



# THE FACTS CALIFORNIA

**Speak**  
for **Health**

AN INITIATIVE OF THE  
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING** Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. California receives \$138 per person in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). In fiscal year 2021 California received \$23.03 million in Prevention and Public Health Fund funding – the highest in the country. These grants help fund community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 7% of people in California do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 8.6%. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. California has 209.6 active primary care providers per 100,000 people in comparison to 265.3 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people nationally.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** 8.9% of the adult population smokes cigarettes, ranking California 2nd lowest in the nation. Each year, 40,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses in California and \$13.3 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Obesity** While California ranks 5th lowest in terms of obesity rate, the rate has continued to steadily increase with 27.6% of the adult population now obese in the state.

## The Challenges Ahead

**AIR POLLUTION** California is ranked the worst state in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 12.8 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.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** 84.5% of students graduate from high school in California. This is the 19th lowest high school graduation rate 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.

Sources: America's Health Rankings analysis of Trust for America's Health, U.S. HHS, U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population, United Health Foundation, AmericasHealthRankings.org, Accessed 2023; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) State Fact Sheets, (2023). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/state-fact-sheets/index.htm>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Funding Profiles Totals, (2023). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/>



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