

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Tennessee receives \$20.87 per person in funding from CDC (34th in the nation) and \$28.09 per person from HRSA (27th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$57 million in grants to Tennessee since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 10.3 percent of people in Tennessee do not have health insurance coverage, which is 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. Tennessee has 135.1 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Drug deaths:** Tennessee has the 11th highest drug death rate in the nation. In the past three years, drug deaths increased 17 percent from 15.7 to 18.3 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **High school graduation:** 87.9 percent of student graduate from high school in Tennessee. This is the 9th highest rate in the nation. 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.

The challenges ahead

- **Tobacco use:** 21.9 percent of adults in Tennessee smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 8th highest in the nation. Each year, 11,400 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Tennessee and \$2.7 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Violent crime:** The state has the 4th highest violent crime rate in the nation with 612 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; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Tobacco Control Program Funding.