



# Why Does Global Health Matter to Arkansas?

Probably for more reasons than you think. Even though the term “global health” refers to diseases and health issues that disproportionately affect developing countries, global health matters to Arkansas. It matters to Arkansas’s economy and to Arkansans’ health.

## Arkansas has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Arkansas exported \$4.9 billion worth of goods to 159 foreign destinations. Arkansas’s global exports have grown by 65 percent, or \$1.9 billion, over the last five years. Some of Arkansas’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Arkansas benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “in-sourced jobs” – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 33,900 Arkansans work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Arkansas’s economy as they expand their operations in the Razorback State.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 2,900 foreign students studied at Arkansas universities. International students and their families contributed \$55 million to the state’s economy.



## Global Ties Benefit Arkansas

Arkansas's global ties benefit the state's economy, providing billions of dollars in revenue and thousands of jobs. For example, one in nine manufacturing workers in Arkansas depends on international exports for his or her job.

## These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Arkansas's global ties link the state's economic health to the health and economic growth of other countries and regions. When health care crises in other countries threaten economic and political stability, they can end up affecting Arkansas as well.

## What's the Link between Health and Wealth?

Epidemics and other health crises affect the ability of entire communities to work and limit the potential for economies to develop. The following examples illustrate the link between global health and economic development:

- Malaria costs Africa \$12 billion in lost economic output every year. It is estimated that without malaria, the economic output of several African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Arkansas businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Arkansas exports \$75 million worth of goods to Africa every year.
- UNAIDS estimates that the HIV rate in China is rising by 20-30 percent every year. China is a valuable trading partner for Arkansas, purchasing nearly \$307 million worth of Arkansas exports in 2007 alone.

## Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Arkansas

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a world leader in biomedical research that improves health in the United States and around the world. Most of the research that is funded by NIH is conducted on university campuses across the country. NIH awards many grants to Arkansas universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Arkansas. In 2006, Arkansas received \$60 million in research grants from NIH. Some of these grants are for research that will improve global health. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Arkansas at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

## Arkansas's President Clinton: Global Health, Diplomacy, and Leadership



William Jefferson Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States and founder of the William J. Clinton Foundation, is a native of Arkansas. Since the end of his presidency, he has dedicated himself to philanthropy and continued public service through his foundation, which focuses on addressing challenging issues at home and abroad through practical and effective solutions.

More than 90 percent of the 33.2 million people living with HIV are in developing countries. Many of these countries lack access to needed medicines and treatment. Finding global solutions to these problems had always been a focus for President Clinton—he launched the Clinton HIV/AIDS Initiative to continue to address inequalities in health care in the developing world. The initiative applies business principles to negotiate reduced prices for life-saving medicines and works with country governments to help scale-up treatment and to increase access to programs for those who need them most.

In addition to his global health work abroad, President Clinton has played an active role in his home state. The establishment of the Clinton Presidential Center and Park in Little Rock has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world each year since 2004. The center is the grounds for the Presidential Library and Museum, the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, and the Little Rock offices of the Clinton Foundation. The center has been instrumental in the economic development of the area by bringing in more than \$1.5 billion.

## Conclusion

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are taking the lead in the research and development of drugs and vaccines aimed at improving global health and lessening the impact of deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria.

To find out how we can accelerate the search for better medical technologies, please visit [www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health](http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health).

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-628-3030  
[www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health/](http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health/)