

Stop Indiscriminate Cuts to Public Health Programs

Federal funding cuts resulting from the Budget Control Act of 2011 and sequester have affected public health programs across federal agencies. Programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have not been spared, with \$160 million cut from grants to state and local health departments in FY2013. To protect the public's health, **Congress must provide necessary funding for FY2014 and end sequestration's harmful cuts.**

Sequestration by design cuts programs deeply and indiscriminately. Both parties agree it was never meant to happen. Yet, it's about to happen for a second year in the row unless Congress acts. In FY2014, the sequester will be \$24 billion larger than in FY2013. This comes on top of deep cuts each year since FY2010.

If these cuts continue as planned, core public health activities funded by the federal government will continue to erode, threatening our nation's health. Lab capacity to track outbreaks will be diminished; public health professionals will be furloughed and laid off; emergency preparedness training will be scaled back or eliminated; and disease prevention through immunization services will be curtailed. In FY2013, the impact of cuts was cushioned by administrative flexibility. In FY2014, this is not likely to be the case – there are no more rainy day funds.

Sequestration is not the way to ensure our nation's solvency and global competitiveness. It causes unnecessary obstacles to people staying healthy. In the weeks ahead, NACCHO urges passage of a responsible FY2014 budget that replaces sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction.

For more information, contact:

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In FY2013 sequester cuts

endangered the public's health:

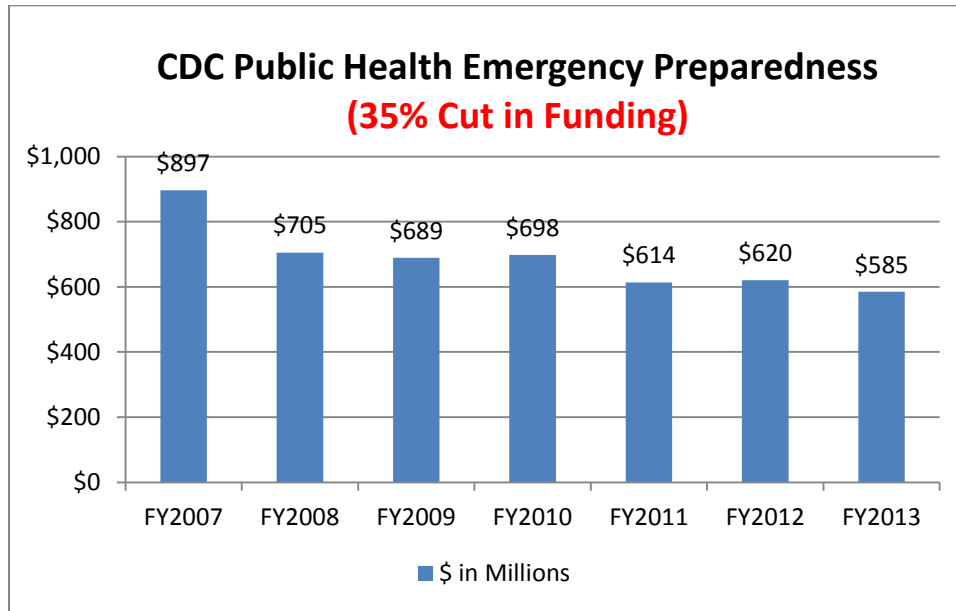
- Emergency preparedness ↓\$33 million
- Section 317 Immunization ↓\$92 million
- HIV Prevention ↓\$30 million

In future years, cuts will have a greater impact unless Congress and the White House find another approach to deficit reduction.

Impact on Public Health Funding

CDC has lost 15% in budget authority since FY2010 and now has the same level of budget authority as that of a decade ago - FY2003. The Section 317 Immunization Program and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program provide significant funding to local health departments and have been deeply cut.

Emergency preparedness funding is at its lowest point since its inception, at a time when threats to the public's health and safety continue to increase. In FY2013, PHEP grants were cut by \$35 million and cut 35% since FY2007.



The Section 317 Immunization Program supports the national infrastructure to ensure effective, safe and timely vaccines. Immunization funding was cut by \$91 million or 35 percent in FY2013. Funding for vaccine purchase has declined below FY2000 levels.

