

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Alaska receives \$49.67 per person in funding from CDC and \$108.75 per person from HRSA, ranking Alaska first for amount of CDC and HRSA funding per capita. The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$31.4 million in grants to Alaska since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 14.9 percent of people in Alaska 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. Alaska has 134.1 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **High school graduation:** 1 out of 4 high school students in Alaska do not graduate from high school, which is of concern given the connection between education and health. Individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- **Diabetes:** 7.6 percent of adults have diabetes, ranking the state 3rd lowest in the nation.
- **Chlamydia:** 787.5 cases per 100,000 people, ranking the state the highest in the nation.

The challenges ahead

- **Tobacco use:** 19.1 percent of the adult population smokes cigarettes, ranking Alaska 10th highest in the nation, and 30.9 percent of youth reported currently using any tobacco product. Each year, 600 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Alaska and \$438 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Violent crime:** In the past two years, violent crime increased 21 percent from 603 to 730 offenses per 100,000 people, which is the highest rate of violent crime in the nation. Violent crimes may cause injuries, disability and early death. Additionally, violent crimes may cause long-term stress for families and communities, and interfere with leading a healthy lifestyle. However, violent crime can be prevented. Numerous programs and practices have shown that by addressing root causes it is possible to prevent violence.

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; United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Tobacco Control Program Funding