



# Why Does Global Health Matter to Illinois?

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 Illinois. It matters to Illinois’s economy and to Illinoisans’ health.

## Illinois has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Illinois was the fifth largest merchandise exporter among the 50 states, exporting \$48.7 billion worth of goods to 216 foreign destinations. Some of Illinois’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Illinois ranks fifth in the nation in the number of “in-sourced” jobs—employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 226,400 Illinoisans work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Illinois’s economy as they expand their operations in the Prairie State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 16,000 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Chicago’s O’Hare and Midway International Airports. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Illinois, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 25,600 foreign students studied at Illinois universities. International students and their families contributed \$662 million to the state’s economy.



## Global Ties Benefit Illinois

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

## These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Illinois'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 Illinois 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 Illinois businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Illinois exports \$1.3 billion 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 Illinois, purchasing nearly \$2 billion worth of Illinois exports in 2007 alone.

## Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Illinois

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 Illinois universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Illinois received approximately \$762 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of these grants fund research that will improve global health. For example, the University of Chicago was among the first universities to receive grants from NIH for innovative approaches to HIV vaccine discovery. And the University of Illinois at Chicago hosts top infectious disease researchers who have been awarded large grants to study infectious diseases such as HIV, TB, SARS, and anthrax. Grants like these bring jobs and higher wages to Illinois at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

## Global Health, Caterpillar, and Illinois

Even amidst our nation's economic challenges, one company managed to add 3,000 manufacturing jobs to its local economy in 2007. Caterpillar Inc. is a Fortune 100 company that specializes in the manufacture of heavy mining and construction equipment. The global giant employs 17,500 people in and around Peoria, Illinois and produces equipment that services agriculture and helps build infrastructure in 200 countries worldwide. Caterpillar is a key player in the economy of Illinois and Peoria in particular. As one Peoria resident put it, "As Caterpillar goes, Peoria goes."



Caterpillar's bottom line has become increasingly dependent on the growth of developing economies outside the U.S., which now account for two-thirds of the company's sales. For example, Caterpillar's sales in Asia grew by 35 percent in the last quarter of 2007, compared to only 3 percent in North America.

Caterpillar has a vested interest in developing nations like India and China—in the health of their economies and the health of their people. Caterpillar gives grants to organizations that supply small business loans to Africa and Asia. Caterpillar is also an active member of a business coalition that supports efforts to increase U.S. international assistance. The coalition works to increase financial assistance to developing nations and expand treatment for HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria. According to the coalition of business executives, "The business community helps the [non-governmental organizations] argue that foreign assistance isn't a giveaway; that it's in our interest, as well."

## 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](http://www.familiesusa.org/global-health).

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



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