



Why Does Global Health Matter to Georgia?

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 Georgia. It matters to Georgia’s economy and to Georgians’ health.

Georgia has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Georgia exported \$23.3 billion worth of merchandise to 213 foreign destinations. Some of Georgia’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Georgia ranks eleventh in the nation in the number of “in-sourced” jobs – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 170,300 Georgians work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Georgia’s economy as they expand their operations in the Peach State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 11,000 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Georgia’s Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Georgia, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 12,200 foreign students studied at Georgia universities. International students and their families contributed more than \$286 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Georgia

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

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Georgia'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 Georgia 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 some African countries, some of which are valuable trade partners for Georgia businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Georgia exported \$592 million worth of goods to Africa in 2007.
- UNAIDS estimates that the HIV rate in China is rising by 20-30 percent every year. China is a valuable trading partner for Georgia, purchasing nearly \$1.6 billion worth of Georgia exports in 2007 alone.

Health Research Funding Benefits Georgia

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 Georgia universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Georgia received approximately \$374 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some NIH grants fund research that will improve global health. For example, in 2007, the Center for AIDS Research at Emory University received \$8.5 million from NIH to expand its AIDS research program over the next five years. Grants like these bring jobs and higher wages to Georgia at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

Fighting Malaria in Georgia and around the World: The History of CDC

It is a little known fact that the agency we now know as CDC, the nation's number one defense against current and emerging disease threats, has humble beginnings as a malaria eradication program. During World War II, the southeastern U.S. was the epicenter of a malaria epidemic, and the Office of Malaria Control in War Areas was set up in 1942 to limit the impact of ma-



laria and other insect-transmitted diseases in the South. Today, CDC has become the leading health promotion, prevention, and protection agency, not only in the United States, but worldwide. Its global reach spans more than 40 countries, and foreign ministries of health often call upon CDC to lend its technical expertise to some of the world's most pressing health challenges. This includes malaria, which is still the number-one killer of children under age five globally. Today, CDC plays an important role in fighting diseases such as smallpox and Ebola, reducing rates of newborn infection with HIV, and controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB).

While CDC and public health experts in Georgia work to improve the lives of people worldwide, the agency is also boosting the welfare of Georgians at home. CDC has a substantial impact on Georgia's economy: More than four jobs are created in the state for each full-time CDC employee, and for each \$1 billion CDC spends on buildings and facilities, more than 22,000 new jobs are created.

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/global-health.

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



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