

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Missouri receives \$18.98 per person in funding from CDC (41st in the nation) and \$30.33 per person from HRSA (21st in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$35 million in grants to Missouri since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 9.8 percent of people in Missouri do not have health insurance coverage compared with the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing health care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Missouri has 155.9 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Of concern, Missouri has 43 dentists per 100,000 people, ranking 8th lowest in the nation.

Notable health measures

- **Obesity:** In the past year, obesity increased 7 percent from 30.2 percent to 32.4 percent of adults in Missouri. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **Diabetes:** In the past two years, diabetes increased 20 percent from 9.6 percent to 11.5 percent of adults.
- **High school graduation:** 87.8 percent of students graduate from high school in Missouri, ranking 10th 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.

The challenges ahead

- **Tobacco use:** 22.3 percent of adults smoke cigarettes in Missouri, ranking the state 5th highest in the nation. Each year, 11,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Missouri and \$3 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Violent crime:** In 2016, there were 497 offenses per 100,000 population in Missouri, which is the 9th highest rate of violent crime in the nation. 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.

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.