

THE FACTS DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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. The District of Columbia receives \$1,267 total per capita in funds dedicated to public health, both from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). This is the highest per capita public health funding in the nation. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state \$7.38 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2023.

ACCESS TO CARE 2.9 percent of people in D.C. do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 8.0 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. D.C. has 411.3 active primary care providers per 100,000 people in comparison to the national rate of 232.0 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Drug deaths** Drug deaths increased 57% from 49.4 to 77.6 deaths per 100,000 population between 2019 and 2021.
- **Air pollution** D.C. ranks 12th highest in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 8.6 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Homicide** Homicide increased 36% from 21.7 to 29.6 deaths per 100,000 population between 2018-2019 and 2020-2021. Violent crime can be prevented. Numerous programs and practices have shown that by addressing root causes it is possible to prevent violence.
- **High school graduation** Only 73.0 percent of students in D.C. graduate high school compared to the national rate of 86.5 percent. This is a major 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. The health benefits of educational attainment accumulate and as a result will also impact the community level and social/cultural context.

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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