

# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coalition

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Testimony of the CDC Coalition submitted for the record on March 15, 2013  
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.

The CDC Coalition believes that Congress should support CDC as an agency – not just the individual programs that it funds. Given the challenges and burdens of chronic disease and disability, constant public health emergencies, new and reemerging infectious diseases and other unmet public health needs – **we urge a funding of \$7.8 billion for CDC's programs in FY 2014.** We are deeply disappointed with the failure to avert the sequester which will cut roughly \$300 million from CDC's FY 2013 funding and we urge you to work to reverse cuts. These cuts come on top of the \$740 million reduction to CDC's budget authority in FY 2011. At the same time, state and local health departments are operating on tight budgets and with a smaller workforce, losing more than 46,000 public health jobs since 2008. These cuts are not sustainable and will reduce the ability of CDC and its state and local grantees to investigate and respond to public health emergencies as well as food borne and infectious disease outbreaks.

By translating research findings into effective intervention efforts, CDC has been a key source of funding for many of our state and local programs that aim to improve the health of communities. Federal funding through CDC 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 our nation's public health defense system, conducting surveillance and detection of emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. With the

potential onset of a worldwide influenza pandemic, in addition to the many other natural and man-made threats that exist in the modern world, CDC is the nation'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 emergency preparedness and response activities.

Heart disease remains the nation's No. 1 killer. In 2010, over 597,000 people in the U.S. died from heart disease, accounting for nearly 25% of all U.S. deaths. More males than females died of heart disease in 2010 (307,384 compared to 290,305), while more females than males died of stroke that year (77,109 compared to 52,367). Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death and is a leading cause of disability. In 2010, about 129,000 people died of stroke (60% of them females), accounting for about 1 of every 19 deaths. CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, WISEWOMAN, and the Million Hearts program are working improve cardiovascular health.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the United States. There are 1,660,290 new cancer cases and 580,350 deaths from cancer expected in 2013. According to the National Institutes of Health, in 2008 the overall cost for cancer in the U.S. was more than \$201.5 billion: \$77.4 billion for direct medical costs, \$124.0 billion for indirect mortality costs (cost of lost productivity due to premature death). CDC's 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.

Although more than 25.8 million Americans have diabetes, nearly 7 million cases are undiagnosed. In 2010, about 1.9 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. CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation funds critical diabetes prevention, surveillance and control programs.

Arthritis is the most common cause of disability in the U.S., striking 50 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.

Over the last 20 years, obesity rates have dramatically increased and rates remain high. More than one third of adults are obese and 17% of children between the ages of 2-19 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 to develop other habits of healthy nutrition and activity.

An estimated 443,000 people die prematurely every year due to tobacco use. CDC's tobacco control efforts seek to prevent tobacco addiction in the first place, as well as help those who want to quit. We must continue to support these vital programs and reduce tobacco use in the United States.

According to CDC, only one out of three high school students participate in daily physical education classes and one in three children and adolescents are overweight or obese. And every year, more than 400,000 teen girls give birth and nearly half of all sexually transmitted diseases occur

in young people between the ages of 15 and 24. CDC plays a critical role in ensuring good public health and health promotion in our nation's schools.

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, 18 percent of who are undiagnosed. Also, 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 that has already killed more than 636,000 in the U.S. and is devastating populations around the globe.

The U.S. has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases in the industrialized world. More than 19 million new infections occur each year. CDC estimates that STDs, including HIV, cost the U.S. healthcare system as much as \$17 billion annually. An adequate investment in CDC's STD prevention programs could save millions in annual health care costs in the future.

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. Despite the incredible success of the program, it faces serious financial challenges.

Injuries are the leading causes of death for persons aged 1-44 years. Unintentional injuries and violence such as older adult falls, unintentional drug poisonings, child maltreatment and sexual violence accounts for over 35% of emergency department visits annually. Annually, injury and violence cost the U.S. approximately \$406 billion in direct and indirect medical costs including lost productivity. CDC's Injury Center works to prevent injuries and to minimize their consequences when they occur by researching the problem, identifying the risk and protective factors, developing and testing interventions and ensuring widespread adoption of proven prevention strategies.

One in every 33 babies born each year in the U.S. is born with one or more birth defects. Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality. Children with birth defects who survive often experience lifelong physical and mental disabilities. More than 50 million people in the U.S currently live with a disability, and 17 percent of children under the age of 18 have a developmental disability. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities conducts programs to protect and improve health by preventing birth defects and developmental disabilities.

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health is essential to protecting and ensuring the health and well being of the American public 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 and restore adequate funding for NCEH which has been cut by nearly 25 percent since 2010.

In order to meet the ongoing public health challenges outlined above, we urge you to adopt our **FY 2014 request of \$7.8 billion for CDC's programs.**