



Why Does Global Health Matter to Rhode Island?

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 Rhode Island. It matters to the state’s economy and to the health of its residents.

Rhode Island has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Rhode Island exported \$1.6 billion worth of goods to 154 foreign destinations. Rhode Island’s global exports increased by 40 percent over the last five years. Some of Rhode Island’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Rhode Island benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “insourced” jobs—employment by companies that are based outside the United States. In 2006, about 19,500 Rhode Islanders worked for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Rhode Island’s economy as they expand their operations in the Ocean State.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 3,629 foreign students studied at Rhode Island universities. International students and their families contributed \$115 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Rhode Island

Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island depends on international exports for his or her job.

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Rhode Island exports \$46 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 Rhode Island, purchasing nearly \$58 million worth of Rhode Island exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Rhode Island

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 Rhode Island universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Rhode Island. In 2007, Rhode Island received approximately \$146 million in research grants and contracts from NIH, which helped create and support 2,026 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 Rhode Island at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

Rhode Island and Global Health: Reaching out to the World through John E. Fogarty

Rhode Island has long been a leader in advancing the cause of global health, largely due to the fact that no other member of Congress has supported global health research like the state's late Congressman John E. Fogarty. Throughout his 27-year career in the House of Representatives, John E. Fogarty understood the value of investing in medical research, often arguing that there were economic benefits associated with increased funding for such research. He was also a fervent advocate for NIH. Responsible for health funding as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative Fogarty was instrumental in increasing the NIH budget from \$37 million in 1949 to well over \$1 billion in 1967. Most NIH funding, then and now, is awarded to researchers in academic institutions such as Rhode Island's Brown University, as well as to health professional schools and hospitals. Perhaps most importantly, Representative Fogarty emphasized the need to improve health worldwide. Compelled to address global health problems, he spoke to ministers of health at five different annual meetings convened by the World Health Organization.



Congress moved to honor Representative Fogarty as a champion of public health by authorizing funding for the John E. Fogarty International Center in 1967, after his untimely death. The Fogarty Center was created as an Institute of International Health Research to promote partnerships in the study of global health problems and continues to promote global health research. In September 2008, the Fogarty Center awarded \$4.6 million over three years to expand its network of global health education programs at 15 universities around the nation, including Brown University. The Brown International Health Institute will provide students with a set of courses in global health, faculty mentoring, and foreign site experience. (Over the past 10 years, Brown University has received nearly \$7 million in awards from the Fogarty Center.) John E. Fogarty paved the road to better health through medical research for Rhode Island, the United States, and the world.

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.

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/