

# The Value of Prevention

for Health and the Economy

**Preventing disease can save lives and money and is the best buy in the health sector. With rising healthcare costs, investments that reduce costs and improve health are particularly important. These are just three well-documented examples.**



## Childhood Vaccinations

- Return \$10 for every \$1 spent
- Prevent 20 million cases of disease each year
- Save 42,000 lives each year
- Immunizing children born in the United States each year costs about \$7 billion and saves \$21 billion in direct cost and saves \$76 billion in direct and indirect costs



## Reducing Blood Stream Infections

- Averts \$414 million annually in healthcare costs
- Saves \$3.3 billion annually including averted productivity losses
- Prevents 25,000 infections each year
- Saves 4,500 lives each year
- Implementing CDC guidelines for preventing blood stream infections saves healthcare costs, improves productivity, prevents infections, and saves lives



## Folic Acid Fortification

- Saves \$440 million annually in healthcare and other direct costs
- Saves \$984 million annually including averted productivity losses
- Prevented 10,000 birth defect-affected pregnancies over 10 years
- Fortifying cereal grain products with folic acid saves healthcare costs, increases productivity, and prevents neural-tube defects in the United States

*All funds are in 2009 dollars.*

