



Why Does Global Health Matter to Tennessee?

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 Tennessee. It matters to Tennessee’s economy and to Tennesseans’ health.

Tennessee has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Tennessee exported \$22 billion worth of goods to 205 foreign destinations. Tennessee’s global exports have increased by 73 percent over the last five years, which is well above the national growth rate of 61 percent. Some of Tennessee’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Tennessee benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “in-sourced jobs” – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 125,900 Tennesseans work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Tennessee’s economy as they expand their operations in the Volunteer State.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 6,000 foreign students studied at Tennessee universities. International students and their families contributed \$132 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Tennessee

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

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Tennessee'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 Tennessee 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 Tennessee businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Tennessee exports \$253 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 Tennessee, purchasing nearly \$1.1 billion worth of Tennessee exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Tennessee

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 Tennessee universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Tennessee. In 2007, Tennessee received approximately \$447 million in research grants and contracts from NIH, including \$40 million to create the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR). NIH grants also support collaboration between Tennessee's Vanderbilt University and Meharry Medical College to help the nation become a leader in global health research. The Vanderbilt-Meharry Framework Program in Global Health is partnering with scientists in Brazil, Peru, Zambia, China, and Mexico to advance global health training. Such programs and grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Tennessee at the same time that they help the world make progress in global health.

Memphis International Airport: Bringing the World into Tennessee's Backyard

Tennessee is proud to have been the home of the world's busiest airport for cargo traffic since 1992. More major metro areas can be reached overnight from Memphis than any other city in the central United States. As a result of its strategic position, Memphis International Airport (MEM) handled 3,840,574 metric tons of cargo in 2007. Fedex, Memphis's largest employer, also considers MEM one of its "global superhubs." Global cargo operations have a positive and significant effect on the economy of Tennessee. In 2004, for example, cargo operations had a \$20 billion impact on the economy, also supporting 156,000 jobs and earnings of \$5.6 billion. As developing country economies grow and enter the global economy, they increase their volume of trade, which in turn increases the amount of cargo that goes through the airport, benefiting the state and its residents. A significant portion of cargo comes by planes from other countries that trade anything from electronics and computer components to medical supplies and perishables.



Yet it is not just MEM's global cargo routes that link Tennessee to the rest of the world. When other countries suffer the crippling effects of disease and poor health on their productivity and their economies, Tennessee will also see a slowdown in cargo operations as the level of trade volume falls. This also negatively affects jobs and wages in Tennessee. Improvements in global health will boost the well-being and livelihoods of millions of people worldwide, as well as the economic prospects for Tennessee.

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.



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