PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Hawaii receives $192 total per person in public health funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). This ranks Hawaii 3rd highest in the nation for public health funding per person. In 2018 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state over $4.6 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE  4.0 percent of people in Hawaii do not have health insurance coverage well below the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. This is the 2nd lowest uninsured rate in the country. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Hawaii has 193.9 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking above the national average of 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Smoking** 13.4 percent of the adult population smokes cigarettes, ranking Hawaii 8th lowest in the nation.

- **Violent crime** Hawaii’s rate of violent crime ranks 14th in the nation at 249 cases 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.

The Challenges Ahead

Based on a variety of health measures, Hawaii has ranked as the healthiest state for the past five years, and now ranks second. However, the state still faces health challenges, including:

- **Excessive drinking** 21.3 percent of the adult population reports excessively drinking, ranking the state as the 9th highest in the nation. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other major health problems.

- **Salmonella** Hawaii has the 10th highest rate of Salmonella in the U.S. with 19.7 cases per 100,000 people.

- **Obesity** Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. While the state boasts the 2nd lowest rate in the nation, the obesity rate has consistently increased from 9.1 percent of adults in 1990 to 24.9 percent of adults in 2019.

Sources: Trust for America’s Health, Investing in America’s Health; Trust for America’s Health, Prevention and Public Health Fund at Work in States; U.S. Census Bureau, 2015, 2016, and 2017 1-Year American Community Surveys; United Health Foundation, America’s Health Rankings; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Tobacco Control Program Funding.

The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a nearly 150-year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health. Learn more at [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org).