

THE FACTS WYOMING

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. Wyoming receives \$112 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 \$2.98 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020

ACCESS TO CARE 12.3 percent of people in Wyoming do not have health insurance coverage, well 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. Wyoming has 221.3 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, well below the national average of 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Drug deaths** Wyoming has the 8th lowest rate of drug deaths in the nation with 11.6 drug-related deaths per 100,000 population in 2020.
- **Air pollution** The state has the 2nd best air quality in the nation with an estimated 4.5 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, well below the national average of 8.3 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** 81.7 percent of students graduate from high school in Wyoming, ranking the state 11th lowest in the nation. Graduation rates are a 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** 18.4 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 2nd highest rate of occupational fatalities in the nation with 9.9 deaths per 100,000 workers.
- **Low birthweight** 9.4 percent of live births in Wyoming are low birthweight, ranking the state 6th highest in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality.

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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