

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Texas receives \$21.28 per person in funding from CDC (30th in the nation) and \$19.28 per person from HRSA (47th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$150 million in grants to Texas since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 17.1 percent of people in Texas do not have health insurance coverage, which is well 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. Texas has 110.3 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, well below the national average of 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Drug deaths:** Texas has the 6th lowest drug death rate in the nation with 9.6 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **High school graduation:** 89 percent of student graduate from high school in Texas. This is the 4th highest rate in the nation, which 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:** In the past year, smoking increased 5 percent from 14.5 percent to 15.2 percent of adults. Each year, 28,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Texas and \$8.9 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Chlamydia:** In the past five years, the incidence chlamydia increased 16 percent from 427.4 to 496.1 cases per 100,000 people.
- **Air pollution:** Texas is ranked 44th in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 9.4 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.