



Why Does Global Health Matter to Louisiana?

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 Louisiana. It matters to Louisiana’s economy and to Louisianans’ health.

Louisiana has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Louisiana was the 10th largest merchandise exporter among the 50 states, with exports that totaled \$30.4 billion headed to 189 foreign destinations. Some of Louisiana’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Louisiana benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “in-sourced jobs” — employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 52,300 Louisianans work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Louisiana’s economy as they expand their operations in the Bayou State.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 5,619 foreign students studied at Louisiana universities. International students and their families contributed \$106 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Louisiana

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

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Louisiana'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 Louisiana 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 Louisiana businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Louisiana exports \$2.5 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 Louisiana, purchasing nearly \$2.7 billion worth of Louisiana exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Louisiana

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 Louisiana universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Louisiana. In 2007, Louisiana received approximately \$141 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of these grants are for research that will improve global health. For example, Louisiana State University (LSU) received \$5.9 million for clinical and translational research in 2007. Some of that research is on new drugs for malaria and AIDS, diseases that disproportionately affect low-income countries. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Louisiana at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

Life Science Research to Improve Global Health Helps Louisiana's Economic Development

Today, many states have a stake in global health and biomedical research. In an effort to diversify the state's economy, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) has invested \$500 million in initiatives that target biotechnology and biomedical research. Organizations like the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northeast Louisiana (BRF) have played a significant role in supporting the development of the state's life science industry by bringing more jobs to Louisiana and building the state's capacity for greater global health research.



Since 1998, BRF has sponsored the Intertech Science Park in Shreveport, Louisiana – a collaboration of research institutes, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport, and three major private hospitals in the area. The creation of Intertech has already boosted the local economy – 500 construction jobs were generated, contributing \$17.5 million in wages to the local economy; and 137 Intertech and BRF jobs were generated, contributing a payroll of \$7 million. Some of the research that is performed at Intertech addresses global health challenges such as HIV/AIDS. Within the 90-acre LSU Health Sciences campus, more than \$25 million has been spent on research in different clinical centers, including the Human Retrovirus (AIDS) Clinic, the Hepatitis C Research and Treatment Center, and the Biodefense Care Center. Research at these clinical centers is designed to help prevent infectious disease outbreaks.

Students and academic researchers across Louisiana, from LSU to Tulane University, recognize the importance of improving global health. At Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, students and professors do research on topics that range from infectious diseases like malaria and HIV, to the reproductive health of various populations in places like New Orleans, Latin America, and Asia.

Life sciences research in Louisiana is moving the state's economy forward while helping developing countries move toward healthier communities and healthier 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.



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