



# Why Does Global Health Matter to Oregon?

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 Oregon. It matters to Oregon’s economy and to Oregonians’ health.

## Oregon has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Oregon exported \$16.5 billion worth of goods to 200 foreign destinations. Some of Oregon’s trade partners include developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Oregon benefits from foreign investments and the creation of “in-sourced” jobs – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 47,400 Oregonians work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Oregon’s economy as they expand their operations in the Beaver State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 750 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Oregon’s Portland International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Oregon, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, over 5,700 foreign students studied at Oregon universities. International students and their families contributed more than \$145 million to the state’s economy.



## Global Ties Benefit Oregon

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

## These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Oregon'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 Oregon 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 important trade partners for Oregon businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Oregon exported \$258 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 Oregon, purchasing more than \$1.4 billion worth of Oregon exports in 2007 alone.

## Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Oregon

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 Oregon universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Oregon received approximately \$282 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. For example, NIH granted over \$174 million to Oregon Health and Science University. Some of these grants are used to spur medical innovation and improve domestic and global health. Grants like these bring jobs and higher wages to Oregon at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

## Global Health, Nike Shoes, and Oregon

Today, many American companies have a stake in global health. Nike, headquartered in Oregon, has offices in Thailand that oversee 50,000 workers and generate \$500 million worth of Nike exports every year. A study of



Thai employees, including those at Nike, showed that 17 percent of male employees had sex with a commercial sex worker in the last 12 months. Of those men, 31 percent did not always use a condom. 66 percent of married male employees had sex outside of their marriages, and 65 percent of them did not always use a condom. In light of this high-risk behavior, Nike became concerned that HIV/AIDS was becoming an increasing risk for its employees. Recognizing that the spread of HIV/AIDS would diminish profits, Nike put in place an HIV/AIDS policy for the Thailand office. This program includes training, peer educators, and voluntary counseling and testing. To date, the program has 10 peer educators and has provided training workshops on HIV/AIDS to nearly all employees. Nike's AIDS policy is keeping its employees healthy, as well as its bottom line.

## 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](http://www.familiesusa.org/global-health).

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



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