



New Report Finds Midwestern States Receive Least Federal Support for Public Health

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WASHINGTON, April 2, 2008 -- Trust for America's Health (TFAH) released a new study today that finds Midwestern states receive less funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) than other states.

Midwestern states receive less funding from the CDC than other states, at an average of \$16.24 per person. Western states receive the second least, with an average of \$19.74 per person. Northeastern states receive an average of \$23.37 per person. Southern states receive the most CDC funding, with an average of \$29.40 per person.

The new analysis, *Shortchanging America's Health: A State-By-State Look at How Federal Public Health Dollars Are Spent -- 2008*, reviews key health statistics and federal funding for public health on a state-by-state level.

Federal funding for disease and injury prevention programs in states averages out to be \$17.23 per person for fiscal year (FY) 2007. However, CDC funding for individual states can vary by more than \$56 per person, according to the analysis. Alaska receives more than any other state from the CDC at \$69.76 per person. Kansas receives the least at \$13.61 per person.

"Every American should have the opportunity to be as healthy as he or she can be. Every community should be safe from threats to its health," said Jeff Levi, PhD, Executive Director of TFAH. "If we're serious about improving the health of Americans, we need to make a much bigger investment in disease prevention efforts in every state and every region."

States and local communities use CDC funds for a range of public health programs, including cancer prevention, chronic disease prevention and health promotion, diabetes control, environmental health, HIV prevention, immunizations, infectious disease prevention, and bioterrorism preparedness.

"For too long the country has focused on caring for people after they become sick instead of trying to prevent disease," said James S. Marks, M.D., M.P.H., senior vice president and director of the health group at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "Investing more in public health and prevention will help end skyrocketing medical care costs and ensure that all Americans live longer and healthier lives."

Approximately 80 percent of CDC funds are distributed to state and local health agencies through grants or cooperative agreement programs. CDC is the lead federal agency devoted to disease prevention and control. The agency distributes funds in 2 ways: 1) through formulas based on burden of disease or population, and 2) through competitive processes where states and communities apply for limited funds.

Regions are based on the U.S. Census Bureau definitions. Midwestern states include: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin. Northeastern states include: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont. Western states include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming. Southern states include: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia. Washington, D.C. was not included in the analysis.

The full report with state-by-state pages of health indicators and funding information is available on TFAH's Web site at www.healthymamericans.org. The report was supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Rankings of CDC Funds for States (Based on Fiscal Year 2007)

1=Most funds; 50=Least funds. Funds are listed on a per person basis. The national average CDC funding is \$17.23 per person.

1. Alaska (\$69.76); 2. Georgia (\$52.56); 3. Maryland (\$49.35); 4. Virginia (\$45.20); 5. Vermont (\$39.02); 6. Rhode Island (\$33.60); 7. North Dakota (\$32.76); 8. New Mexico (\$32.75); 9. Wyoming (\$31.64); 10. South Dakota (\$30.80); 11. New York (\$26.95); 12. New Hampshire (\$26.61); 13. Hawaii (\$26.45); 14. Massachusetts (\$25.42); 15. West Virginia (\$25.40); 16. Tennessee (\$25.34); 17. Delaware (\$25.23); 18. Montana (\$25.22); 19. Louisiana (\$24.50); 20. Maine (\$23.89); 21. New Jersey (\$23.71); 22. Kentucky (\$23.18); 23. Oklahoma (\$23.01); 24. North Carolina (\$22.53); 25. Nevada (\$22.43); 26. Alabama (\$22.20); 27. Washington (\$21.21); 28. Idaho (\$21.12); 29. Colorado (\$20.47); 30. Connecticut (\$20.42); 31. Iowa (\$20.41); 32. South Carolina (\$19.84); 33. Mississippi (\$19.77); 34. Nebraska (\$19.72); 35. Texas (\$19.67); 36. Arizona (\$19.38); 37. Arkansas (\$18.54); 38. Michigan (\$18.40); 39. California (\$17.68); 40. Oregon (\$16.78); 41. Missouri (\$16.20); 42. Illinois (\$15.46); 43. Pennsylvania (\$15.30); 44. Ohio (\$15.08); 45. Wisconsin (\$14.94); 46. Utah (\$14.81); 47. Minnesota (\$14.61); 48. Florida (\$14.06); 49. Indiana (\$13.69); 50. Kansas (\$13.61).

Trust for America's Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the quality of the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful, and timely change. For more than 35 years, the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.