

PUBLIC HEALTH & RESEARCH PRIORITIES

RECOMMENDATION

Congress should invest in primary care research and key public health programs in fiscal year (FY) 2018 by providing funding to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion funding line and its work on immunization and respiratory diseases, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support prescription drug monitoring programs, and the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Primary Care Training and Enhancement grants authorized by Title VII of the *Public Health Service Act*.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The AHRQ is the sole federal agency charged with producing evidence to support clinical decision making, reduce health care costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and improve health care quality and access. AHRQ provides critical evidence reviews needed to answer questions on the common acute, chronic, and comorbid conditions that family physicians see daily in their practices. Since 1998, AHRQ has convened the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an independent, volunteer panel of national experts from the fields of primary care and preventive medicine which makes evidence-based recommendations about clinical services after a rigorous examination of peer-reviewed data. The AAFP urges the Congress to provide no less than \$364 million in budget authority in FY 2018 for AHRQ to continue this important research.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Family physicians are dedicated to treating the whole person and integrate the care of patients of all genders and every age. In addition to diagnosing and treating illness, they provide preventive care, including routine checkups, health risk assessments, immunization and screening tests, and personalized counseling to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The CDC's Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion funding helps with efforts to prevent and control chronic diseases and associated risk factors and reduce health disparities. We ask that the Congress provide \$1.1 billion for the CDC Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion account. The CDC also plays a pivotal role in increasing the rates of adult immunization for recommended vaccines to achieve Healthy People 2020 targets. Vaccines have proven to be a 20th century public health success by reducing the incidence of infectious disease and nearly eliminating many deadly threats, such as polio, measles, and mumps. Recent outbreaks point to the need to remain vigilant to support our nation's infectious disease successes. The AAFP supports programs, such as the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases 317 immunization program, which works to provide surveillance, prevention, and outbreak support. We ask that the Appropriations Committee include \$748 million for immunization and respiratory diseases in FY 2018.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The AAFP is committed to addressing opioid misuse at both the national and grassroots levels and supports efforts to improve the functionality, utility, and interoperability of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP). The AAFP urges Congress to provide \$10 million to SAMHSA for PDMPs as authorized by the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act* of 2016's §109, the *National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization*.

Health Resources and Services Administration

The Title VII primary care training health professions program with its Academic Administrative Units component has been an important factor in building research capacity and boosting research productivity in departments of family medicine [<http://www.stfm.org/FamilyMedicine/Vol48Issue6/Morley452>]. This program has been crucial to the development of a primary care research infrastructure. The program also increases research capacity and scholarly productivity in family medicine departments, which strengthens clinical practice in areas closely tied to population health. We urge Congress to provide \$59 million for FY2018 for HRSA’s Primary Care Training and Enhancement health professions program.

<p>Public Health & Research Priorities for FY 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$364 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). • \$1.1 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. • \$748 million for CDC’s National Center for Immunization & Respiratory Diseases. • \$10 million to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration for prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP) grants. • \$59 million for Primary Care Training and Enhancement under health professions training - Title VII of the Public Health Service Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHRQ provides physicians with reliable information on how to deliver the best care most efficiently. • Chronic diseases are the leading cause of poor health, disability, and death in the US. CDC’s Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion activities help to combat our most significant chronic disease issues. • CDC supports activities toward immunization goals to prevent death and disability. • PDMPs hold the potential to prevent opioid diversion and overprescribing, but the current PDMP patchwork requires work to improve the functionality, utility, and interoperability of PDMPs. • Title VII health professions programs has been an important factor in building research capacity and boosting research productivity in departments of family medicine. Clinical practice in areas closely tied to population health is aided by this increase.
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