

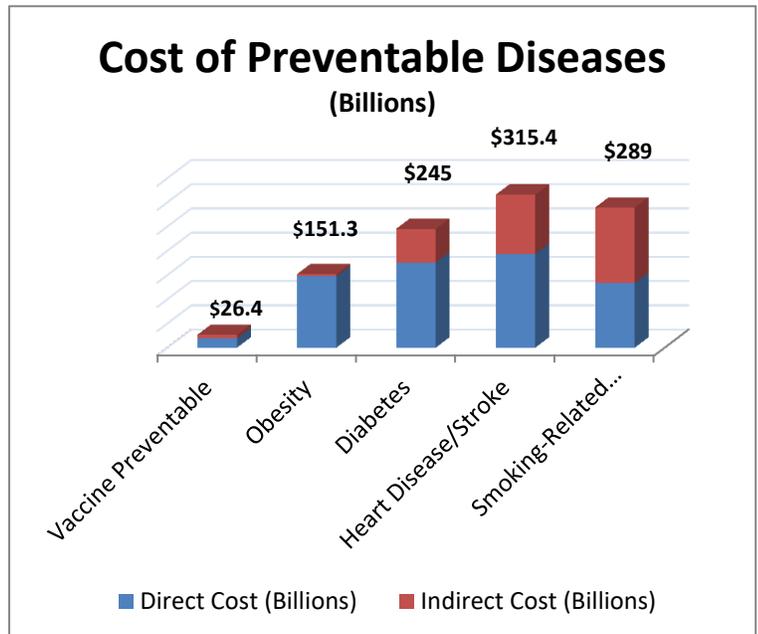
FUNDING FOR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE RESIDENCY TRAINING

The health challenges of the 21st century, including the increasing burden of chronic diseases, persistent and emerging infectious diseases, and disaster response, require the medical and public health communities to work in concert. Preventive Medicine is the only medical specialty recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties that requires all of its physicians to receive training in both clinical care and public health. Preventive Medicine residents are also the only medical residents who graduate from residency training with both MD/DO and MPH degrees and who have applied their public health training in a variety of health care settings. This makes Preventive Medicine physicians uniquely suited for these roles.

Preventive medicine physicians have the training and expertise to advance population health outcomes that public and private payers are increasingly promoting to their providers. These physicians are experts in disease prevention, health promotion, disaster preparedness, quality improvement, and patient safety and are at the forefront of efforts to integrate primary care and public health.

Cost of Disease Treatment

- The cost of preventable diseases represents a substantial portion of government spending.
- Preventive Medicine doctors have the skill set required to substantially reduce the number of people diagnosed with chronic disease by addressing the risk factors that lead to disease.
- The methods employed by Preventive Medicine physicians to avoid chronic disease are much less expensive than the treatment of the disease once it has occurred.



State of Preventive Medicine Programs

Despite the unprecedented national, state, and local need for properly trained physicians in disease prevention and health promotion, the number of preventive medicine residency graduates has not kept pace with the national need:

- Preventive Medicine residents are among the only medical residents whose graduate medical education (GME) costs are not fully supported by Medicare, Medicaid, or other third party payers.
- In a 2007 study, the Institute of Medicine recommended adding capacity to train at minimum an additional 400 residents per year, yet in the past 15 years, the number of training programs and residents have decreased.
- Nearly 70% of Preventive Medicine physicians are over age 55, but training programs don't have the funding to keep up with the current and expected future shortage.

FY 2018 Request: Allocate \$12 million in FY 2018 to the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) "public health and preventive medicine" line-item to support preventive medicine residency training programs.