

Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts: State-Level Tables from July/August 2011 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 July and August 2011. This survey was the sixth in a series of nationally representative surveys designed to measure the impact of the economic recession on LHDs' jobs, budgets, and programs. Survey findings demonstrate that LHDs continue to operate on leaner budgets, with reduced programs, and with fewer staff. These cuts undermine the ability of LHDs to effectively deliver public health services to their communities. The national estimates are available on NACCHO's website (www.naccho.org/jobloss). The data presented in the following pages supplements the overview of findings by providing information on cuts to budgets, jobs, and programs for many states.

Methodology

In July and August 2011, NACCHO surveyed 968 LHDs, selected as part of a statistically random sample designed to provide both national- and state-level estimates. A total of 680 LHDs distributed across 48 states participated for a response rate of 70 percent. Data in this study were self-reported; NACCHO did not independently verify the data provided by LHDs.

Survey findings demonstrate that LHDs continue to operate on leaner budgets, with reduced programs, and with fewer staff.

Acknowledgments

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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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TABLE 1. PERCENTAGE OF LHDS WITH CUTS TO STAFF AND PROGRAMS, BY STATE (JULY 2010–JUNE 2011)

State ¹	Loss of staff (layoffs and/or attrition)	Reduced staff time (cut hours and/or furlough)	Made cuts to at least one program	Made cuts to three or more programs	Number of Responses ²
	%	%	%	%	
AL	51	6	62	12	16–19
AR	36	0	20	0	11–14
AZ	73	37	73	27	9
CO	46	8	60	26	12–13
CT	24	38	40	4	16
DE	100	0	100	50	2
FL	81	19	81	66	14–16
GA	81	30	81	11	7
IA	37	36	55	23	25–26
ID	100	29	100	86	7
IL	54	13	68	34	22–23
KS	10	26	49	17	23
MA	16	17	34	14	44–45
MD	80	88	100	90	9–10
MI	72	42	73	27	10–11
MN	51	31	53	29	18–19
MO	48	31	56	26	29–30
MS	89	30	59	37	7–9
MT	30	8	56	28	10–13
NC	66	28	71	37	21–25
ND	18	0	43	11	9–10
NE	35	30	51	21	8
NH	40	0	0	0	3
NJ	46	32	53	23	23–25
NV	100	25	50	50	4
NY	54	12	62	32	17
OH	48	19	69	39	30
OK	35	2	43	11	21–23
OR	47	58	83	30	11
SC	75	25	88	63	8
TN	11	5	41	24	16–21
TX	29	17	40	19	15–17
UT	65	38	50	50	8
VA	14	9	38	9	11
VT	8	0	0	0	11
WA	69	70	90	59	11
WI	50	37	65	44	21–23
WV	31	8	48	16	10
WY	35	13	65	30	9–10
Overall	44	22	55	27	637–662

¹ States with no LHDS (Hawaii and Rhode Island) and insufficient survey response rates (AK, KY, CA, IN, NM, LA, ME, PA, SD) have been omitted from this table. However, overall proportions reflect data from all respondents.

² The number of responses varied slightly by question. The range is shown here.

TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE OF LHDS WITH AND EXPECTING BUDGETS CUTS, BY STATE

State ¹	Current budget less than last year	Current budget less than last year (when one-time funding excluded)	Expect budget to be lower next year ²	Number of Responses ³
	%	%	%	
AL	34	50	89	18
AR	43	59	36	11–12
AZ	70	70	47	9
CO	54	69	48	14
CT	39	39	28	17
DE	0	0	*	2
FL	94	94	90	16
GA	70	70	83	6–7
IA	47	70	48	25–26
ID	86	100	86	7
IL	69	80	55	22–23
KS	24	37	26	22–23
MA	30	37	30	39–47
MD	70	80	*	10
MI	77	91	79	10–11
MN	29	50	64	19
MO	64	87	71	28–30
MS	56	67	78	9
MT	46	54	48	13
NC	55	70	58	23–25
ND	21	21	21	10
NE	32	41	71	7–8
NH	40	80	60	4
NJ	48	64	51	23–25
NV	25	50	50	4
NY	51	55	72	18
OH	47	63	71	31
OK	6	19	5	21–23
OR	49	52	52	11
SC	100	100	100	7–8
TN	33	33	27	18–22
TX	53	59	73	15–17
UT	54	85	38	8
VA	38	68	55	10–11
VT	74	74	*	9
WA	75	90	95	10–11
WI	46	55	63	22–23
WV	47	68	56	9–10
WY	39	52	30	9–10
Overall	45	58	52	622–663

¹ States with no LHDS (Hawaii and Rhode Island) and insufficient survey response rates (AK, KY, CA, IN, NM, LA, ME, PA, SD) have been omitted from this table. However, overall proportions reflect data from all respondents.

² An asterisk (*) indicates an insufficient item response rate.

³ The number of responses varied slightly by question. The range is shown here.