

THE FACTS MASSACHUSETTS

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. Massachusetts receives \$144 total per person in public health funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). In 2020 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded over \$14.76 million in grants to Massachusetts for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE 3.0 percent of people in Massachusetts do not have health insurance coverage, well below the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing health care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Massachusetts has 362.8 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, ranking highest in the nation.

Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** 12.0 percent of adults in Massachusetts smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 3rd lowest in the nation. Yet, each year, 9,300 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Massachusetts and \$4.1 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Obesity** While the state boasts the 3rd lowest adult obesity rate in the nation – 25.2 percent of adults are obese – the obesity rate has more than doubled over the past two and a half decades. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** Drug deaths in Massachusetts have skyrocketed in recent years. In 2014, the rate of drug deaths per 100,000 people was 12.1, but that number has steadily climbed to 31.8 deaths per 100,000 people in 2019. This currently ranks the state 8th highest in the nation for drug deaths.
- **Excessive drinking** 21.3 percent of the adult population reports excessively drinking, ranking the state as the 9th highest in the nation. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other major health problems.
- **Lead risk** 30.8% of houses in Massachusetts are at high risk for lead exposure.

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 2021; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) State Fact Sheets, (March 2021). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/about/osh/state-fact-sheets/index.htm>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fiscal Year 2020 Grant Funding Profiles Totals, (July 2021). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/>



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