

**Public health funding:** Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Mississippi receives \$25.48 per person in funding from CDC (17th in the nation) and \$41.09 per person from HRSA (9th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$32 million in grants to Mississippi since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**Access to care:** 12.7 percent of people in Mississippi do not have health insurance coverage, well above the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing health care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Mississippi has 102.3 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 3rd lowest in the nation. Additionally, Mississippi has 42.9 dentists per 100,000 people, ranking 2nd lowest in the nation.

## Notable health measures

- **Physical inactivity:** In the past year, physical inactivity increased 16 percent from 31.6 percent to 36.8 percent of adults.
- **Obesity:** Mississippi has the 4th highest obesity rate in the nation with 35.6 percent of adults obese. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **High school graduation:** 75.4 percent students in Mississippi graduate from high school, ranking 4th lowest 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.

## The challenges ahead

- **Tobacco use:** 22.5 percent of adults smoke cigarettes in Mississippi, ranking the state 4th highest in the nation. Each year, 5,400 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Mississippi and \$1.2 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Cancer deaths:** The state has the 2nd highest cancer death rate in the nation with 227.5 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Low birthweight and infant mortality:** 11.3 percent of live births in Mississippi are low birthweight, ranking the state 50th in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality. The state is also ranked 50th in the nation for infant mortality with 8.9 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.