

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Nebraska receives \$26.64 per person in funding from CDC (15th in the nation) and \$24.38 per person from HRSA (33rd in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$40 million in grants to Nebraska since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 8.2 percent of people in Nebraska 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. Nebraska has 148 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Low birthweight and infant mortality:** 6.6 percent of live births in Nebraska are low birthweight, ranking the state 7th in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality. The infant mortality rate has decreased 56 percent from 9.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 5.2 deaths per 1,000 live births, ranking the state 14th in the nation.
- **High school graduation:** 88.9 percent of students in Nebraska graduate from high school, ranking 5th 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

- **Obesity:** Since 1990, the adult obesity rate has more than doubled in Nebraska. In 2016, 31.4 percent of adults in Nebraska were obese. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **Excessive drinking:** 20.4 percent of adults reported drinking excessively, ranking the state 9th highest in the nation. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other major health problems.
- **Pertussis:** With 19.6 cases per 100,000 people, the incidence of pertussis in Nebraska is well above 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.