

## The Value of Investing in Prevention

February 2014

**Request:** *Continue to fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund as appropriated by law, as well as all policies and programs that allow all groups to attain high-quality longer lives, free of preventable disease, injury, and premature death.*

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."  
— Benjamin Franklin



We must protect and increase funding for public health programs at all levels



American  
Public Health  
Association

www.apha.org

Resources: [www.apha.org/advocacy/ipsu/infographic.htm](http://www.apha.org/advocacy/ipsu/infographic.htm)

Source: APHA Infographic

### The Case for Prevention

- ⇒ Chronic diseases account for 7 out of 10 deaths in America each year.
- ⇒ Health care accounts for 18% of GDP, and it's expected to account for 19.6% by 2021.<sup>1</sup>
- ⇒ America spends \$2.7 trillion annually on health care—more than any other nation.<sup>2</sup>
- ⇒ Investing in prevention yields long-term health savings and saves lives.
- ⇒ Prevention shows a 5-to-1 return on investment.
- ⇒ Increasing spending in public health leads to declines in preventable deaths.
- ⇒ Businesses benefit from investing in prevention through lower healthcare costs for employees, greater worker productivity and satisfaction, stronger global competitiveness, and healthier individuals and communities that can benefit local business.<sup>3</sup>
- ⇒ Cuts to domestic programs that improve the health of communities will deny services and investments that are critical to the American people.
- ⇒ Those services include fewer breast and cervical cancer screenings for low-income, high-risk women, fewer doses of vaccine against diseases like hepatitis, flu, measles and whooping cough for children and adults in need of immunizations, less funding for medical research, and less support for community health centers.

### Prevention and Public Health Fund

The Prevention and Public Health Fund, the nation's first mandatory funding stream dedicated to public health programs, was created through the Affordable Care Act. It was developed to provide a steady investment in every state for proven prevention efforts that address the spiraling growth in chronic illnesses.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides an opportunity to turn our sick care system into a health care system by bringing communities together on innovative projects that will help reverse the obesity epidemic and bring health costs down.

- ⇒ In January 2014 Congress passed an omnibus bill that specifically appropriates money for the Fund for the first time, as was intended by the law since the Fund's inception.
- ⇒ The Fund is the single largest investment to prevention and the public's health. High quality preventive care helps Americans stay healthy, avoid or delay onset of disease, lead productive lives and reduce health care costs.
- ⇒ Quality, affordable medical care and community prevention must work hand-in-hand. We cannot effectively address escalating health care costs without addressing the problem of chronic diseases.
- ⇒ The Fund provides an opportunity to improve the Health of ALL Americans through community and clinical prevention efforts, working hand in hand.

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### The Prevention and Public Health Fund At Work

#### *Fiscal Year 2014 Funding*

- ⇒ \$1 billion has been appropriated for the Fund in 2014. Of that amount:
  - ◇ \$831 million will go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
  - ◇ \$62 million will go to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
  - ◇ \$35 million will go to other programs within the Department of Health and Human Services.
  - ◇ \$72 million has been lost due to sequestration.

#### *New Funding Opportunities*

- ⇒ There is no funding for Community Transformation Grants (CTG) in 2014.
- ⇒ A new Community Prevention Grant program will be funded at \$80 million to help communities build multi-sector partnerships around better health.
- ⇒ Funds will also be allocated to state grant programs on Diabetes prevention (\$137 million) and Heart Disease & Stroke prevention (\$128 million).
- ⇒ CDC's Office on Smoking and Health will receive \$205 million in 2014 to continue tobacco control and prevention efforts.

#### *Highlights from the States<sup>4</sup>*

The Prevention Fund has been hard at work in every state since its enactment, with activities such as:

- ⇒ SC statewide Farm-to-School program, which is implemented in 1,100 schools, improves the health of children and communities.
- ⇒ Mobile County, AL tobacco quit lines are helping people live tobacco-free.
- ⇒ NJ statewide expansion of antimicrobial resistance monitoring helps identify and respond to outbreaks of resistant bacteria and other food safety threats.
- ⇒ TN automation of vital records will save money and provide better information to detect health threats and prevent fraud.

- 1) Public Health Prevention Efforts: Saving Lives, Saving Money? Available at: [http://www.allhealth.org/publications/Public\\_health/Public\\_Health\\_Prevention\\_Efforts\\_Issue\\_Brief\\_115.pdf](http://www.allhealth.org/publications/Public_health/Public_Health_Prevention_Efforts_Issue_Brief_115.pdf)
- 2) Return on Investments in Public Health: Saving Lives and Money. Available at: [http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue\\_briefs/2013/rwjf72446](http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2013/rwjf72446)
- 3) Investing in Prevention Improves Productivity and Reduces Employer Costs. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/policy/resources/Investingin\\_ReducesEmployerCosts.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/policy/resources/Investingin_ReducesEmployerCosts.pdf)
- 4) Prevention and Public Health Fund: Making A Difference in American's Health. Available at: <http://healthyamericans.org/health-issues/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/PPHF-Overview.pdf>

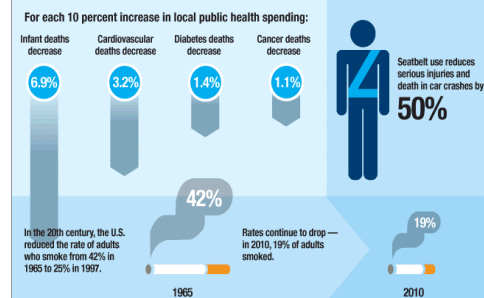
### Funding public health protects our communities and kids, saves lives ... and saves money



### Public health keeps kids healthy and communities strong



### Public health saves lives



### Public health saves money

