

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. New Mexico receives \$32.66 per person in funding from CDC (5th in the nation) and \$48.24 per person from HRSA (7th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$46 million in grants to New Mexico since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 10.9 percent of people in New Mexico 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 Mexico has 133.4 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Air pollution:** 6.0 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, ranking the state 4th 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.
- **Cancer deaths:** Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in the nation. The cancer rate in New Mexico is the 4th lowest in the nation with 168.3 deaths per 100,000 people.

The challenges ahead

- **High school graduation:** 68.6 percent of students graduate from high school in New Mexico, ranking lowest in the nation. 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:** New Mexico is ranked 2nd highest in the nation for deaths due to drug injury with 24.7 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Violent crime:** New Mexico has the 3rd highest violent crime rate in the nation, with 656 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.

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.