

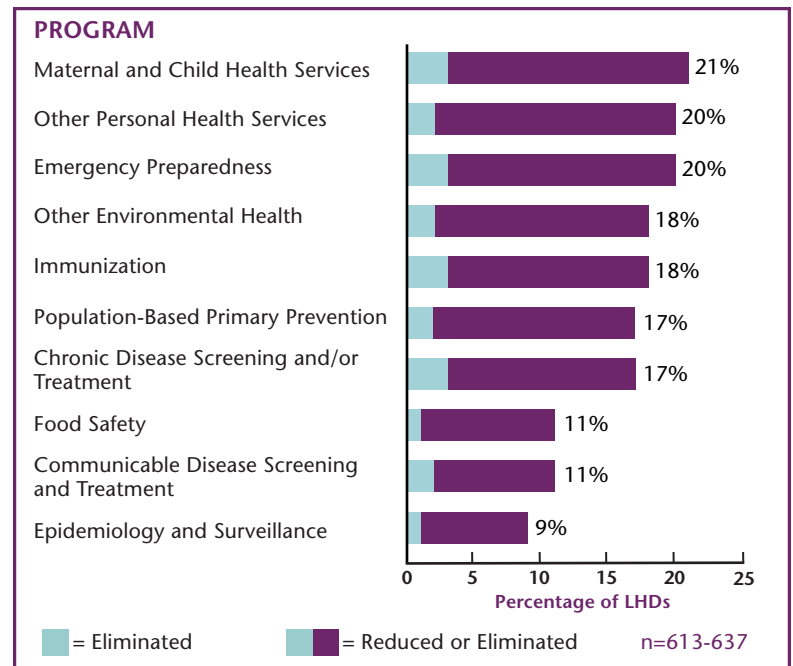
Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts: Findings from July 2011 Survey

MORE THAN HALF OF ALL LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CUT PROGRAMS

Between July 2010 and June 2011, more than half (55%) of all local health departments (LHDs) reduced or eliminated at least one program, 11 percent of which entirely eliminated at least one program. Certain programs were cut more often than others (Figure 1). Twenty-one percent of all LHDs reduced or eliminated maternal and child health services while only 9 percent made cuts to epidemiology and surveillance programs. Other personal health services and emergency preparedness programs were also among those often cut. During the prior 12-month period, 44 percent of all LHDs reduced or eliminated at least one program (not shown).

More than half (55%) of all LHDs reduced or eliminated at least one program between July 2010 and June 2011.

FIGURE 1: Percentage of LHDs that Reduced or Eliminated Programs, Overall and by Program Area (July 2010–June 2011)



THE NATIONWIDE WORKFORCE CONTINUES TO SHRINK

During the first half of 2011, more than four out of every 10 (44%) LHDs lost at least one employee (Figure 2) as they collectively shed 5,400 jobs (Figure 3). When reduced hours and mandatory furlough are also considered, the percentage of LHDs experiencing some type of negative job impact increases to 53 percent, nearly equal to the percentage of LHDs reporting negative job impact during 2010. Since 2008, LHDs lost a total of 34,400 jobs to layoffs and attrition.

Workforce additions were small by comparison (Figure 3). Between January and June 2011, 19 percent of LHDs reported staff additions (not shown). In total, LHDs added 1,800 staff positions, 1,400 new positions and 400 previously frozen positions.

FIGURE 2: Percentage of LHDs Losing Workforce Capacity in 2010, Overall and by Type (Calendar Year 2010 and January–June 2011)

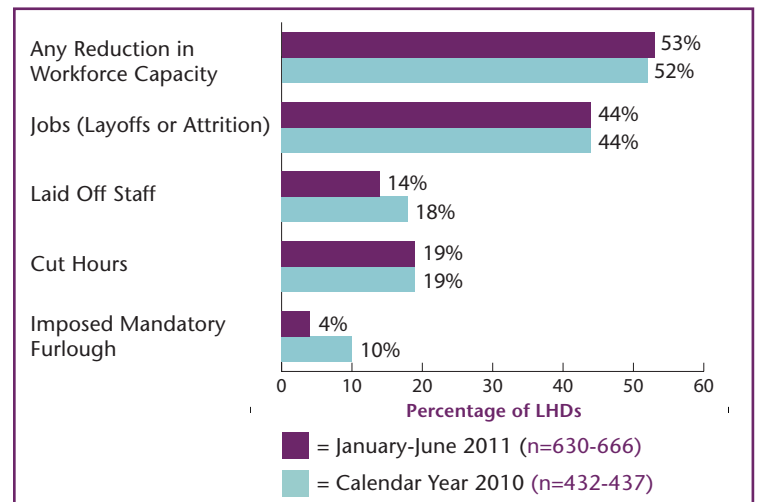


FIGURE 3: Estimated Number of LHD Job Losses (Over Time) and Job Additions (January–June 2011)

JOB LOSSES (Layoffs or Attrition)	
2008	7,000
2009	16,000
2010	6,000
First half of 2011	5,400
TOTAL	34,400

JOB ADDITIONS (Jan-June 2011)	
New positions	1,400
Vacancies filled due to lift of hiring freeze	400
TOTAL	1,800

METHODOLOGY

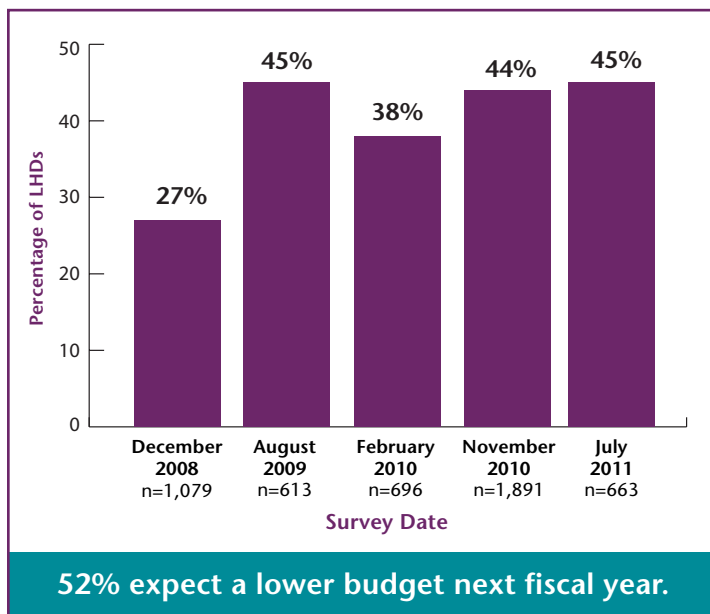
In July and August 2011, NACCHO surveyed 968 LHDs, selected as part of a statistically random sample designed to provide both national and state-level estimates. A total of 680 LHDs distributed across 48 states participated for a response rate of 70 percent. Data in this study were self-reported; NACCHO did not independently verify the data provided by LHDs. Additional findings will be posted on NACCHO's website at www.naccho.org/lhdbudget.

More than half of LHDs throughout the nation expect budget cuts in the next fiscal year.

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CONTINUE TO SLASH BUDGETS AND EXPECT MORE TO COME

The fiscal situation of LHDs continues to deteriorate (Figure 4). In July 2011, 45 percent of LHDs throughout the nation reported reduced operating budgets compared to the previous fiscal year. About the same proportion (44%) reported lower budgets when asked in November 2010, and more than half (52%) expect cuts in the next fiscal year.

FIGURE 4: LHDs with Budget Cuts (2008–2011)
Percentage of LHDs Reporting Lower Budgets than in the Prior Fiscal Year



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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