



# Why Does Global Health Matter to Virginia?

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 Virginia. It matters to Virginia’s economy and to Virginians’ health.

## Virginia has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Virginia exported \$16.9 billion worth of goods to 207 foreign destinations. Virginia’s global exports have increased by 56 percent over the last five years. Some of Virginia’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Virginia ranks 14th in the nation in the number of “in-sourced jobs” – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 138,800 Virginians work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Virginia’s economy as they expand their operations in the Old Dominion State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 7,091 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Virginia’s Washington Dulles International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Virginia, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 11,991 foreign students studied at Virginia universities. International students and their families contributed \$277 million to the state’s economy.



## Global Ties Benefit Virginia

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

## These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Virginia'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 Virginia 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:

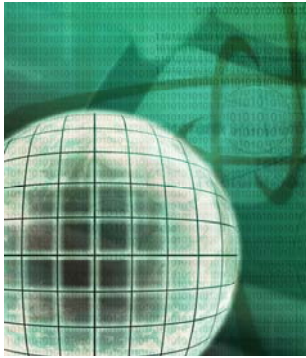
- Malaria costs Africa \$12 billion in lost economic output every year. It is estimated that without malaria, the economic output of several African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Virginia businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Virginia exports \$718 million 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 Virginia, purchasing nearly \$1.1 billion worth of Virginia exports in 2007 alone.

## Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Virginia

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 Virginia universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Virginia. In 2007, Virginia received approximately \$441 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of these grants are dedicated to research that will improve global health. For example, in 2006, the University of Virginia received \$405,000 from the NIH Fogarty International Center to develop multidisciplinary global health curricula that can be used to train the next generation of American global health experts. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Virginia at the same time that they help the world make progress in global health.

## Dulles, Virginia to India: A New Technology Corridor

Few people outside of Virginia think of it as having a booming “dotcom” industry, and certainly even fewer people would guess that the region’s telecommunications and internet industry is akin to Northern California’s Silicon Valley. Yet, more than half of all internet traffic passes through Virginia’s “Dulles Technology Corridor” in the form of cables and wires



buried under the Washington Dulles Airport Toll Road. The Dulles Technology Corridor is a region comprised of more than 30,000 business establishments, many of which are internationally affiliated. These companies support 570,000 jobs – creating more jobs than the federal government.

Similar to Virginia, India’s booming economy is embracing the telecommunications and internet industries and taking its seat in the global economy. India’s electronics and IT industries are valued jointly at approximately \$120 billion and are growing at an unparalleled rate. Furthermore, 26 Indian firms have established themselves in Virginia so far, signaling the potential synergy of the two technology economies.

India’s economy offers some promising trade and business opportunities for Virginia’s businesses. Virginia exported \$113 million worth of goods to India in 2007, a 20 percent increase from the previous year. India’s impressive growth and its appetite for Virginia’s exports, such as electrical machinery, link the two economies. Therefore, Virginia has an interest in the health and prosperity of India.

India’s economic and development prospects, however, rely on the size and productivity of its population, which is soon expected to have one of the world’s largest middle class of workers and consumers. But as long as infectious diseases continue to plague India and its prospects for growth, Virginia loses as well. Investments to develop better drugs, vaccines, and disease surveillance systems are good for global health, and they will ultimately be good for Virginia’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](http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health).

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



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