PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Idaho receives $150 total per person in public health funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). In 2018 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded over $5.1 million in grants to Idaho for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE  10.6 percent of people in Idaho do not have health insurance coverage, above the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Idaho has 96.6 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking last in the nation. Nationally, there are 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Violent crime** In 2019, there were 227 offenses per 100,000 people, ranking 11th lowest in the nation. This is well below the national rate of 381 offenses per 100,000 people.

- **Children in poverty** Idaho ranks 19th lowest in the country for percentage of children in poverty at 14.3 percent. Poverty has been linked to higher rates of chronic diseases and shorter life expectancy.

- **Tobacco use** 14.7 percent of adults smoke cigarettes in Idaho, ranking the state 16th lowest in the nation. However, 14.3 percent of teenagers reported using e-cigarettes, which is higher than the national youth rate at 13.2 percent. This is of concern as youth who use e-cigarettes are more likely to eventually turn to cigarette smoking.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** Drug deaths have been consistently increasing over the past decade. In 2008, there were 8.2 drug deaths per 100,000 people, which climbed to 14.5 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2019.

- **High school graduation** 79.7 percent of students graduate from high school in Idaho, the 8th lowest graduation rate in the nation. This is of 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.

- **Dental Care** Only 65.6 percent of the population visits their dentist annually, ranking the state 32nd in the nation. Additionally, Idaho has experienced a decline in the amount of active dentists in the state, from 57.8 per 100,000 people in 2015 to 53.3 per 100,000 people in 2019. Regular dental appointments can ensure proper daily oral care and can prevent oral cancers.

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).