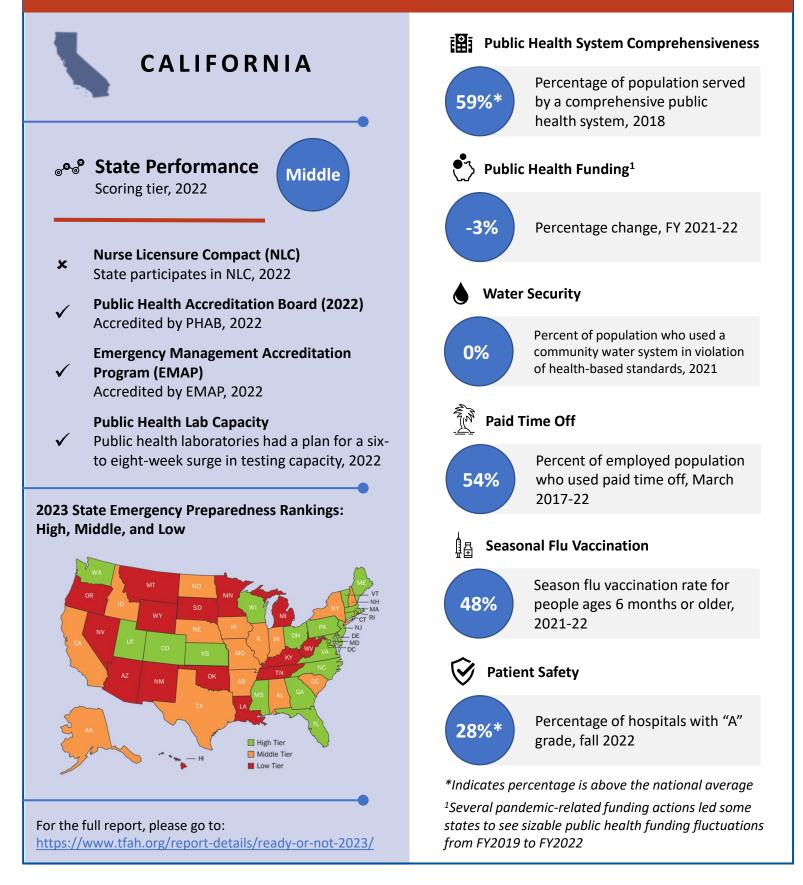


Ready or Not: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism





Priorities for Policy Action



The Administration, Congress, and state lawmakers should modernize public health infrastructure and biodefense by investing \$4.5 billion annually to support foundational public health capabilities. In addition, Congress should increase funding for public health emergency preparedness, healthcare readiness, and data modernization.



Congress should reauthorize the Pandemic & All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) and enable more effective responses to emergencies.



Congress and state legislatures should invest in effective public health communications, including countering misinformation.



Congress and states should ensure first-dollar coverage for all recommended vaccines, minimize vaccine exemptions for school children, and increase vaccination rates for healthcare workers.



Congress and states should provide job-protected paid leave for illness or family caregiving demands.



Congress should fund the entire medical countermeasures enterprise (MCM), including distribution and dispensing of MCMs, and create incentives for new products to fight antibiotic-resistant infections.



Congress and states should strengthen readiness for extreme weather and environmental health threats.

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