



Why Does Global Health Matter to Pennsylvania?

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 Pennsylvania. It matters to Pennsylvania’s economy and to Pennsylvanians’ health.

Pennsylvania has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Pennsylvania exported \$29.1 billion worth of goods to 211 foreign destinations. Some of Pennsylvania’s trade partners include developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the nation in the number of “in-sourced” jobs – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 233,200 Pennsylvanians work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Pennsylvania’s economy as they expand their operations in the Keystone State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 4,700 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Pennsylvania’s Philadelphia International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Pennsylvania, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 23,000 foreign students studied at Pennsylvania universities. International students and their families contributed \$660 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Pennsylvania

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

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Pennsylvania'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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Pennsylvania exported \$366 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 Pennsylvania, purchasing nearly \$1.3 billion worth of Pennsylvania exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Pennsylvania

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 Pennsylvania universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Pennsylvania received approximately \$1.4 billion in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of these grants fund research that will improve global health. For example, NIH granted over \$22 million to the Magee Women's Research Institute in Pittsburgh for research on microbicides, an important aspect of HIV/AIDS research. Grants like these bring jobs and higher wages to Pennsylvania at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

Global Health, Chocolate Kisses, and Pennsylvania

Today, many American companies have a stake in global health. Pennsylvania's Hershey Company, well-known for its chocolate kisses and candy bars, is experiencing first-hand the impact that the poor health of developing countries has on production, and ultimately, on profits. The cocoa used in Hershey products comes from countries like Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, which are struggling to cope with diseases like HIV and malaria. In 2001, Ghana's four cocoa-producing regions had the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the country. Recognizing that these diseases lead to declines in productivity and fewer qualified workers, companies like Hershey have started to invest in global health initiatives. Hershey is implementing a program to provide health services to cocoa farmers, including HIV/AIDS education, counseling, and testing, as well as malaria prevention.



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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