

DISCRETIONARY PUBLIC HEALTH SPENDING

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration

Discretionary public health spending

Discretionary spending funds most public health agencies and programs nationwide, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. This type of spending must go through the annual congressional appropriations process and the money cannot be allocated for programs without congressional approval.

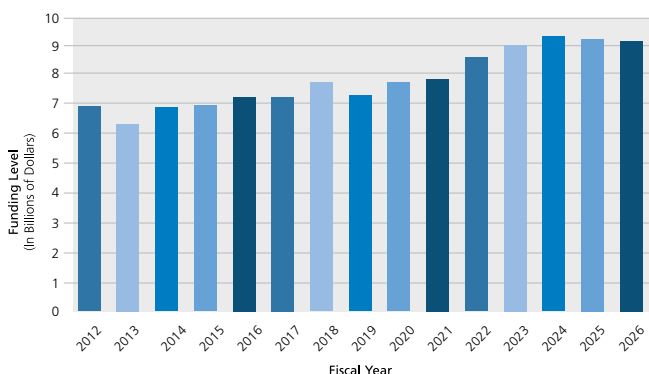
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By translating research findings into effective intervention efforts, CDC is a key source of funding for many of our state and local programs that improve the health of communities. Federal funding through CDC provides the foundation for our state, local, territorial and tribal public health departments, supporting a trained workforce, laboratory capacity and public health education communications systems. Nearly 80 percent of CDC's budget supports public health and prevention activities by state and local health organizations and agencies, national public health partners and academic institutions.

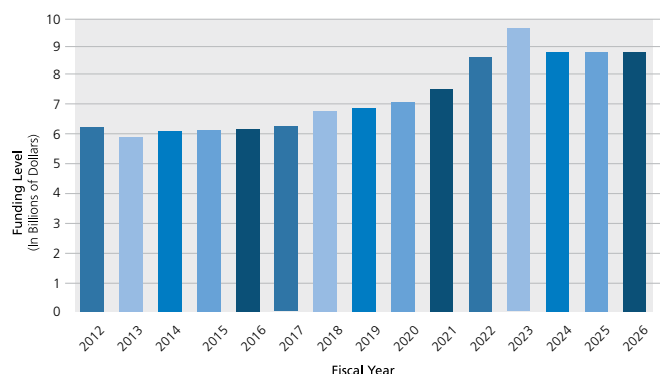
CDC serves as the command center for the nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases as well as man-made and natural disasters. The agency plays a leading role in detecting and mitigating disease outbreaks in the U.S. and globally, including recent outbreaks of measles, Hantavirus and Ebola. CDC also leads the nation's efforts for pandemic flu and other public health preparedness activities and is the nation's – and a global – expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center. States, communities and international partners rely on CDC for accurate information, expertise and resources to ensure they can prepare, respond and recover from a crisis or disease outbreak.

CDC is faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities including bioterrorism, emergency preparedness and response, data modernization, firearm morbidity and mortality prevention, suicide prevention, opioid and drug overdoses, adverse childhood experiences, heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, tobacco use, asthma, lead exposure, access to safe water, natural disasters and climate change. It is critical that existing CDC programs remain fully funded at the agency so they can continue to collaborate and work together to address the many complex health threats our nation faces.

CDC Funding History



HRSA Funding History



Health Resources and Services Administration

Through strengthening the health workforce, supporting innovative programs and delivering quality health services to people who live in medically underserved areas or face barriers to needed care. HRSA helps to build healthy communities, a healthy workforce and healthy people. Some of the major programs carried out by HRSA include:

Health Workforce programs that provide support across the training continuum and offer scholarship and loan repayment programs to ensure a well-prepared, well-distributed and diverse workforce that is ready to meet the current and evolving needs of a growing and aging population;

Primary Health Care programs that support over 16,000 community health center sites which provide high quality primary care services to more than 32 million people and reduce barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance and language for their patients;

Maternal and Child Health programs that support patient-centered, evidence-based programs that optimize health, minimize disparities and improve health promotion and health care access for medically and economically vulnerable women, infants and children;

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides medical care and treatment services to over half a million people living with HIV. Ryan White programs effectively engage clients in comprehensive care and treatment, including increasing access to HIV medication, which has resulted in 91.4% of clients achieving viral suppression, compared to just 65.0% of all people living with HIV nationwide;

Title X Family Planning Program served 2.8 million people in 2023 and increases access to contraception, limits transmission of sexually transmitted infections and increases early detection of breast and cervical cancer by increasing access to family planning and related preventive health services for adults and adolescents in communities across the country. HRSA also supports programs to serve individuals impacted by intimate partner violence;

Rural Health programs that improve access to care for people living in rural areas where there is a shortage of health services and help rural hospitals and clinics implement new technologies and strategies.

Investment in the public health system saves lives and money

Restoring and strengthening investments in public health is critical to improving and protecting the health of all Americans. It is imperative that Congress and the administration provide strong funding for CDC and HRSA. It is also essential to defend against actions that harm these agencies and their funding levels, including long-term continuing resolutions, unauthorized and ill-conceived reorganizations, administration attacks against the CDC and HRSA workforce, and deep public health cuts contained in the FY 2027 President's budget. APHA, the CDC Coalition, and the Friends of HRSA Coalition all urge Congress to pass appropriations bills that prioritize public health funding as much as possible given the non-defense discretionary spending caps that were passed in 2023. Adequate and sustained funding levels are necessary for the nation's public health agencies that support and strengthen the public health system so it is able to respond to everyday health threats, unexpected public health emergencies and ensure all people have access to the health services they need.



The American Public Health Association champions optimal, equitable health and well-being for all. With our broad-based member community and 150-year perspective, we influence federal policy to improve the public's health.

Learn more at [APHA.org](https://www.apha.org)