

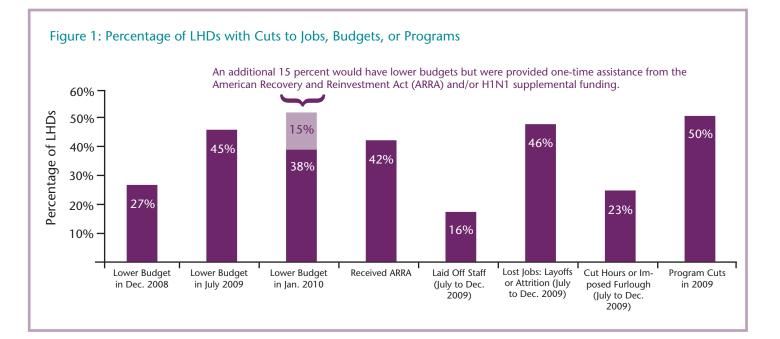
# Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts: Overview of Survey Findings from January/February 2010 Survey

### INTRODUCTION

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) surveyed a sample of local health departments (LHDs) nationwide in the months of January and February 2010. This was the third in a series of nationally representative surveys designed to measure the impact of the economic recession on LHDs' jobs, budgets, and programs.

### DEEP JOB LOSSES ON THE FRONT LINE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In the last six months of 2009, nearly half of LHDs (46%) lost the skilled people needed to protect the health of their communities (Figure 1) as 8,000 LHD jobs were lost. When combined with previous NACCHO findings, this results in a cumulative 23,000 jobs lost from 2008–2009 (Figure 2), approximately 15 percent of the LHD workforce in the country. In the last six months of 2009, an additional 13,000 LHD employees were affected by cuts in working hours or mandatory furloughs resulting from budget cuts. In 14 states, more than 75 percent of LHDs lost jobs due to layoffs or attrition (Figure 4).

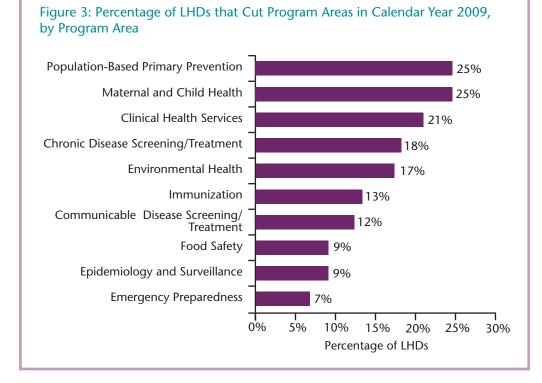


# Figure 2: Estimated Number of LHD Jobs Lost in 2008–2009

	2008	2009	Total
Jobs Lost to Layoffs or Attrition	7,000	16,000	23,000

## BUDGET CUTS AND JOB LOSSES THREATEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES

More than a third of LHDs report a lower budget this year when compared to the previous year. When one-time funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and/or H1N1 supplemental funding is excluded, an additional 15 percent of LHDs report a lower budget, for a cumulative 53 percent of LHDs experiencing cuts to core funding (Figure 1). Continued cuts to LHD budgets are undermining LHDs' ability to protect the public from preventable diseases, environmental hazards, and other threats to public health. Half of all LHDs made cuts in at least one program area in 2009 (Figure 1). For example, last year a quarter of LHDs across the country made cuts in population-based primary prevention programs such as cost-effective community-based activities that improve childhood nutrition, increase physical activity, prevent tobacco use, or encourage other healthy choices that reduce the burden of chronic disease. Similarly, a quarter of LHDs reduced or eliminated services to pregnant women, new mothers, and children (Figure 3).



### METHODOLOGY

In the months of January and February 2010, NACCHO surveyed 997 LHDs. These LHDs were selected as part of a statistically random sample designed to provide both national and state-level estimates. A total of 721 LHDs distributed across 48 states participated for a response rate of 72 percent. All reported statistics were developed using appropriate weights for both sampling and nonresponse. All data in this study were self-reported; NACCHO did not independently verify the data provided by LHDs. Additional findings will be posted on NACCHO's Web site at www.naccho.org/advocacy/ Ihdbudget.cfm as they become available.



### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

www.naccho.org

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The National Connection for Local Public Health



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

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