

**Public health funding:** Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Washington receives \$20.06 per person in funding from CDC (37th in the nation) and \$31.82 per person from HRSA (15th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$91 million in grants to Washington since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**Access to care:** 6.6 percent of people in Washington do not have health insurance coverage, which is well below the national uninsured rate is 9.4 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Washington has 141.1 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is slightly below the national average of 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

## Notable health measures

- **Drug deaths:** In the past four years, drug deaths decreased 13 percent from 15.9 deaths per 100,000 people to 13.8 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Infant mortality:** Washington has the 3rd lowest infant mortality rate in the nation with 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Cardiovascular deaths:** The state has the 6th lowest cardiovascular death rate in the nation with 213.3 deaths per 100,000 people.

## The challenges ahead

- **Tobacco use:** Despite boasting the 9th lowest adult smoking rate in the nation, each year, 8,300 adults die from smoking-related illnesses in Washington and \$2.8 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **High school graduation:** 78.2 percent of students in Washington graduate from high school. This is the 10th lowest high school graduation rate 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.

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.