



Why Does Global Health Matter to Texas?

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 Texas. It matters to Texas’s economy and to Texans’ health.

Texas has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

Texas is the largest exporter among the 50 states, accounting for almost 15 percent of U.S. exports. In 2007, Texas exported \$168.2 billion worth of goods to 221 foreign destinations. Texas is also increasing its reach into new markets in the developing world; between 2002 and 2006, Texas more than doubled its exports to India, China, and Thailand.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Texas ranks third in the nation in the number of “in-sourced” jobs—employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 344,600 Texans work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Texas’s economy as they expand their operations in the Lone Star State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 7,100 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Texas’s Dallas-Fortworth International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Texas, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 49,000 foreign students studied at Texas universities. International students and their families contributed \$995 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Texas

Texas'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 Texas depends on international exports for his or her job.

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Texas'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 Texas 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 many African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Texas businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Texas exported \$6.7 billion 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 Texas, purchasing nearly \$8.3 billion worth of Texas exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Texas

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 Texas universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Texas received approximately \$1.1 billion in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of these grants fund research that will improve global health. For example, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center received a \$6.5 million grant to research and develop new anti-microbial drugs. Grants like these bring jobs and higher wages to Texas at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

Global Health, Marathon Oil, and Texas

Today, many American companies are investing in global health. Marathon Oil, a Texas oil company and a leader in the U.S. oil industry, has learned that it pays to improve health in Africa. In 2002, Marathon



Oil set up operations in Equatorial Guinea in West Africa. The company soon realized that the poor health of the population would affect the productivity of its employees and ultimately, its bottom line. Together with international health experts and the local government, Marathon Oil developed a \$12 million effort to combat malaria. Marathon also supports research and development toward new malaria treatments and a vaccine. The company recognizes that research and development are important to sustain its malaria eradication efforts.

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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