

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coalition

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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. Given the challenges and burdens of chronic disease and disability, public health emergencies, new and reemerging infectious diseases and other unmet public health needs, we urge a funding level of \$7.8 billion for CDC's programs in FY 2015. We appreciate some of the important new investments in President Obama's FY 2015 budget proposal including those for prescription drug overdose prevention, antimicrobial resistance and global health security; however, under the president's proposal, CDC's budget would be cut by nearly \$243 million compared to FY 2014. CDC's budget authority under the president's budget is lower than FY 2003 levels. State and local health departments continue to operate on tight budgets and with a smaller workforce, losing more than 50,000 public health jobs since 2008. These cuts will reduce the ability of CDC and its state and local grantees to investigate and respond to public health emergencies, ensure adequate immunization rates and track environmental hazards.

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 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 is the nation's No. 1 killer. In 2010, over 597,000 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 2010, while more females than males died of stroke that year. Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death and is a leading cause of disability. In 2010, more than 129,000 people died of stroke, accounting for about one of every 19 deaths. CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, WISEWOMAN, and the Million Hearts program 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 585,720 deaths from cancer are expected in 2014. In 2009 the overall cost for cancer in the U.S. was more than \$216.6 billion: \$86.6 billion for direct medical costs, \$130 billion for indirect mortality costs. 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.

An estimated 443,000 people die prematurely every year due to tobacco use. CDC's Office of Smoking and Health funds important programs and campaigns to prevent tobacco addiction and to help those who want 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 25.8 million Americans who 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. 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.

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, 16 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 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. Nearly 20 million new infections occur each year. CDC estimates that STDs, including HIV, cost the U.S. healthcare system almost \$16 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.

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 29 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 by researching the problem, identifying the risk and protective factors, developing and testing interventions and ensuring widespread adoption of proven prevention strategies.

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 more than 50 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 and restore adequate funding for NCEH.

In order to meet the many ongoing public health challenges outlined above, we urge you to support our **FY 2015 request of \$7.8 billion for CDC's programs.**