



Why Does Global Health Matter to New York?

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 New York. It matters to New York’s economy and to New Yorkers’ health.

New York has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, New York was the third largest merchandise exporter among the 50 states, with exports that totaled \$69.3 billion headed to 218 foreign destinations. Some of New York’s trade partners include developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

New York ranks second in the nation in the number of “in-sourced” jobs – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 378,000 New Yorkers work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in New York’s economy as they expand their operations in the Empire State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 27,000 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for New York’s Kennedy International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend billions of dollars a year in New York, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 65,900 foreign students studied at New York universities. International students and their families contributed almost \$1.9 billion to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit New York

New York'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 New York depends on international exports for his or her job.

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

New York'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 New York 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 New York businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. New York exported \$1.1 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 New York, purchasing more than \$2.5 billion worth of New York exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits New York

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 New York universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, New York received approximately \$2 billion in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of these grants fund research that will improve global health. For example, NIH granted \$20 million to the Columbia Collaborative HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Unit to research drugs and vaccines for HIV/AIDS. The unit also provides New Yorkers with access to the latest treatments. Grants like these bring jobs and higher wages to New York at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

New York City: An Infectious Disease Hotspot?

Historically a gateway into the U.S., New York City is a hub of cultural and financial exchange, attracting tourists and immigrants, and serving as a base for international arrivals and departures. These characteristics create a vibrant city and also the perfect environment for emerging infectious disease outbreaks.



New York has been an entry point for global diseases throughout its history. In 1932, a cholera epidemic hit New York City and killed 14 percent of the city's population. In more recent history, New York City reported some of the very first AIDS cases. And from

January to April 2008, an outbreak of measles, a disease that occurs very infrequently in the U.S., hit unvaccinated New Yorkers.

Tuberculosis (TB) has also been a significant problem in New York City. Beginning in 1988, New York's TB rates tripled in 15 years and included cases of multi-drug resistant TB. The city recognized the need to address this growing problem, but there was no immediate action plan due to the underfunding of research and control programs. By 1995, the TB epidemic had cost New York City more than \$1 billion.

Some of today's global health challenges are being played out in New York City and surrounding areas, making fighting global health threats a priority for New Yorkers. Investing in global health research is the right thing to do for developing countries and for New Yorkers' health.

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.



1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20005

202-628-3030

www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health/