

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. North Carolina receives \$18.81 per person in funding from CDC (42nd in the nation) and \$23.01 per person from HRSA (40th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$109 million in grants to North Carolina since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 11.2 percent of people in North Carolina 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. North Carolina has 128.3 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:** 19 percent of adults smoke cigarettes in North Carolina. Each year, 14,200 people die from smoking-related illnesses in North Carolina and \$3.8 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Violent crime:** The rate of violent crime in the state has decreased 26 percent in the past seven years from 467 offenses per 100,000 people to 347 offenses per 100,000 people. The toll of violent crime can be staggering. 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.

The challenges ahead

- **Children in poverty:** 23.7 percent of children in North Carolina live in a household below the poverty line. This places North Carolina 8th highest in the nation. Poverty has been linked to higher rates of chronic diseases and shorter life expectancy.
- **Low birthweight and infant mortality:** 8.9 percent of live births in North Carolina are low birthweight, the 10th highest rate in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality. Additionally, the state has the 10th highest infant mortality rate with 7.0 deaths per 1,000 live births.

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.