

# THE FACTS ARKANSAS

## 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. Arkansas received \$194 per capita in public health funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources Services Administration. This ranks the state 23rd highest in the nation. In fiscal year 2023, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded over \$4.66 million in funding to the state for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 8.4% of people in Arkansas do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 8.0%. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Arkansas has 205.0 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, ranking 7th lowest in the nation. Nationally, there are 232.0 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

### Notable Health Measures

- **Diabetes** Diabetes increased 26% from 12.5% to 15.7% of adults between 2021 and 2022. This makes the state second highest in the nation for diabetes rates.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences** Arkansas ranks 8th highest in the nation for adverse childhood experiences, with 18.7% of children, ages 0-17, experiencing parental divorce, parental mental distress, parental death, etc.

### The Challenges Ahead

- **Obesity** Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. The state obesity rate has steadily increased over the past two and a half decades, ranking Arkansas 13th highest in the nation with 37.4% of the adult population obese.
- **Tobacco use** 12.7% of adults report smoking cigarettes, and 20.0% of high school students report using any tobacco product including e-cigarettes. The state experiences \$2.3 million in total annual morbidity-related productivity losses related to adults who currently smoke.

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 2024; 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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