



Why Does Global Health Matter to Alabama?

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

Alabama has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Alabama exported \$14.4 billion worth of goods to 187 foreign destinations. Alabama’s global exports have grown by 73 percent over the last five years, well above the national growth rate of 61 percent. Some of Alabama’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Alabama benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “insourced” jobs – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. In 2006, about 73,600 Alabamians worked for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Alabama’s economy as they expand their operations in the Heart of Dixie.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 6,933 foreign students studied at Alabama universities. International students and their families contributed \$118 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Alabama

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

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Alabama'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 Alabama 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:

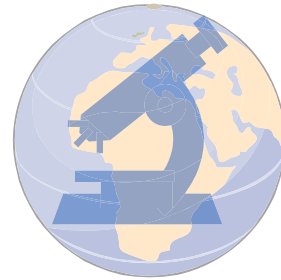
- Malaria costs Africa \$12 billion in lost economic output every year. It is estimated that without malaria, the economic output of several African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Alabama businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Alabama exports \$363 million 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 Alabama, purchasing \$808 million worth of Alabama exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Alabama

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 Alabama universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Alabama. In 2007, Alabama received approximately \$285 million in research grants and contracts from NIH, which helped create and support 4,798 new jobs. The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) received a five-year, \$26.9 million grant to establish the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences. This is one of the largest single grants from NIH in UAB's history. 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 Alabama at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

Alabama's Southern Research Institute: Global Health Discovery and Innovation

Today, many American companies, universities, and state economies have a stake in global health and biotech research. Alabama has invested heavily in life science research and the biotech industry. In 2006, the state had more than 90 companies in the life science industry with a total of 2,400 employees and \$622 million in sales. Through the Southern Research Institute, Alabama boasts 40 years of accomplishments in innovative research and discovery in the areas of cancer, infectious diseases, and neuroscience. Affiliated with the University of Alabama and based in Birmingham, the Southern Research Institute collaborates with industry, government, and academic institutions that focus on making discoveries to improve the health of individuals in Alabama and around the globe. There, investigators research infectious diseases that predominantly affect developing countries, such as the Dengue virus, hantavirus, retrovirus, tuberculosis (TB), and influenza (flu). Focusing on vaccine, drug, and therapeutic developments, the Southern Research Institute is joining the fight against infectious diseases worldwide. In this way, Alabama is helping improve global health as well as the health of Alabamians and the state's economy.



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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