



# Why Does Global Health Matter to North Carolina?

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 North Carolina. It matters to the state’s economy and to the health of its residents.

## North Carolina has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, North Carolina was the 15th largest merchandise exporter among the 50 states, with exports that totaled \$23.4 billion headed to 208 foreign destinations. Some of North Carolina’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

North Carolina ranks 10th in the nation in the number of “insourced” jobs – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. In 2006, about 209,400 North Carolinians worked for foreign-owned companies, which invest in North Carolina’s economy as they expand their operations in the Tar Heel State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 2,781 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for North Carolina’s Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in North Carolina, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 10,064 foreign students studied at North Carolina universities. International students and their families contributed \$231 million to the state’s economy.



## Global Ties Benefit North Carolina

North Carolina'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 North Carolina depends on international exports for his or her job.

## These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

North Carolina'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 North Carolina 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 North Carolina businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. North Carolina exports \$261 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 North Carolina, purchasing nearly \$1.8 billion worth of North Carolina exports in 2007 alone.

## Research to Improve Global Health Benefits North Carolina

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 North Carolina universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to North Carolina. In 2007, North Carolina received approximately \$1.1 billion in research grants and contracts from NIH, which helped create and support 18,422 new jobs. Some of this research will go on to spur innovations in medicine that will improve domestic and global health. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to North Carolina at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

## Global Health Leadership: The University of North Carolina's Institute of Global Health

*"Health concerns do not respect borders and the University can only reach its true potential and best serve the people of North Carolina through the globalization of our programs. We gain valuable knowledge through this work that we can put to use here at home for treatment and disease prevention."*

- Dr. William L. Roper, Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs,  
Dean of the UNC School of Medicine

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) is one of many universities that receives NIH funding for global infectious disease research. UNC is strategically located at Research Triangle Park (RTP), a 7,000 acre home to some of the most innovative and cutting-edge biotech research companies in the world. RTP is a national and international leader in biotechnology research, and it provides jobs and other economic benefits for the state. And NIH funding and UNC's location have allowed it to become a leader in global health research, with faculty and researchers working in about 50 countries around the world.



In 2007, UNC launched the Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases, which was established to expand the university's international work. With annual federal funding of \$20 million, the Institute plays a leading role in the global effort to develop a cure for HIV. It also works to expand global health curricula and opportunities for students, and it collaborates with international partners to research and develop drugs to treat African sleeping sickness and to fight malaria transmission. Global health research at UNC addresses challenges to improve the health of people around the world. Chancellor James Moeser said it best: "[North] Carolina is a world power in global health. The new Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases builds on our faculty's historic strengths in medicine and public health so that [North] Carolina research will be even more effective in improving and saving lives here and around the globe."

## 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.



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