

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Alabama receives \$21.60 per person in funding from CDC (26th in the nation) and \$31.09 per person from HRSA (18th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$44.12 million in grants to Alabama since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 10.1 percent of people in Alabama do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Alabama has 116.4 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Diabetes:** 13.5 percent of adults have diabetes, ranking the state 3rd highest in the nation.
- **Infant mortality:** 8.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, ranking the state 2nd highest in the nation.
- **High school graduation:** 89.3 percent of students graduate from high school, ranking the state 3rd highest in the nation. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.

The challenges ahead

- **Tobacco use:** 21.4 percent of the adult population smokes cigarettes, ranking Alabama 10th highest in the nation. Smoking has been attributed to 8,685 deaths over the course of one year in Alabama and an estimated \$5.6 billion annually in total economic impact.
- **Obesity:** Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. The obesity rate has steadily increased over the past two and a half decades, ranking Alabama the 4th highest in the nation with 35.6 percent of the adult population obese and significant disparities existing between blacks (46.5 percent) and non-Hispanic whites (32.3 percent). Of additional concern, in the past year, physical inactivity increased 16 percent from 27.6 percent to 31.9 percent of adults in Alabama. Each year, an estimated \$190.2 billion is spent on obesity-related health issues in the U.S., accounting for 21 percent of annual medical spending.

Sources: Trust for America's Health, Investing in America's Health; Trust for America's Health, Prevention and Public Health Fund at Work in States; U.S. Census Bureau, 2013, 2014, and 2015 1-Year American Community Surveys; Alabama Department of Public Health; United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Tobacco Control Program Funding.