

Staying in good health is a challenge every American faces. State public health plays a critical role in creating a healthier America, preventing disease, responding to public health threats, and containing rising health costs. Investing in public health prevention now puts us on the right track for the future.

Investing in the Nation's Public Health System

The Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) is the first mandatory source of funding created to improve the nation's public health system. Since its creation in 2010, the Prevention Fund has invested \$6 billion in preventive health services and core public health programs.

In fiscal year 2016, Congress allocated a total of \$932 million from the Prevention Fund to programs across multiple federal health agencies, much of which support state and local health departments as a critical source of public health funding. The Prevention Fund supports 100 percent of the **Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant**, which allows state health officials the flexibility to place resources exactly where they are most needed in their states. This block grant funds program areas in all 50 states, including state emergency medical services, public health infrastructure, infectious disease surveillance and prevention, and programs that implement the national health promotion and disease prevention efforts of *Healthy People 2020*.

The Prevention Fund supplies more than 50 percent of the **Section 317 Immunization Program**, the backbone of our nation's immunization infrastructure. Section 317 grants to states help secure the safety and efficacy of vaccines, as well as respond to outbreaks like measles and the flu.

CDC's **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Program** also receives \$40 million from the Prevention Fund, roughly half of the program's funding. ELC helps state and local public health departments conduct contact tracing and laboratory testing in response to infectious disease outbreaks. ELC-funded laboratories have been indispensable in rapidly responding to major disease threats, such as the West Nile virus (1999-2001), the H1N1 influenza virus (2009), the

Key Programs Funded by the Prevention and Public Health Fund

Congressional Allocation, FY 2016

Alzheimer's Prevention Education and Outreach	\$14,700,000
Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant	\$160,000,000
Epidemiology & Lab Capacity Program	\$40,000,000
Healthcare Associated Infections	\$12,000,000
Heart Disease and Stroke	\$73,000,000
Diabetes Prevention	\$73,000,000
Immunization	\$324,350,000
Lead Poisoning Prevention	\$17,000,000
Million Hearts Program	\$4,000,000

Prevention and Public Health Fund



Ebola virus (2014), and most recently, the Zika virus. ELC also plays an important role in keeping America's food supply safe through its support for the PulseNet surveillance system.

In addition to funding these state activities, the Prevention Fund supports state health department activities across many areas of public health, including:

- Lowering the incidence of common, costly, and preventable chronic diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke, and other leading causes of death and disability.
- Providing support to seniors and their families on Alzheimer's disease and falls prevention.
- Detecting and responding to existing and emerging health threats like healthcare associated infections.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

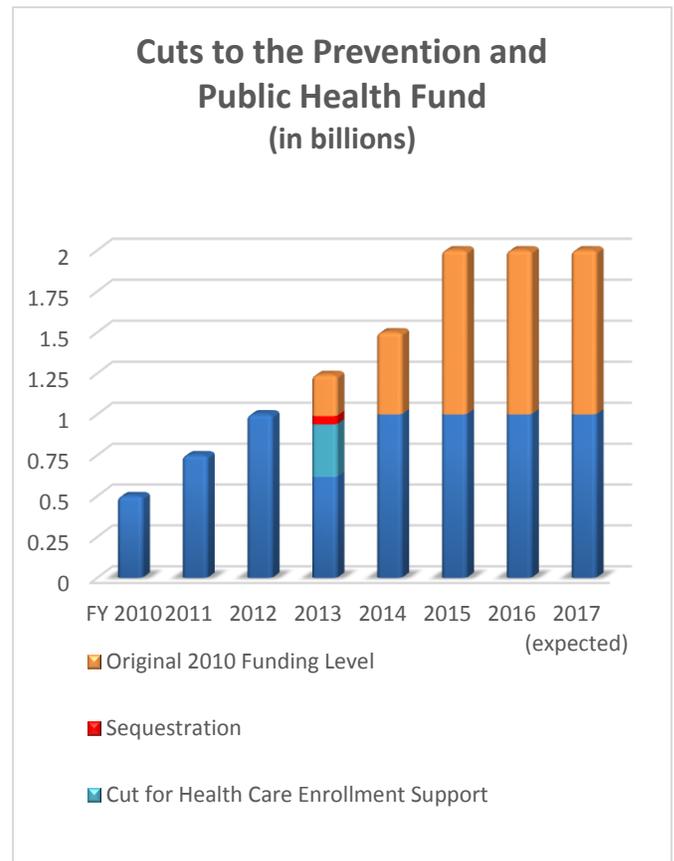
According to CDC, for **every \$1 spent** on:

- Immunizations, **\$10.20** is saved in disease treatment costs. ⁱ
- Foodborne disease prevention, **\$70 is saved** in medical costs and lost productivity. ⁱⁱ
- Reducing lead poisoning hazards, achieves a **benefit of at least \$17** in direct and indirect costs. ⁱⁱⁱ

Securing the Future of Prevention Funding to States

The Prevention Fund was created as a part of health care reform in 2010 as a tool to improve prevention activities. Since its creation, the fund has been cut by 50 percent, much of that to address the Medicare doctor fix, or sustainable growth rate as well as health care reform activities/ These reductions strain state public health at a time when overall public health funding is down. Budget cuts continue to impact state and local health departments, with the loss of over 51,000 jobs since 2008^{iv}.

Congress has allocated the fund since FY 2014, focusing its resources on critical and core public health needs. The Prevention Fund is now essential to completing annual appropriations bills as it supplants \$900 million in reduced base budget authority for CDC. Programs currently allocated in the fund must be added back to CDC's base budget authority should future years bring any additional cuts to the Prevention Fund.



The Prevention Fund serves a purpose more central to the federal budget process and core public health than many often realize. It helps state health departments keep Americans healthy and the nation safe. It is more important today than ever that this source of funding be protected into the future.

ⁱ CDC, Office of the Associate Director for Policy, "The Value of Prevention," 2016.

ⁱⁱ CDC, CDC Newsroom, "PulseNet saves lives and money by reducing foodborne illness," <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/p0315-pulsenet.html> (accessed Jul. 21, 2016).

ⁱⁱⁱ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, "2012 Budget Information," <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/about/2012budget.html> (access Jul. 21, 2016).

^{iv} Newman SJ, et al., "Assessment of Staffing, Services, and Partnerships of Local Health Departments — United States, 2015," MMWR, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, CDC, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6525a2.htm> (accessed Jul. 21, 2016).