of \$246 per person, the eighth highest in the nation.
- **Disease:** Funding shortages mean that Delaware continues to face significant health challenges. 19 percent of the population takes part in binge drinking, one of the highest levels in the nation. In addition, the state has the fifth highest level of infectious diseases (31.7 cases per 100,000 people).
- **Health Disparities:** African Americans in Delaware are 22 percent more likely to die from cancer than are whites.
- **The Road Ahead:** Delaware has made many improvements in public health, including decreasing the percentage of children that live in poverty. However, the state continues to face significant public health challenges.

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 Dover, Delaware told us, *"HRSA's Trauma-EMS Systems grant program was being used to support both our State Trauma System and our State Injury Prevention Programs. Progress in both of these programs will slow because of loss in the HRSA funding."* She also noted the additional challenges for personnel: *"We have lost our CDC grant-funded injury epidemiologist so no longer have this resource to provide analysis of injury data for injury prevention groups statewide."*

Another Public Health Worker described: *"Additional cuts may cause us to continue to reduce the number of clients served even though the need exceeds current funding levels. Additionally, I anticipate having to reduce at least one or two positions hours to part-time. As the under and uninsured continue to grow, services are being reduced. The disparity between the insured and under/uninsured continues to grow. More funds need to be placed toward preventative health care not less."*

*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).*