

**Public health funding:** Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Maryland receives \$31.93 per person in funding from CDC (6th in the nation) and \$23.04 per person from HRSA (39th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$88 million in grants to Maryland since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**Access to care:** 6.6 percent of people in Maryland do not have health insurance coverage, well below the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing health care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Maryland has 183.7 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 7th highest in the nation. Additionally, Maryland has 72 dentists per 100,000 people, ranking 9th highest in the nation.

## Notable health measures

- **Tobacco use:** 15.1 percent of adults in Maryland smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 10th lowest in the nation. Still, each year, 7,500 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Maryland and \$2.7 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **High school graduation:** 87 percent of students graduate from high school in Maryland. 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.

## The challenges ahead

- **Drug deaths:** In the past three years, drug deaths increased 30 percent from 11.8 to 15.3 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Violent crime:** The state is ranked 39th in the nation with 457 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.
- **Low birthweight and infant mortality:** In Maryland, 8.6 percent of live births are low birthweight, ranking 36th in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality. The state is ranked 35th in the nation for infant mortality with 6.6 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.



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