



Your Voice for Public Health

434 Jamaicaaway • Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • TEL: (617) 524-6696 • FAX: (617) 524-5225 •
www.mphaweb.org

Ruth Ellen Fitch, *President*

Valerie Bassett, *Executive Director*

Massachusetts Public Health Association June 30, 2009

Please override the Governor's reduction in the Department of Public Health (DPH) Health Promotion and Disease Prevention line item (4513-1111). This line item funds programs to prevent obesity and related chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease, and cancer, as well as other diseases such as stroke, Hepatitis C, renal disease, and multiple sclerosis.

Funding history

- The Conference Report funding level represented a 36% cut from FY09 (post 9C) funding levels.
- The Governor reduced the line item by \$1.16 million, or another 14%.
- **The result is a \$6 million, or 45% cut from FY09 (post 9C).**

Why is it a critical priority to prevent chronic disease?

Nationally

- In 2005, 133 million people, almost half of all Americans, had at least one chronic condition.
- Chronic diseases account for one-third of the years of potential life lost before age 65.
- Chronic diseases account for 70% of all deaths in the United States.

Costs, Nationally

- The medical care costs of people with chronic diseases account for more than 75% of the nation's \$2 trillion medical care costs.
- The direct and indirect costs of diabetes are \$174 billion a year.
- Each year, arthritis results in estimated medical care costs of nearly \$81 billion, and estimated total costs (medical care and lost productivity) of \$128 billion.
- In 2008, the cost of heart disease and stroke in the U.S. is projected to be \$448 billion.
- Cancer costs the nation an estimated \$89 billion annually in direct medical costs.

Massachusetts

- In 2007, over \$1.8 billion of medical costs in Massachusetts were from obesity-related diseases
- In 2003, nearly 4.2 million cases of seven common chronic diseases — cancers, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, mental disorders, and pulmonary conditions were reported.
- In 2003, lost productivity was \$25.9 million.

For more information, please contact Maddie Ribble at MPHA: 617-524-6696 x111 or mribble@mphaweb.org.