



# *FY2017 American Cancer Society Budget Priorities*

February 25, 2016

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# Vermont's Cancer Burden

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- Cancer is now the leading cause of death in Vermont
- 4,050 Vermonters will be diagnosed with cancer this year
- Cancer will kill 1,390 Vermont residents this year
- 38,000 adults in Vermont are living with a current or previous diagnosis of cancer
- Almost two-thirds of cancer deaths in the United States can be linked to unhealthy behaviors like **tobacco use, adult diet, obesity** and **lack of exercise**

# We Spend Roughly 88% of our Health Care Dollars on Treating the Sick and Only 4% on Healthy Prevention

What **Makes** Us Healthy



What We **Spend** On Being Healthy



# Vermont Health Care Spending

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- Currently, Vermont spends approximately \$5 billion on health care annually.
- If we want to bend this cost arc, Vermont must invest more in evidence-based chronic disease prevention.
- According to the Joint Fiscal Office healthcare consultant, Kenneth Thorpe:
  1. 80% of total health care spending is linked to chronically ill patients
  2. Rise in “treated disease prevalence” accounts for nearly two-thirds of the growth in health care spending

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Obesity is a major contributor to the Vermont's burgeoning health care system, with obesity-related health care costs among Vermont adults estimated at \$290 million per year.

- About half of those costs are paid by Medicare and Medicaid.
- The other costs are paid by businesses and individual citizens.
- We don't know the cost of obesity-related health care costs for youth

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## **Obesity Prevention –**

- Approximately 10,000 Vermonters currently live with an obesity-related cancer diagnosis.
- 60% of Vermont's population is considered obese and one-third of cancer deaths are a result of physical inactivity, poor diet and obesity.
- The rise in obesity in US accounted for 27% of the growth in health spending over the past 20 years.  
*(Kenneth Thorpe)*

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### **Access to healthy food and physical activity opportunities is unequal in VT:**

- From the 2015 Inventory of Community Resources we learned 41% or two out of 5 towns in Vermont have NO sports fields
- 16% of Vermont towns have NO food access in their towns
- Only 4% of towns 4% have a policy for protected bike lanes and only 4% have a policy for bike paths

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The **Coordinated Healthy Activity, Motivation, and Prevention Programs** were enacted in 2006 as part of the Blueprint Community Health Teams.

CHAMPPS grants supported the implementation of policies on the community level. These small dollar investments were aimed at community-based solutions to gaps in access to healthy food and physical activity in Vermont towns where there is a demonstrated need.

Grand Isle is a community that highlights the needs for efforts such as this. Grand Isle adolescents have significantly higher obesity prevalence at 23% than the state average of 13%. Without policy changes aimed at reversing these trends, Vermont children will live much shorter, less healthy lives.

Please reinstate the \$300,000 in CHAMPPS obesity prevention community grants that were cut in the FY16 Budget



# Thank You!!!!

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