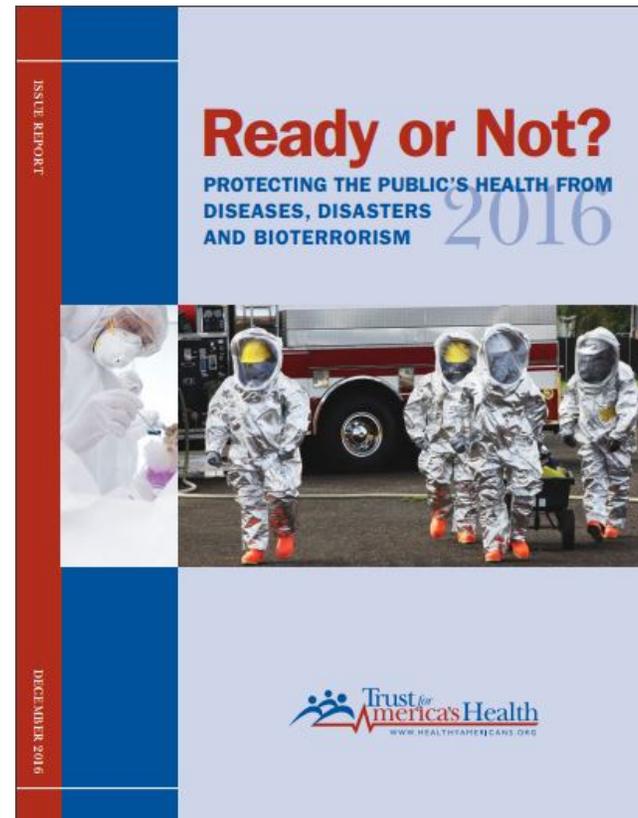


# Ready or Not?

*Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters,  
and Bioterrorism*

John Auerbach  
President and CEO  
Trust for America's Health  
March 23, 2017



# Who We Are

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- Trust for America's Health (TFAH) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority
  - *Ready or Not?* is supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

# *Ready or Not? Overview*

- Part 1:
  - Assessment of state capabilities and policies related to 10 preparedness indicators
- Part 2:
  - Examination of national policies
  - Recommendations to improve baseline capabilities and effective response





# State Findings: Highlights

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- Only 10 states vaccinated 50% of residents against the flu in 2015-16: *34,000 deaths/\$10 billion medical costs*
- 35 states/DC implemented 4 key steps to prevent healthcare-associated infection: *75,000 deaths/ \$28 billion medical costs*
- 45 states/DC improved *E. coli O157* testing for foodborne outbreaks: *3,000 deaths/\$16 billion is costs*

# Major Progress

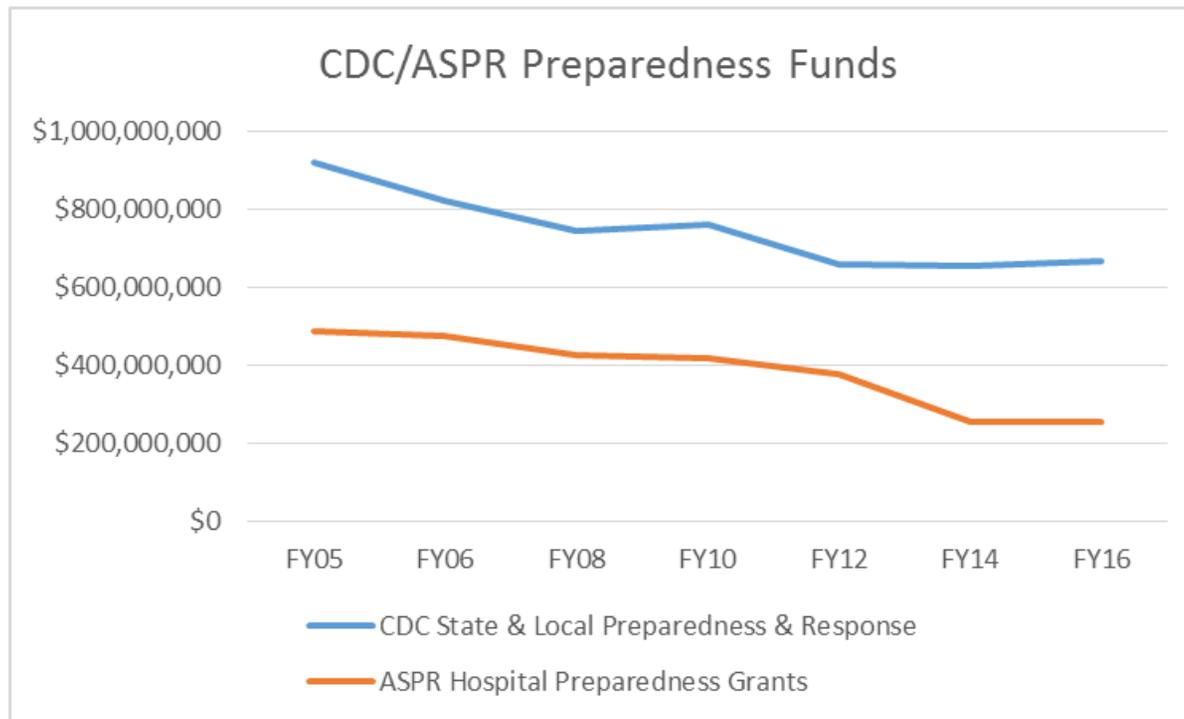
- Emergency operations, communication and coordination; Strategic National Stockpile and the ability to distribute medicines and vaccines during crises; Public health labs and foodborne illness detection capabilities

| IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SINCE 9/11                       |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| PROGRAM AWARDEES WHO:   | THEN | NOW  |
| Can mobilize staff during an emergency  | 20%  | 98%  |
| Have an Incident Command System with pre-assigned roles in place                      | 5%   | 100% |
| Include collaboration with health care agencies in their preparedness plans           | 8%   | 92%  |
| Have sufficient storage and distribution capacity for critical medicines and supplies | 0%   | 98%  |

Source: CDC, 2017

# Core Capabilities at Risk

(some could be defunded completely)



# Funding Delays Impact Response

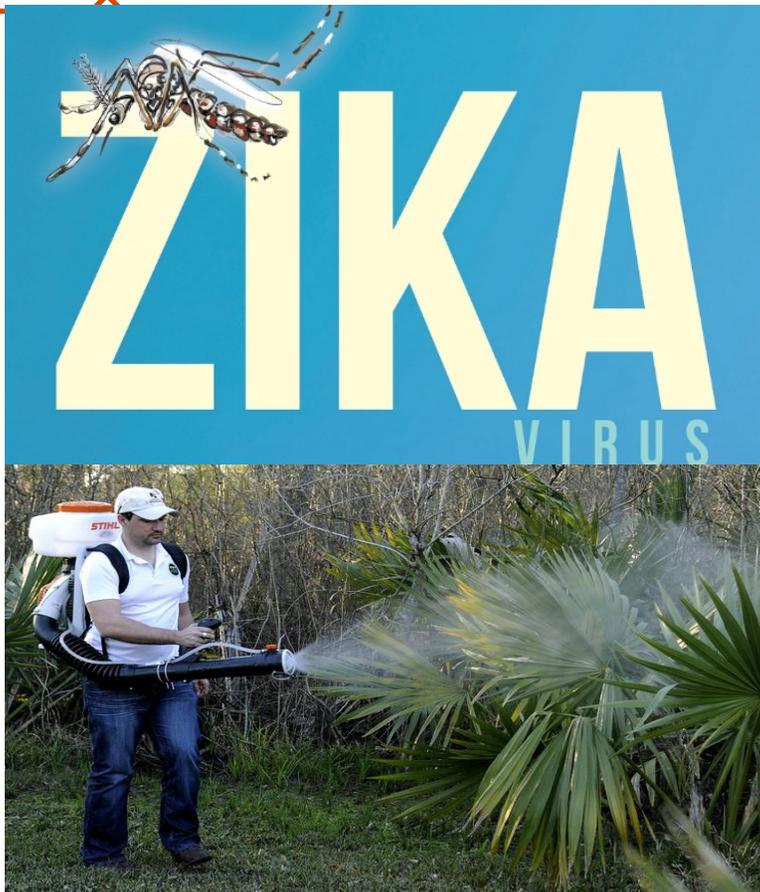


FIGURE 3: AREAS MOST NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY PHEP FUNDING REPROGRAMMING



Source: ASTHO, NACCHO, APHL & CSTE survey. May 2016.

# Conclusions

- **Federal funds** (excluding 1x funding):
  - 1/3 of \$ for PH preparedness cut
  - 1/2 of \$ for healthcare system preparedness cut
- **Increased vulnerability:** US not maintaining strong & steady defense; continuing new threats



# Recommendations

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- ❑ **Build strong, consistent baseline public health foundational capabilities** with stable, sufficient health emergency preparedness funding
- ❑ **Create a Public Health Emergency Fund** as bridge between preparedness and supplemental funds
- ❑ **Support federal agency leadership** before, during and after disasters
- ❑ **Recruit and train a next generation** public health workforce

# Recommendations

- ❑ **Prioritize health system preparedness for new threats and mass outbreaks**
- ❑ **Prioritize efforts to stop superbugs and antibiotic resistance**
- ❑ **Improve rates of vaccination for children and adults**



# Questions?

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- Please contact TFAH:
  - Dara Lieberman, Senior Government Relations Manager - [dlieberman@tfah.org](mailto:dlieberman@tfah.org) or (202) 864-5942
  - Full report available at: [www.healthyamericans.org](http://www.healthyamericans.org)