



Why Does Global Health Matter to Michigan?

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 Michigan. It matters to Michigan’s economy and to Michiganians’ health.

Michigan has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Michigan was the seventh largest merchandise exporter among the 50 states, with exports that totaled more than \$44.4 billion headed to 205 foreign destinations. Some of Michigan’s trade partners include developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Michigan ranks ninth in the nation in the number of “in-sourced” jobs – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 202,300 Michiganians work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Michigan’s economy as they expand their operations in the Great Lakes State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 5,100 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Michigan’s Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Michigan, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 21,100 foreign students studied at Michigan universities. International students and their families contributed more than \$472 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Michigan

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

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Michigan'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 Michigan 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 some African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Michigan businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Michigan exported \$278 million worth of goods to Africa in 2007.
- UNAIDS estimates that the HIV rate in China is rising by 20-30 percent every year. China is a valuable trading partner for Michigan, purchasing more than \$1.3 billion worth of Michigan exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Michigan

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 Michigan universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Michigan received approximately \$578 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some NIH grants fund research that will improve global health. For example, since 2007, NIH has provided funding for the University of Michigan's Global Health Research and Training Initiative, which prepares the next generation of scientists to address critical global health needs through research. Grants like these bring jobs and higher wages to Michigan at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

Ford on HIV/AIDS in Africa: “It’s a business issue.”

Today, many American companies have a stake in global health. They understand that healthy employees and communities abroad mean economic and social gain at home. For example, Ford Motor Company, headquartered in Dearborn, Michigan, assembles and distributes automobiles in South Africa,



where approximately 4.7 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS. Ford responded to this health crisis by putting together the Ford Motor Company HIV/AIDS Workplace Program, which provides education, training, and testing services. Ford recognizes that HIV/AIDS is not only a humanitarian challenge, but also a business issue, and that early intervention means healthier employees and a

more productive workforce. According to Ford South Africa, the population that is most affected by HIV includes its customers, future customers, and employees. In a report submitted to the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, the company stated that “Ford invests in the health of its employees because they are its most valuable asset.”

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.

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



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