

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Montana receives \$31.77 per person in funding from CDC (7th in the nation) and \$57.64 per person from HRSA (2nd in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$29 million in grants to Montana since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 11.6 percent of people in Montana do not have health insurance coverage compared with the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Montana has 110.8 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 7th lowest in the nation. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Obesity:** While Montana ranks 3rd lowest in terms of obesity rate, the rate has more than doubled since 1990, with 23.6 percent of the adult population now obese in the state. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **Air pollution:** 6.3 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, ranking the state 5th 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

- **Excessive drinking:** Montana has one of the highest drinking rates in the nation with 21.8 percent of the adult population reporting excessively drinking. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other major health problems.
- **Pertussis:** Montana has the highest number of pertussis cases per 100,000 people in the nation with 48.7 cases per 100,000 people, which is well over the national average of 10.4 cases 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.