

**Public health funding:** Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Colorado receives \$21.13 per person in funding from CDC (32nd in the nation) and \$30.44 per person from HRSA (20th in the nation). Since 2010, the Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$57.4 million in grants to Colorado for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**Access to care:** 8.1 percent of people in Colorado 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. Colorado has 136.3 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people in comparison to 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people nationally.

## Notable health measures

- **Obesity and physical activity:** Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. While the state boasts the lowest rate in the nation with 20.2 percent of adults obese, the obesity rate has tripled in Colorado over the past two and a half decades. The state also boasts the lowest rate of physical inactivity among adults with 17.9 percent of adults reporting doing no physical activity in the past 30 days.
- **Cancer deaths:** Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in the nation. The cancer rate in Colorado is the 3rd lowest in the nation with 161.8 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Chlamydia:** In the past year, the number of new cases of chlamydia increased 6 percent from 393.0 to 415.0 cases per 100,000 people.

## The challenges ahead

- **High school graduation:** 77.3 percent of students graduate high school in Colorado, ranking the state the 6th lowest in the nation. This is of public health concern as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors. The health benefits of educational attainment accumulate and as a result will also impact the community level and social/cultural context.
- **Pertussis:** There are 24.3 cases of pertussis in Colorado per 100,000 people, ranking the state 5th highest in the nation and well over the national average of 10.4 cases per 100,000 people. Also known as whooping cough, pertussis is highly contagious, but can be prevented through immunization.

Sources: 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.