

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coalition

C/o American Public Health Association 800 I Street NW Washington, DC, 20001 202-777-2514

Donald Hoppert, Director of Government Relations, American Public Health Association
Testimony submitted for the record on April 27, 2015
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

The [CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 140 organizations](#) committed to strengthening our nation's prevention programs. We represent millions of public health workers, clinicians, researchers, educators and citizens served by CDC programs.

We believe Congress should support CDC as an agency, not just the individual programs that it funds and urge a funding level of **\$7.8 billion for CDC's programs in FY 2016**. We are pleased President Obama's FY 2016 budget request would increase CDC's program level by \$141 million over FY 2015. The president's budget provides additional funding for several important new and existing programs and initiatives such as combating antibiotic resistance and preventing prescription drug overdose. We are also pleased that the president's budget would fully allocation the Prevention and Public Health Fund for public health activities. Unfortunately, the president's budget also cuts or completely eliminates other important programs such as the REACH program, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, cancer prevention and control, immunizations, environmental health tracking and others and we urge you to restore this funding.

CDC is a key source of funding and technical assistance for state and local programs that aim to improve the health of communities. CDC funding provides the foundation for state and local public health departments, supporting a trained workforce, laboratory capacity and public health education communications systems.

CDC serves as the command center for the nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From aiding in the prevention and control of Ebola

in West Africa and detecting and responding to cases in the U.S., to monitoring and investigating the ongoing multi-state measles outbreak to pandemic flu preparedness, CDC is the nation's – and the world's – expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center for identifying, testing and characterizing potential agents of biological, chemical and radiological terrorism, emerging infectious diseases and other public health emergencies. CDC serves as the lead agency for bioterrorism and public health emergency preparedness and must receive sustained support for its preparedness programs to meet future challenges. We urge you to provide adequate funding for CDC's infectious disease, laboratory and emergency preparedness and response activities.

Heart disease is the nation's No. 1 killer. In 2013, over 611,000 people in the U.S. died from heart disease, accounting for nearly 25 percent of all U.S. deaths. More males than females died of heart disease in 2013, while more females than males died of stroke that year. Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and is a leading cause of disability. In 2013, nearly 129,000 people died of stroke, accounting for about one of every 20 deaths. CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, WISEWOMAN, and Million Hearts work to improve cardiovascular health.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the U.S. More than 1.6 million new cancer cases and 589,430 deaths from cancer are expected in 2015. In 2011 the direct medical costs of cancer were \$88.7 billion. The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program helps millions of low-income, uninsured and medically underserved women gain access to lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings and provides a gateway to treatment upon diagnosis. CDC also funds grants to all 50 states to develop comprehensive cancer control plans, bringing together a broad partnership of public and private stakeholders to set joint priorities and

implement specific cancer prevention and control activities customized to address each state's particular needs.

An estimated 443,000 people die prematurely every year due to tobacco use. CDC's Office of Smoking and Health funds important programs and education campaigns such as the Tips From Former Smokers campaign that help to prevent tobacco addiction and provide resources to encourage smokers to quit. We must continue to support these vital programs to reduce the enormous health and economic costs of tobacco use in the U.S.

Of the 29.1 million Americans who have diabetes, more than 8 million cases are undiagnosed. In 2012, about 1.7 million people aged 20 years or older were newly diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, nontraumatic lower-limb amputations, and new cases of blindness among adults in the U.S. The total direct and indirect costs associated with diabetes were \$245 billion in 2012. The Division of Diabetes Translation funds critical diabetes prevention, surveillance and control programs.

Obesity prevalence in the U.S. remains high. While the obesity rates among children between the ages of 2-5 have significantly decreased over the past decade, more than one-third of adults are obese and 17 percent of children are obese. Obesity, diet and inactivity are cross-cutting risk factors that contribute significantly to heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. CDC funds programs to encourage the consumption of fruits and vegetables, encourage sufficient exercise and develop other habits of healthy nutrition and physical activity.

Arthritis is the most common cause of disability in the U.S., striking more than 52 million Americans of all ages, races and ethnicities. CDC's Arthritis Program plays a critical role in addressing this growing public health crisis and working to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by arthritis and we urge you to support adequate funding for the program.

CDC provides national leadership in helping control the HIV epidemic by working with community, state, national, and international partners in surveillance, research, prevention and evaluation activities. CDC estimates that about 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV, 21 percent of who are undiagnosed. The number of people living with HIV is increasing as new drug therapies are keeping HIV-infected persons healthy longer and dramatically reducing the death rate. Prevention of HIV transmission is the best defense against the AIDS epidemic.

Sexually transmitted diseases continue to be a significant public health problem in the U.S. Nearly 20 million new infections occur each year. CDC estimates that STDs, including HIV, cost the U.S. healthcare system almost \$16 billion annually.

The National Center for Health Statistics collects data on chronic disease prevalence, health disparities, emergency room use, teen pregnancy, infant mortality and causes of death. The health data collected through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Youth Tobacco Survey, National Vital Statistics System, and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey are an essential part of the nation's statistical and public health infrastructure and must be adequately funded.

CDC oversees immunization programs for children, adolescents and adults, and is a global partner in the ongoing effort to eradicate polio worldwide. Influenza vaccination levels remain low for adults. Levels are substantially lower for pneumococcal vaccination among adults as well, with significant racial and ethnic disparities in vaccination levels persisting among the elderly. Childhood immunizations provide one of the best returns on investment of any public health program. For every dollar spent on childhood vaccines to prevent thirteen diseases, \$10.20 is saved in direct and indirect costs. An estimated 20 million cases of disease and 42,000 deaths

are prevented each year through timely immunization. We urge you to restore the president's proposed cuts to the Section 317 Immunization program.

Injuries are the leading causes of death for people ages 1-44. Unintentional injuries and violence, such as older adult falls, prescription drug overdose, child maltreatment and sexual violence, account for approximately 31 percent of emergency department visits each year. Annually, injury and violence cost the U.S. approximately \$406 billion in direct and indirect medical costs. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control works to prevent injuries and minimize their consequences.

Birth defects affect one in 33 babies and are a leading cause of infant death in the U.S. Children with birth defects who survive often experience lifelong physical and mental disabilities. Over 500,000 children are diagnosed with a developmental disability and it is estimated that up to 57 million people in the U.S currently live with a disability. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities conducts important programs to prevent birth defects and developmental disabilities and promote the health of people living with disabilities and blood disorders

The National Center for Environmental Health works to protect public health by helping to control asthma, protecting from threats associated with natural disasters and climate change and reducing exposure to lead and other environmental hazards. To ensure it can carry out these vital programs, we ask you to support adequate funding for NCEH. We urge you to support the president's request for increased funding for the Climate and Health Program and to restore the proposed cuts to the Environmental and Health Outcome Tracking Network.

In order to meet the many ongoing public health challenges outlined above, we urge you to support our **FY 2016 request of \$7.8 billion for CDC's programs.**