



PREVENTION PROGRAMS SAVE LIVES AND DOLLARS

The Health Prevention and Promotion line item (4513-111) within the Department of Public Health funds programs to prevent and control conditions that are the most important drivers of health care costs and the most common preventable – and growing – illnesses that worsen quality of life and reduce longevity – including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer, and Hepatitis C.

The public health models used by these programs are uniquely focused on:

- **Prevention at the community level** through education and improving school, workplace, and neighborhood environments.
- **Public health supports to clinical care**, including care coordination, patient navigation, disease self-management education, and screenings that are non-reimbursable or benefit the remaining uninsured, as well as physician training for quality, patient-centered, culturally-relevant preventive care, which is not otherwise financed.
- Working toward **health equity** among populations rather than treatment of the individual.

Line item 4513-1111 was cut in half during FY10



WE CALL ON GOVERNOR PATRICK AND THE LEGISLATURE TO:

Stop the bleeding. This line item has been devastated and can not withstand further cuts.

Maintain state investment. One-time federal dollars for prevention will be available to states soon, and should be aggressively pursued. These funds cannot and should not replace state dollars.

Don't confuse health care and public health. Increased access to health insurance does not eliminate the need for prevention programs. Health care is well equipped to treat disease, but not to prevent the causes of disease or provide the comprehensive support some patients need.

Chronic Diseases are Bankrupting the Health Care System

- Nationally, 130 million people – nearly 1/2 of all Americans – have at least one chronic condition.
- In MA in 2007, obesity-related diseases resulted in nearly \$2 billion in medical costs.
- In 2003, MA residents experienced over 4 million cases of seven common chronic diseases — cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, mental disorders, and pulmonary conditions were reported.
- People with chronic conditions are estimated to account for more than 80% of health care costs. Massachusetts spends approximately \$40 billion annually on health care.
- The annual medical cost of diabetes alone in Massachusetts is estimated at over \$3 billion.

These Programs Have Already Been Cut Dramatically More Cuts Will Further Increase Healthcare Costs and Reduce Quality Of Life, Especially for Vulnerable Populations

Program	Cuts Already Made in the Past Year
Mass in Motion Initiative and other nutrition and physical activity programs that support community and workplace interventions to reduce obesity and make environments healthier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State support for Mass in Motion reduced by more than 75% in year one.
Health Equity Community Grants to address conditions that lead to unequal health outcomes and build community capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State support cut by 40%.
Diabetes Prevention and Control activities to reduce disability and death by promoting awareness, early diagnosis, and best care practices with the public and providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funds have been significantly reduced for screening and outreach services that can improve health and prevent costly complications and death.
Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention activities to educate the public to reduce harm from stroke and to reduce risk factors such as obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, poor nutrition, physical inactivity and tobacco use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successful “FAST” public awareness campaign on recognizing a stroke has been severely curtailed. ○ Workplace prevention activities have been eliminated at some sites.
Cancer Prevention and Control programs to reduce cancer risk, incidence and mortality through promoting healthy lifestyles, early diagnosis, and access to comprehensive care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State support for ovarian cancer prevention has been cut by 75%. ○ Provider education and quality care initiatives at health centers across the state have been reduced.
Women’s Health Network and Men’s Health Partnership programs to provide health education, care coordination, and screening for breast, cervical, and prostate cancer for low income patients, when not covered otherwise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Women’s Health funding to health centers cut by 40%. ○ Men’s Health funding to 8 health centers eliminated. ○ 1,000 fewer men will be screened for prostate cancer. ○ Counseling, care coordination and screening services have been significantly reduced or eliminated at community health centers.

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