Why Does Global Health Matter to Arizona?

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 Arizona. It matters to the state's economy and to the health of its residents.

Arizona has global ties . . .

- ### . . . through trade and commerce.

  In 2007, Arizona exported $19.2 billion worth of goods to 202 foreign destinations. Some of Arizona's trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- ### . . . through foreign investment.

  Arizona benefits from foreign investment and the creation of "insourced" jobs—employment by companies that are based outside the United States. In 2006, about 71,000 Arizonans worked for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Arizona's economy as they expand their operations in the Grand Canyon State.

- ### . . . through travel and tourism.

  Every day, some 2,300 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Arizona's Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Arizona, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state's economy.

- ### . . . through its colleges and universities.

  In the 2006-2007 academic year, 10,000 foreign students studied at Arizona universities. International students and their families contributed $209 million to the state's economy.

Global Ties Benefit Arizona

Arizona's global ties benefit the state's economy, providing billions of dollars in revenue and thousands of jobs. For example, one in 14 manufacturing workers in Arizona depends on international exports for his or her job.

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Arizona'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 Arizona 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 many African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Arizona businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Arizona exports $162 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 Arizona, purchasing $1.3 billion worth of Arizona exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Arizona

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 Arizona universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Arizona. In 2007, Arizona received approximately $175 million in research grants and contracts from NIH, which helped create and support 2,934 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 Arizona at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

Improving Health Worldwide: Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute

Today, many American universities have a stake in global health and bioscience research. The Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University is the leading research institute in Arizona. The Institute focuses on developing innovative research for producing cost-effective and easily commercialized vaccines, therapeutics, and technologies to improve health worldwide. The Center for Infectious Disease and Vaccinology (CIDV), a research center within the Institute, researches infectious diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries, such as malaria, schistosomiasis, tuberculosis (TB), HIV, and sleeping sickness.

Every day, 40,000 children in developing countries die from preventable infectious diseases. Recognizing the appalling nature of infectious diseases worldwide, researchers at CIDV are leading an innovative global effort to provide safe, affordable, and accessible vaccines to children through the proVacs (Production of Vaccines from Applied Crop Sciences) program. Focusing on oral vaccines for children, CIDV researchers are working toward developing vaccines against hepatitis B, cholera, enterotoxigenic E. coli, hookworm, and Norwalk virus. Investing in healthy children around the globe ensures a future of many possibilities—enhanced social development, economic growth, and individual well-being.

The Biodesign Institute not only works to better human health through research, it also contributes greatly to the state's economy. Within four years, Institute researchers disclosed 212 inventions, filed 46 patents, and produced $199 million in research funding—a triple return on investment. The Institute created 500 new jobs for Arizonans and 60 new faculty positions at the University. Moreover, the Institute provides hands-on experience for young researchers, including local high school students, as well as undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers. Arizona benefits in terms of both health and wealth from the research and development that is conducted at the Biodesign Institute, while simultaneously allowing developing countries to move toward developing 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 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/