

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. West Virginia receives \$22.96 per person in funding from CDC (22nd in the nation) and \$50.41 per person from HRSA (4th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$34 million in grants to West Virginia since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 6.0 percent of people in West Virginia do not have health insurance coverage, which is 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. West Virginia has 151.2 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is above the national average of 145.3 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable health measures

- **Infectious diseases:** West Virginia has the lowest rate of pertussis and chlamydia in the nation, and the 4th lowest rate of Salmonella in the nation.
- **Excessive drinking:** The state has the 2nd lowest rate of excessive drinking with 11.4 percent of adults having reported drinking excessively.

The challenges ahead

- **Drug deaths:** In the past three years, drug deaths increased 46 percent from 22.0 to 32.2 deaths per 100,000 people. This is the highest death rate due to drug injury in the nation.
- **Tobacco use:** 25.7 percent of the adult population smokes in West Virginia. This is the 2nd highest rate in the nation. Each year, 4,300 adults die from smoking-related illnesses in West Virginia and \$1.0 billion is spent on health care costs due to do smoking.
- **Obesity:** The state has the 4th highest adult obesity rate in the nation with 35.6 percent of the adult population obese. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

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.