

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Maine receives \$27.98 per person in funding from CDC (12th in the nation) and \$48.59 per person from HRSA (5th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$39 million in grants to Maine since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 8.4 percent of people in Maine 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. Maine has 183.7 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 7th highest in the nation.

Notable health measures

- **High school graduation:** 87.5 percent of students graduate from high school in Maine. 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:** The state has the 2nd lowest violent crime rate in the nation with 130 offenses per 100,000 people.
- **Air pollution:** 6.8 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, ranking the state 10th lowest in air pollution in the nation. Reduced exposure to air pollution is important to public health as poor air quality leads to reduced lung function, increased risk of asthma complications, heart attacks, heart failure and death, and impacts a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

The challenges ahead

- **Tobacco use:** 19.5 percent of adults in Maine smoke cigarettes, which places the state above the national average of 17.5 percent. Each year, 2,400 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Maine and \$811 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Low birthweight and infant mortality:** In the past two years, low birthweight increased 15 percent from 6.6 percent to 7.6 percent of live births. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality. The state is ranked 39th in the nation for infant mortality with 6.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Drug deaths:** In the past two years, drug deaths increased 24 percent from 11.0 to 13.6 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Pertussis:** The state has the 2nd highest rate of pertussis cases in the nation with 41.9 cases of pertussis per 100,000 people. Also known as whooping cough, pertussis is highly contagious, but can be prevented through immunization.

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.