



# Why Does Global Health Matter to Massachusetts?

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 Massachusetts. It matters to Massachusetts’s economy and to Bay Staters’ health.

## Massachusetts has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Massachusetts was the 13th largest merchandise exporter among the 50 states, with exports totaling \$25.3 billion headed to 206 foreign destinations. Some of Massachusetts’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Massachusetts ranks 12th in the nation in the number of “in-sourced jobs” – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 192,200 Bay Staters work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Massachusetts’s economy as they expand their operations in the Bay State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 5,259 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Boston’s Logan International Airport. Among the arrivals are tourists and business people from around the world who spend millions of dollars a year in Massachusetts, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 28,680 foreign students studied at Massachusetts universities. International students and their families contributed \$938 million to the state’s economy.



## Global Ties Benefit Massachusetts

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

## These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Massachusetts'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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Massachusetts exports \$274 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 Massachusetts, purchasing nearly \$1.4 billion worth of Massachusetts exports in 2007 alone.

## Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Massachusetts

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 Massachusetts universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. For example, in 2007, Massachusetts received approximately \$2.3 billion in research grants and contracts from NIH. And in 2008, Harvard Medical School received a five-year, \$23.5 million award to expedite the process of taking research from the lab and applying it to real-world medical care through better treatments, diagnostics, and vaccines. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Massachusetts at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

## Patients at Home and Abroad: Boston Hospitals and Global Health

Today, many states have a stake in global health and biomedical research. Hospitals around the Boston metro area are nationally recognized for their excellence in providing health care. Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) (all affiliate teaching hospitals of Harvard Medical School), are consistently ranked among America's best hospitals by *U.S. News and World Report*.



These hospitals not only serve the Boston metro area, but they have also collaborated to expand their services through partnerships with developing countries. Physicians use their medical training to support programs established through the Center for Global Health, which is based at MGH. Global health initiatives at the center involve partnering with BWH, BIDMC, and in-country stakeholders to find innovative and practical solutions to improve health. For instance, the center's Maternal and Infant Health Initiative of Zambia takes a unique interdisciplinary approach to strengthening the maternal and infant health care system in Zambia, which includes community education, epidemiological research, clinical training, and an improved transport system.

Bay Staters also benefit from Boston hospitals' investment in global health. In response to the continuing global AIDS epidemic, MGH and BWH established the Partners AIDS Research Center (PARC) in 1995. Funded by numerous sources, including large grants from NIH, PARC is among the world's pioneering AIDS research centers. Its groundbreaking discoveries have distinguished Boston as a hub for global health research. In addition, PARC has enhanced the care of HIV-infected people for more than a decade.

Bay Staters also benefit from the economic impact of Boston teaching hospitals, including BWH, BIDMC, and MGH. A report released in 2007 showed that the 14 teaching hospitals and three medical schools in the greater Boston area generated \$24 billion in economic activity and created and supported more than 200,000 jobs.

## 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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