

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Rhode Island receives \$39.59 per person in funding from CDC (3rd in the nation) and \$48.50 per person from HRSA (6th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$33 million in grants to Rhode Island since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 5.7 percent of people in Rhode Island do not have health insurance coverage, well below the national uninsured rate of 9.4 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Rhode Island has 247.7 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. This is the highest rate in the nation. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Infant mortality:** Rhode Island has a relatively low infant mortality rate. In Rhode Island, infant mortality decreased 15 percent from 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016.
- **Tobacco use:** 15.5 percent of adults in Rhode Island smoke cigarettes, ranking 14th lowest in the nation. Each year, 1,800 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Rhode Island and \$640 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Cancer deaths:** Rhode Island ranks 32nd in the nation for cancer deaths with 195.2 deaths per 100,000 people.

The challenges ahead

- **Drug deaths:** The state has the 5th highest drug death rate in the nation. In the past four years, drug deaths increased 39 percent from 15.4 to 21.4 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Obesity:** 26 percent of adults in Rhode Island 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.
- **Physical inactivity:** In the past year, physical inactivity increased 25 percent from 22.5 percent to 28.1 percent of 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.