

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Kentucky receives \$21.17 per person in funding from CDC (31st in the nation) and \$26.46 per person from HRSA (30th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$30 million in grants to Kentucky since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 6.0 percent of people in Kentucky do not have health insurance coverage well below the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Kentucky has 117.7 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is well below the national average of 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **High school graduation:** 88 percent of students graduate from high school in Kentucky, ranking 8th highest in the nation. This is a notable measure as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- **Violent crime:** Violent crime has decreased 26 percent over the past seven years, from 296 to 219 offenses per 100,000 people, ranking the state 7th lowest in the nation.

The challenges ahead

- **Obesity:** In the past year, obesity increased 9 percent from 31.6 percent to 34.6 percent of adults. Kentucky has the 5th highest obesity rate in the nation. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. 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.
- **Diabetes:** In the past two years, diabetes increased 26 percent from 10.6 percent to 13.4 percent of adults, ranking the state 4th highest in the nation.
- **Drug deaths:** In the past five years, drug deaths increased 33 percent from 18.1 to 24.1 deaths per 100,000 people. Kentucky has the 3rd highest rate of drug deaths in the nation.
- **Tobacco use:** 25.9 percent of the adult population smokes cigarettes in Kentucky, ranking the state 50th in the nation. Each year, 8,900 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Kentucky and \$1.9 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Cancer deaths:** Not surprisingly, Kentucky also ranks 50th in the nation for having the most cancer deaths in the U.S. (232.2 deaths per 100,000 people).

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.