

**Public health funding:** Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. In the past four years, public health funding decreased 28 percent from \$102 to \$73 per person. Louisiana receives \$27.59 per person in funding from CDC (13th in the nation) and \$38.80 per person from HRSA (10th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$29 million in grants to Louisiana since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**Access to care:** 11.9 percent of people in Louisiana do not have health insurance coverage, above the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Louisiana has 125.7 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is below the national average of 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

## Notable health measures

- **High school graduation:** 77.5 percent of students graduate from high school in Louisiana, the 8th lowest graduation rate 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.
- **Diabetes:** In the past year, diabetes increased 12 percent from 11.3 percent to 12.7 percent of adults. The state has the 6th highest adult diabetes rate in the nation.

## The challenges ahead

- **Tobacco use:** 21.9 percent of adults in Louisiana smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 8th highest in the nation. Each year, 7,200 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Louisiana and \$1.9 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Obesity:** 36.2 percent of adults in Louisiana are obese. The state has the 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.
- **Low birthweight and infant mortality:** 10.5 percent of live births are low birthweight in Louisiana, ranking the state 2nd highest in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality. The state is ranked 3rd highest in the nation for infant mortality with 8.1 deaths per 1,000 live births.

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.