THE FACTS
ILLINOIS

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Illinois receives $73 per person total from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). This ranks the state 37th in the nation for per person funding, with the highest funded state at $281 per person. In 2018 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded Illinois over $18.2 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE  6.9 percent of people in Illinois do not have health insurance coverage, which is below the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Illinois has 190.0 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is more than the national average of 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking the state 10th in the nation.

Notable Health Measures

• **Tobacco use** The percentage of adult smokers has decreased over recent years from 21.2 percent in 2012 to 15.5 percent in 2019.

• **Mental distress** 11.4 percent of adults reported their mental health was not good 14 or more days in the past 30 days, ranking 12th lowest in the nation in terms of frequency of mental distress.

The Challenges Ahead

• **Excessive drinking** 20.4 percent of the adult population reports excessively drinking, ranking the state 10th highest in the nation. Excessive drinking can lead to negative health outcomes including fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases.

• **Drug deaths** Deaths due to drug injury have steadily increased in the past four years, from 11.1 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2014 to 18.1 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2019.

• **Cancer deaths** There is a high rate of cancer deaths in Illinois – 198.7 deaths per 100,000 people. This is above the national average of 189.3 cancer deaths per 100,000 people.

• **Air pollution** Illinois is ranked 48th in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 9.3 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.

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.