

# HEALTH SECURITY IS NATIONAL SECURITY

**“You’re much more likely to be killed in a pandemic than you are in a terrorist attack.”**

*– Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) on the value of public health and health security.*

Every day, in important ways most Americans don’t realize, the federal government supports public health and health research programs that enhance their lives. The agencies and programs of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) prevent and cure disease and disability; promote well-being; educate the next generation of health professionals and scientists; assure food, drug and environmental safety; provide our nation’s most vulnerable populations access to care; and protect and respond in times of crisis.

These HHS agencies and programs work together to support the full spectrum of activities necessary to truly improve health—by moving health improvement strategies from the bench to bedside to curbside. The principal health agencies include:

- The **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** provides evidence to improve health care costs, quality, and access through funding to local universities and research centers.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** is the nation’s first responder in health emergencies, and supports people in living healthier, longer.
- The **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** ensures that food, drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics that come to market are safe and effective.
- The **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** supports the pipeline for new health providers and delivers health services in our nation’s communities.
- The **Indian Health Service (IHS)** funds health services and local facilities that serve American Indian and Alaska Native populations.
- The **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** discovers cures and treatments for illness—physical and behavioral—through funding to local universities and research centers.
- The **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** supports communities in providing treatment and prevention to those in need.

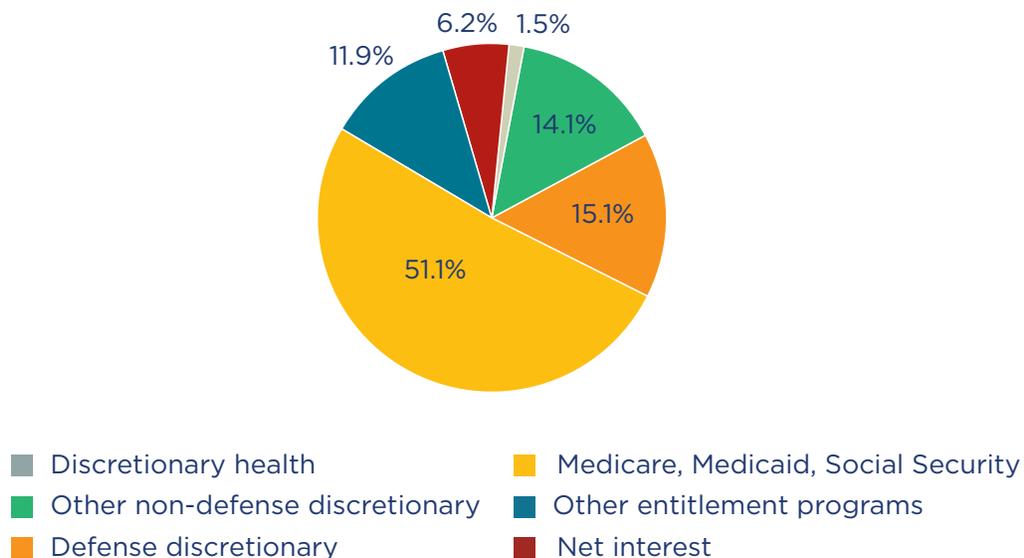
*Public health is one of the oldest government functions, dating back to 1798 when Congress first authorized the Marine Hospital Service to deliver care to merchant seamen who had a higher incidence of disease. From this single federal investment stemmed the beginnings of the Public Health Service, first codified by the Public Health Service Act in 1944. Today’s HHS is comprised of the Office of the Secretary, 11 operating divisions—including the eight agencies authorized by the Public Health Service Act and three human services agencies—10 regional offices, and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, which is a uniformed service of more than 6,000 health professionals serving in many HHS and other federal agencies.*

## Federal Health Funding: It's Less Than You Think (and Shrinking)

Federal funding for public health and health research represents a small and shrinking share of the budget. In fiscal year 2016, discretionary health funding was only \$57 billion, or 1.5 percent of all federal spending. Of this, about half supports medical research at NIH, and the remainder supports all other public health activities—disease prevention and response, health safety and security, workforce development, and access to primary and preventive care.

Funding for most public health and health research programs is well below 2010 levels. President Trump's proposed budget for FY 2018 would further shrink available funding for public health, health research, and all other domestic programs by \$54 billion, or at least 13 percent. Sequestration returns in FY 2018, shrinking the funding available for these programs by another \$3 billion, and proposals to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund as part of American Health Care Act would cut public health funding by another \$1 billion.

FY 2016 FEDERAL SPENDING



Source: Congressional Budget Office

## Protect Americans: Invest in Health

The first and foremost responsibility of the federal government is to protect and defend the American people against threats, both foreign and domestic. Shortchanging public health and health research programs leaves Americans vulnerable to health threats already on or approaching our shores. As demonstrated time and time again, public health hazards such as Zika virus, opioid abuse, antibiotic resistance, diabetes, obesity, cancer, foodborne illness, lead poisoning, and others demonstrate the need for continued investment by the federal government in America's health.