

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. New Jersey receives \$16.59 per person in funding from CDC (48th in the nation) and \$21.67 per person from HRSA (41st in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$67 million in grants to New Jersey since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 8.7 percent of people in New Jersey 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. New Jersey has 165.2 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Tobacco use:** Adult smoking has decreased 22 percent from 17.3 percent in 2013 to 13.5 percent in 2016, ranking 3rd lowest in the nation. Yet, each year, 11,800 people die from smoking-related illnesses in New Jersey and \$4.1 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **High school graduation:** 89.7 percent of students graduate from high school in New Jersey. 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.
- **Infant mortality:** New Jersey has the 2nd lowest infant mortality rate in the nation with 4.4 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The challenges ahead

- **Drug deaths:** Deaths due to drug injury have increased 103 percent in the last three years from 6.9 to 14.0 deaths per 100,000 population.
- **Excessive drinking:** New Jersey is ranked 33rd in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 8.8 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

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.