

Public Health ACTION Campaign

Washington, D.C.



Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. The District of Columbia receives \$176.51 per person in funding from CDC (highest per capita in the nation). In total, D.C. receives \$452 per person through CDC, HRSA and the state.

Access to care: 3.8 percent of people in D.C. 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. D.C has 431.6 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people in comparison to the national rate of 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Tobacco use:** Smoking has decreased 23 percent among adults from 20.8 percent in 2012 to 16.0 percent in 2016, which is below the national rate of 17.5 percent. Yet, each year, 800 people die from smoking-related illnesses in D.C. and \$391 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Air pollution:** D.C. comes close to matching California, the worst ranked state in the nation, in terms of air pollution with an estimated 11.0 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

The challenges ahead

- **Violent crime:** There are 1,269 offenses per 100,000 people in D.C., topping the highest ranked state of Alaska at 730 offenses per 100,000 people and well above the national rate of 383 offenses per 100,000 people. 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.
- **Infant mortality:** While D.C. has achieved a significant decrease in infant mortality, with the infant mortality rate dropping from a high of 12.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009 to 7.0 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016, it remains well above the national rate of 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **High school graduation:** Only 68.5 percent of students in D.C. graduate high school. This is a major 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.

Sources: Sources: Trust for America's Health, Investing in America's Health; 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.



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