



Why Does Global Health Matter to Delaware?

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

Delaware has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Delaware exported \$4 billion worth of goods to 144 foreign destinations, with computers and electronic products accounting for 42 percent of these exports. Its global exports have grown by 113 percent over the last five years, well above the national growth rate of 61 percent. Some of Delaware’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Delaware benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “in-sourced jobs” – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. In 2006, about 25,200 Delawareans worked for foreign-owned companies, which invested in Delaware’s economy as they expanded their operations in the First State.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 1,964 foreign students studied at Delaware universities. International students and their families contributed \$42 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Delaware

Delaware's global ties benefit the state's economy, providing billions of dollars in revenue and thousands of jobs. For example, one in five manufacturing workers in Delaware depends on international exports for his or her job.

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Delaware'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 Delaware 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 Delaware businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Delaware exports \$13 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 Delaware, purchasing \$220 million worth of Delaware exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Delaware

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 Delaware universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Delaware. In 2007, Delaware received \$29 million in research grants from NIH, which helped to create and support 257 new jobs. Some of these grants are for research that will improve global health. For example, four Delaware institutions received a five-year grant of \$16.7 million in 2004. This grant is funding research in the biomedical sciences, including infectious diseases such as Lyme disease and AIDS, as well as research in vaccine manufacturing and delivery. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Delaware at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

The Delaware Biotechnology Institute: A Model of Partnership for Life Science Research

Today, many states have a stake in global health and life science research. In the interest of furthering such research while boosting the state's economy, the Delaware Biotechnology Institute (DBI) was created to help form collaborative partnerships between local industries, the state government, and Delaware universities. As a hub of federal funding for basic research, DBI has helped Delaware-based institutions move research in the life sciences and global health forward while benefiting the state's economy. In fact, since 1999, more than 12,000 new primary and secondary jobs in the life sciences have been created through DBI.



In 2004, NIH awarded \$16.7 million to the Delaware IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). The Institutional Development Award (IDeA) program is funded by NIH and is designed to support networks of biomedical research institutes, to establish state-wide infrastructures that support research, and to improve investigators' competitiveness in states that have not historically received high levels of NIH research funding. In Delaware, the IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence program is managed by DBI. Some of the INBRE funds have gone to researchers who are working on infectious diseases that predominantly affect people in developing countries, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria. For instance, Dr. Diana Haddad, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at Delaware State University, has used a diverse set of gene sequencing technologies to study the parasite that causes malaria. This research, which is funded by NIH through the Delaware INBRE, will help inform the identification of a malaria vaccine or potential drug candidates that can be used to treat the illness.

Clearly, Delaware benefits from DBI and the life sciences and global health research it fosters. Life science research in Delaware is moving the state's economy forward while helping developing countries move toward healthier societies and more robust economies.

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 are available upon request from Families USA.

*These state fact sheets can be found online at
www.familiesusa.org/global-health/publications/global-health-and-your-state.html.*



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