

# The Fund for a Healthy Maine

*Maine's primary source for improving health and lowering health care costs*

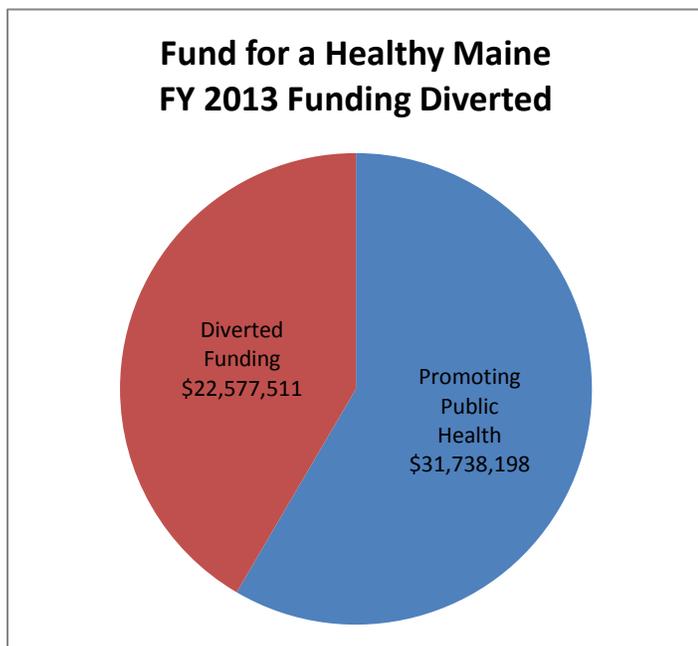
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**The Fund for a Healthy Maine is special revenue designated for a special purpose.** The Fund for a Healthy Maine was created by the Maine Legislature in 1999 to receive and disburse Maine's share of the annual payments from the Master Settlement with America's major tobacco companies. The lawsuit was designed to help states reduce the prevalence of smokers, especially teens, and to recoup costs associated with tobacco-related disease.

**The Fund for a Healthy Maine was set up to fund eight specific prevention-related programs:** tobacco prevention and treatment, child care, home visitations for new mothers, substance abuse prevention, oral health care, drugs for the elderly and disabled, school-based health, and expanded health care for both children and adults.

**The Fund for a Healthy Maine is the primary source of state dollars for prevention services, and leverages millions of dollars** in federal, local and private funds, most of which are filtered back into the community. **Prevention saves lives and money.**

## Proposed Biennial Budget Undermines Prevention



During the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the Fund for a Healthy Maine was continually raided to make up for shortfalls in the Medicaid program. The new biennial budget maintains those cuts.

**It is pennywise and pound foolish to cut prevention to fund sick care.** Maine's prevention efforts have been found to save \$7.50 for every \$1 invested.

Funding for Tobacco Prevention and Control was slashed by \$2.7 million in FY 13. Flat funding in FY 14-15 means Maine will support tobacco prevention and control at just 40% of the federal CDC's recommended amount.

Other programs that were cut were prescription drugs for the elderly, school health coordinators, obesity prevention quality child care, newborn home visitations, substance abuse prevention, family planning, and oral health care.

**Use the Fund for a Healthy Maine for its Intended Purpose** – to prevent the onset of chronic diseases that negatively impact the quality of life of Maine's citizens and cost state taxpayers more money in the long run.

## Tobacco and obesity are the leading preventable causes of death and disease in Maine.



Tobacco-related illness and ensuing lost economic productivity costs Maine \$1.1 billion annually.

2,200 people will die as a direct result of smoking, every year in Maine.

15.2% of Maine high school students report smoking in the past month. This accounts for approximately 12,670 Maine students.

12.8% of male high school students use smokeless tobacco.

20.3% of Maine high school students report using some form of tobacco product (i.e. cigarettes, smokeless or cigars) at least one time in the past month.

1,500 kids under the age of 18 begin smoking each year.

2.6 million packs of cigarettes are bought or smoked by Maine's youth each year.

**1 in 3 Maine kids are above a healthy weight.** If obesity rates continue on their current path, by 2030, the obesity rate in Maine could essentially double, reaching 55.2% (currently 27.8%).

**Maine is the most obese state in New England.** Maine weighed in as the plumpest state in New England and the 25th most obese in the nation (obesity rate 27.8%, overweight and obesity combined, 65%).

**Obesity increases the risk of many health conditions,** such as diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, stroke, heart disease, certain cancers and arthritis.

**Medical care costs** for an obese person are roughly 42% higher annually than that of a person of healthy weight. Medical expenditures attributable to obesity cost Mainers nearly \$453 million in 2011. A study by the University of Maine says that medical costs for children and adolescents could reach \$1.2 billion over the next 20 years; over 42% of those costs are attributed to current obese children and adolescents, most of whom are expected to be obese adults.



### FHM - Saving Lives and Saving Money by Preventing Disease

Community-based programs, such as Maine's network of Healthy Maine Partnerships, and the Partnership for a Tobacco-free Maine (both funded through the FHM), have a positive impact on people's lives and reduce public and private healthcare expenditures. In many cases these efforts can have short-term (1-2 years) and long-term (5 years and beyond) economic impacts.