More than half (55%) of all LHDs reduced or eliminated at least one program between July 2010 and June 2011.

THE NATIONWIDE WORKFORCE CONTINUES TO SHRINK

During the first half of 2011, more than four out of every 10 (44%) LHDs lost at least one employee (Figure 2) as they collectively shed 5,400 jobs (Figure 3). When reduced hours and mandatory furlough are also considered, the percentage of LHDs experiencing some type of negative job impact increases to 53 percent, nearly equal to the percentage of LHDs reporting negative job impact during 2010. Since 2008, LHDs lost a total of 34,400 jobs to layoffs and attrition.

Workforce additions were small by comparison (Figure 3). Between January and June 2011, 19 percent of LHDs reported staff additions (not shown). In total, LHDs added 1,800 staff positions, 1,400 new positions and 400 previously frozen positions.
Local health departments continue to slash budgets and expect more to come

The fiscal situation of LHDs continues to deteriorate (Figure 4). In July 2011, 45 percent of LHDs throughout the nation reported reduced operating budgets compared to the previous fiscal year. About the same proportion (44%) reported lower budgets when asked in November 2010, and more than half (52%) expect cuts in the next fiscal year.

Figure 4: LHDs with Budget Cuts (2008–2011)
Percentage of LHDs Reporting Lower Budgets than in the Prior Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Date</th>
<th>Percentage of LHDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2008</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2009</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2010</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

52% expect a lower budget next fiscal year.

METHODOLOGY
In July and August 2011, NACCHO surveyed 968 LHDs, selected as part of a statistically random sample designed to provide both national and state-level estimates. A total of 680 LHDs distributed across 48 states participated for a response rate of 70 percent. Data in this study were self-reported; NACCHO did not independently verify the data provided by LHDs. Additional findings will be posted on NACCHO’s website at www.naccho.org/lhdbudget.

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