



FACT SHEET
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Funding

REQUEST: Recognize the value of public health and prevention programs by supporting robust funding increases for CDC programs in FY 2020 and beyond.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serves as the command center for the nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From aiding in the surveillance, detection and prevention of the Zika virus to playing a lead role in the control of Ebola in West Africa and detecting and responding to cases in the U.S., to combating antibiotic resistant bacteria, CDC is the nation's – and the world's – expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center. States, communities and the international community rely on CDC for accurate information and direction in a crisis or outbreak. It is notable that more than 70 percent of CDC's budget supports public health and prevention activities by state and local health organizations and agencies, national public health partners and academic institutions.

In addition to ensuring a strong public health infrastructure and protecting Americans from public health threats and emergencies, CDC programs are crucial to reducing health care costs and improving health. Over 5 million Americans live with painful, disabling, and potentially deadly blood disorders. Blood disorders are a serious threat which can strike anyone at any time and cost more than \$15 billion in healthcare each year. CDC also plays an important role in preventing and controlling clotting, bleeding, and other hematologic disorders, such as venous thromboembolism, hemophilia, sickle cell disease (SCD), thalassemia, and von Willebrand disease. The work of the Division of Blood Disorders (DBD) within the CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities is instrumental to saving lives, improving health, and protecting people living with blood disorders:

- CDC supports 135 hemophilia treatment centers (HTCs) located throughout the U.S. to facilitate surveillance and epidemiologic research. 7 out of 10 of all Americans with hemophilia receive care at HTCs. Patients at HTCs are significantly less likely to have bleeding complications.
- Venous thromboembolism (VTE) results in the death of up to 100,000 Americans each year, most of them preventable. 5 out of 10 people with a deep vein thrombosis (DVT) will have life-long complications. CDC collaborates with partners to promote patient toolkits that empower individuals and families to know the risks of VTE and make sure their doctors consider blood clot prevention as part of their treatment regimen.
- With funding from the CDC Foundation, CDC has established a population-based surveillance system to collect and analyze longitudinal data about people living in the U.S. with SCD. Due to limited funding, implementation of the program has occurred only in two states – California and Georgia (approximately 10% of the US SCD population). These efforts have already helped produce and publish valuable information on mortality rates, emergency department utilization, and pregnancy complications for individuals with SCD.

Despite the progress CDC has made to meet these public health threats and needs, the agency's programs have been woefully underfunded to confront the myriad public health issues facing the nation. Given the challenges and burdens of chronic disease and disability, public health emergencies, new and reemerging infectious diseases and other unmet public health needs, the American Society of Hematology (ASH) urge a robust and sustained increase in funding for CDC's programs in FY 2020 and beyond.

ASH urges Congress to recognize the value of health promotion and disease prevention by supporting robust and sustained funding increases for CDC programs in FY 2020 and beyond.