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# ***JPHCOPH Examines Impact of Economic Recession***

January 22, 2013



A collaborative study including Dr. Gulzar Shah at Georgia Southern University Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health examines the impact of the 2008-2010 economic recession on local health departments. The study measured the impact of the 2008-2010 economic recession on local health departments (LHDs) across the United States. Between 2008 and 2010, we conducted 3 Web-based, cross-sectional surveys of a nationally representative sample of LHDs to assess cuts to budgets, workforce, and programs. By early 2010, more than half of the LHDs (53%) were experiencing cuts to their core funding. In excess of 23 000 LHDs jobs were lost in 2008-2009.

Researchers found that all programmatic areas were affected by cuts, and more than half of the LHDs had to reduce or eliminate at least 1 programmatic area. The capacity of LHDs to provide core public health services was undermined by the economic recession.

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