Public Health ACTion Campaign
Nevada

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Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Nevada receives $21.55 per person in funding from CDC (27th in the nation) and $15.57 per person from HRSA (50th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over $31 million in grants to Nevada since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 12.3 percent of people in Nevada do not have health insurance coverage, well above the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Nevada has 104.3 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 5th lowest in the nation. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Tobacco use:** 17.5 percent of adults in Nevada smoke cigarettes. Each year, 4,100 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Nevada and $1.1 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Obesity:** 26.7 percent of adults in Nevada are obese. And while the state boasts a relatively low adult obesity rate in comparison to other states, the obesity rate has more than doubled over the past two and a half decades. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

The challenges ahead

- **High school graduation:** Only 71.3 percent of students graduate from high school in Nevada. This is a major 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.
- **Drug deaths:** While drug deaths have decreased 7 percent from 22.4 deaths per 100,000 people in 2015 to 20.9 deaths per 100,000 people in 2016, the state has the 8th highest drug death rate in the nation.
- **Violent crime:** Nevada has the 2nd highest violent crime rate in the nation, with 696 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.

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The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the profession of public health, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a 140-plus year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health. Learn more at www.apha.org.