



NEW STUDY EXAMINES FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDS TO STATES; AMOUNTS WOULD BE IMPACTED BY PROPOSED CUT TO CDC OF NEARLY 7% IN PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

All States Are Falling Short of National Health Goals

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WASHINGTON, February 7, 2005 -- Trust for America's Health (TFAH) released a new study today that found the amount of federal funds states receive for public health programs does not correlate with the healthiness of individuals in each state.

The report, entitled "Shortchanging America's Health: A State-By-State Look at How Federal Public Health Dollars Are Spent," reviewed key health statistics and key federal public health funding at a state-by-state level. The report emphasized that the country is falling short on achieving federally established goals for reducing disease and improving health, and there has not been sufficient funding or strategies to result in wide-scale change.

Alaska receives more than any other state in federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at \$45.74 per person, Indiana receives the least of any state at \$9.61 per person. The national average is \$14.93 per citizen. The amount of money a state receives is based on funds they receive from CDC.

Approximately 80 percent of the funding for CDC, the federal agency devoted to disease prevention and control, is distributed to state and local health agencies through grant programs. The distribution of the grant funds are either based on formulas, such as the population in the state, or through competitive processes where states apply for limited funds. Often, CDC programs do not receive sufficient Congressional appropriations to fund all of the qualified states that apply.

"Our national health strategy is a day late and a dollar short. The country has been fixated on how we pay to treat individuals after they become sick rather than strategically investing in keeping people healthy up front," said Governor Lowell Weicker, Jr., TFAH Board President, and three-term former U.S. Senator and Governor from Connecticut. "Sadly, but not too surprisingly, this report found that the President and Congress are not providing adequate funds to support the states and protect the health and lives of the American people. I fear the President's new proposed budget will do little to remedy the situation."

Health indicators for states include adult asthma, diabetes, obesity, new cancer cases, heart disease fatalities, West Nile virus, and AIDS rates; childhood asthma, high school student overweight, preschooler immunization, infant death, and low birth weight rates; primary care provider shortage areas, and if the state has initial health tracking efforts. Some of the indicators

for state-level federal funding for public health programs include cancer prevention, chronic disease prevention, diabetes control, environmental health, HIV prevention, immunizations, infectious diseases, bioterrorism preparedness (states and hospitals), health professional grants, the Ryan White 2003 AIDS Care Act, and Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

The per capita CDC funding distributed to the states is also examined (see chart for rankings, most to least, below).

State	CDC Per Capita Total FY 2004 (Dollars)	CDC Per Capita Ranking FY 2004
Alaska	\$45.74	1
Vermont	\$32.39	2
Wyoming	\$28.63	3
North Dakota	\$26.50	4
Rhode Island	\$26.31	5
Hawaii	\$24.72	6
South Dakota	\$24.60	7
Maryland	\$23.64	8
New Mexico	\$23.24	9
Montana	\$23.19	10
Maine	\$22.73	11
New York	\$22.62	12
Delaware	\$22.05	13
New Hampshire	\$20.38	14
Massachusetts	\$20.09	15
Colorado	\$19.30	16
West Virginia	\$19.07	17
Nevada	\$17.80	18
Utah	\$17.57	19
Idaho	\$17.50	20
South Carolina	\$17.38	21
Washington	\$16.98	22
Georgia	\$16.93	23
Nebraska	\$16.78	24
Mississippi	\$16.45	25
Oregon	\$16.28	26
Iowa	\$16.06	27
Oklahoma	\$15.88	28
Alabama	\$15.88	29
Louisiana	\$15.77	30
North Carolina	\$15.52	31
Arizona	\$15.16	32
Connecticut	\$15.13	33
Arkansas	\$15.09	34
California	\$14.06	35

Minnesota	\$14.04	36
Missouri	\$13.06	37
Kentucky	\$12.96	38
Michigan	\$12.77	39
Texas	\$12.67	40
New Jersey	\$12.55	41
Illinois	\$12.31	42
Wisconsin	\$11.85	43
Tennessee	\$11.73	44
Kansas	\$11.50	45
Virginia	\$11.42	46
Florida	\$11.12	47
Pennsylvania	\$10.53	48
Ohio	\$9.69	49
Indiana	\$9.61	50

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

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.