



## *The State of Public Health In Ohio*

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.

- Ohio spent \$127 per capita on public health programs in 2006.
- In 2006 the rate of the uninsured was 12.3% and since 1990, the rate of the uninsured population has increased by 41%.
- The prevalence of smoking in Ohio has decreased from 25.8% in 2005 to 22.3% in 2006.
- In 2005 Ohio had one of the highest rates of obesity in the nation, ranking 40<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. in prevalence of adult obesity. Although the state has improved its ranking relative to other states this year, improving from 40<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, obesity remains a tremendous threat to the health of Ohio's citizens and increased funding for a response is imperative.

*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:

*An employee at the Center for Injury Research and Policy, working in Columbus, told us, "less federal funds means fewer funded research projects and injury prevention programs. This ultimately leads to increased health care costs for treatment of injuries that could have been avoided."*

*An employee at the national Association of Local Boards of Health in Bowling Green responded that, "we operate with minimal resources as status quo; any cuts in revenue impact the education, training, and outreach we can provide to our constituents – the over 20,000 citizen trustees who comprise the grassroots of public health."*

*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).*