

THE FACTS TENNESSEE

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. Tennessee receives \$100 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 \$12.58 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

ACCESS TO CARE 10.1 percent of people in Tennessee do not have health insurance coverage, which is above the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Tennessee has 268.5 active primary care providers per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Drug deaths** Tennessee reported 26.9 deaths due to drug injury per 100,000 people in 2020. This is above the national average of 20.6 deaths per 100,000 people and makes Tennessee the 12th highest in the nation for drug deaths.
- **High school graduation** 90.0 percent of students graduate from high school in Tennessee. This is the 5th highest rate in the nation. This is a notable measure as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Tobacco use** 19.9 percent of adults in Tennessee smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 8th highest in the nation. Each year, 11,400 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Tennessee and \$2.7 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Violent crime** The state has the 3rd highest violent crime rate in the nation with 595 offenses per 100,000 people. 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. However, violent crime can be prevented. Numerous programs and practices have shown that by addressing root causes it is possible to prevent violence.

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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