

Public health funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Wyoming receives \$29.69 per person in funding from CDC (11th in the nation) and \$23.13 per person from HRSA (38th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over \$11 million in grants to Wyoming since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to care: 11.5 percent of people in Wyoming 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. Wyoming has 103.7 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:** In the past three years, drug deaths increased 34 percent from 13.2 to 17.7 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Air pollution:** The state has the best air quality in the nation with an estimated 4.4 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Reduced exposure to air pollution is important to public health as poor air quality leads to reduced lung function, increased risk of asthma complications, heart attacks, heart failure and death, and impacts a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

The challenges ahead

- **High school graduation:** 79.3 percent of students graduate from high school in Wyoming, ranking the state 37th in the nation. This is of 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.
- **Tobacco use:** 19.1 percent of the adult population in Wyoming smokes cigarettes. Each year, 800 adults die from smoking-related illnesses in Wyoming and \$258 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Occupational fatalities:** The state has the highest rate of occupational fatalities in the nation with 12 deaths per 100,000 workers.
- **Low birthweight:** 9.2 percent of live births in Wyoming are low birthweight. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality.

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.