Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By the Numbers:

:: Funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) makes up less than 0.2% of the federal budget.*

:: Two-thirds of CDC’s budget supports state and local health departments.*

:: The CDC employs more than 14,000 people, with staff based in all 50 states and deployed to more than 50 countries.*

:: CDC has dispatched scientists and doctors to address more than 750 health threats worldwide in the last two years.*

:: The CDC has trained more than 2,300 disease trackers since 1980.*

:: In 2016, the Global Health Division spent more than 64,000 hours responding to global emergencies such as Ebola and Zika.*

CDC in Action

Zika Virus

The Zika virus, and the associated microcephaly observed in infants born to mothers with the virus, presents a major global public health threat. Microcephaly causes serious brain damage and can lead to over $10 million in direct medical costs per person affected. The CDC has invested in national, state and local efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. From strengthening surveillance to increasing laboratory capacity for vaccine development, the CDC is working to avoid the profound multi-generation effects associated with Zika virus. *#

Vaccines for Children

The Vaccines for Children Program provides free vaccinations for 16 diseases. It is estimated that the program, which serves children who otherwise would not have access to these vaccines, has prevented 322 million illnesses, 732,000 deaths, and saved a total of $1.4 trillion in societal costs. *

National Asthma Control Program

Asthma is a lifelong disease that affects 26 million Americans and carries a medical cost of over $50 billion nationwide. The National Asthma Control Program (NACP) established a national public health response to control asthma, working to improve surveillance systems and asthma management in schools, among other goals. Since its inception in 1999, the NACP has decreased asthma-related costs by $23.1 billion, leading to a return on investment of an estimated $71 for every dollar spent.*
The CDC is fighting contagious diseases 24/7. Here are some examples of outbreaks to which the CDC has responded in the past 16 years:

- Anthrax bioterrorism response in the U.S.
- Hurricane Katrina support
- Salmonella and E. coli foodborne outbreaks in the U.S.
- Cholera outbreak in Haiti
- Fungal Meningitis outbreak in U.S.
- Ebola outbreak in West Africa
- Global SARS outbreak
- Multi-state mumps outbreak
- Global Swine Flu outbreak
- Multi-state outbreak of listeriosis
- Supported MERS-CoV response in Saudi
- International Zika virus outbreak

In an increasingly interconnected world where diseases know no borders, the CDC plays a vital role as the nation’s first line of defense.