

## 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 1: Percentage of LHDs with Cuts to Jobs, Budgets, or Programs

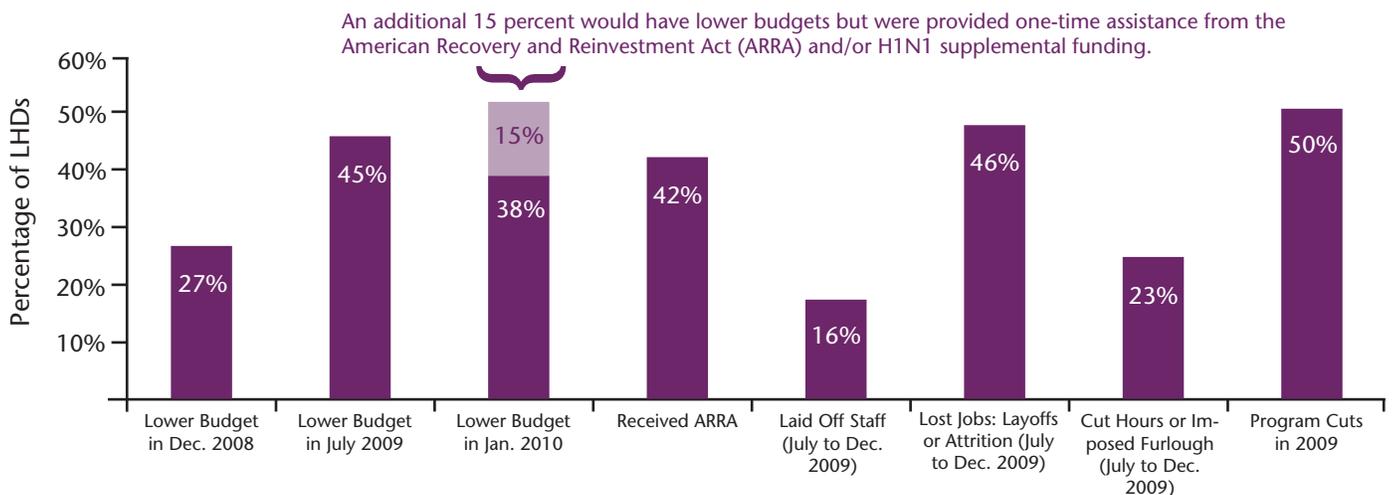


Figure 2: Estimated Number of LHD Jobs Lost in 2008–2009

	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

