Why Does Global Health Matter to Indiana?

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 Indiana. It matters to Indiana's economy and to Hoosiers' health.

Indiana has global ties . . .

- ### . . . through trade and commerce.

  In 2007, Indiana was the 12th largest merchandise exporter among the 50 states, with exports that totaled $26 billion headed to 196 foreign destinations. Indiana's global exports have increased by $9.5 billion over the last five years. Some of Indiana's trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- ### . . . through foreign investment.

  Indiana ranks 13th in the nation in the number of "in-sourced" jobs—employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 139,900 Hoosiers work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Indiana's economy as they expand their operations in the Hoosier State.

- ### . . . through its colleges and universities.

  In the 2006-2007 academic year, 14,450 foreign students studied at Indiana universities. International students and their families contributed $350 million to the state's economy.

Global Ties Benefit Indiana

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

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Indiana'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 Indiana 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 Indiana businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Indiana exports $178 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 Indiana, purchasing nearly $758 million worth of Indiana exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Indiana

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 Indiana universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to Indiana. In 2007, Indiana received approximately $218 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of these grants are for research that will improve global health. For example, Indiana University (IU) received a five-year, $25 million award to help translate basic research into new medical treatments and products more quickly. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Indiana at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

Indiana University's "Idea Flow": From Research Funding to More Jobs for Hoosiers to Better Global Health

Today, many state economies have a stake in global health and life science research. Indiana has already invested in life science research in an effort to diversify the state economy and benefit all Hoosiers. In 2007, the Indiana General Assembly granted $15 million to Indiana University (IU) for the recruitment of top researchers. With support from the state and a partnership with Lilly Endowment worth $244 million, IU is striving toward becoming a national leader in the life sciences. IU is investing in research that is focused on infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, which overwhelmingly affect developing countries.

Dr. Craig Brater, Vice President for Life Sciences and Dean of IU School of Medicine, recognizes that progress in life science research and the subsequent economic benefits for Hoosiers are not possible without funding from NIH. Dr. Brater says, "Every biotech economic hotspot is connected to one or more of the nation's leading life sciences research institutions in terms of NIH grants. What's the connection between NIH research grants and biotech jobs? We call it 'idea flow.' Research produces discoveries that get turned into ideas that lead to new products, companies, and jobs."

Life science research for new medical discoveries provides better tools to improve health not only in Indiana, but also in developing countries with high rates of infectious diseases. Through Indiana's global partnerships, the tools developed through life science research can be used to help those suffering from illnesses in other countries. Since 1989, IU School of Medicine and Moi University School of Medicine in Kenya have been working together to train future health care providers. This Indiana-Kenya partnership has led to the treatment of thousands of HIV-positive patients in rural Kenya through the Academic Model for Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS (AMPATH), which has been nominated twice for a Nobel Peace Prize. In the summer of 2008, Dr. Brater and IU medical students took another trip to Kenya to work with AMPATH. By June 2008, IU teams and their Kenya colleagues had provided care to 72,430 patients, with 26,236 patients receiving antiretroviral (ARV) therapy. Clearly, Indiana is a significant player in the global economy and in global health.

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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