

THE FACTS

NORTH CAROLINA

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. North Carolina receives \$61 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) in public health funding. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state \$15.24 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

ACCESS TO CARE 11.3 percent of people in North Carolina do not have health insurance coverage compared with the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. North Carolina has 253.2 active primary care providers per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** 18.5 percent of adults smoke cigarettes in North Carolina. Each year, 14,200 people die from smoking-related illnesses in North Carolina and \$3.8 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Violent crime** In 2020, North Carolina reported 372 violent crime offenses per 100,000 people, ranking 28th lowest in the nation. The toll of violent crime can be staggering. Violent crimes may cause injuries, disability and early death. Additionally, violent crimes may cause long-term stress for families and communities, and interfere with leading a healthy lifestyle.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Children in poverty** 20.2 percent of children in North Carolina live in a household below the poverty line. This places North Carolina 13th highest in the nation. Poverty has been linked to higher rates of chronic disease and shorter life expectancy.
- **Low birthweight and infant mortality** 9.2 percent of live births in North Carolina are low birthweight, the 11th highest rate in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality. Additionally, the state has the 12th highest infant mortality rate with 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Infectious disease** North Carolina ranks 6th highest in the nation for chlamydia infection rates with 647.8 new cases per 100,000 population in 2020.

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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