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.

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

**PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING**  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Kentucky receives $87 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) dedicated to public health. In fiscal year 2018, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded Kentucky about $9.1 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**ACCESS TO CARE**  5.5 percent of people in Kentucky do not have health insurance coverage, which is well 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. Kentucky has 127.0 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is well below the national average of 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

**Notable Health Measures**

- **High school graduation**  89.7 percent of students graduate from high school in Kentucky, ranking 4th highest in the nation. This is a notable measure as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.

- **Violent crime**  Violent crime has decreased significantly over recent years, and is currently reported at 212 cases of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault per 100,000 people. This ranks Kentucky 7th lowest in the nation for cases of violent crime.

**The Challenges Ahead**

- **Obesity**  36.6 percent of adults in Kentucky are obese, ranking 5th highest in the nation. Obesity contributes to poor health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. Each year, an estimated $190.2 billion is spent on obesity-related issues in the U.S.

- **Diabetes**  The current diabetes rate is 13.7 percent of the adult population, ranking the state 7th highest in the nation.

- **Drug deaths**  In the past ten years, drug deaths increased significantly from 15.0 cases per 100,000 people in 2008 to 32.2 cases per 100,000 people in 2019. This is the 5th highest rate in the nation, and well above the national rate of 19.2 cases per 100,000 people.

- **Tobacco use**  23.4 percent of the adult population smokes cigarettes in Kentucky, ranking the state second highest in the nation. Each year, about 8,860 people die from smoking-attributable diseases, such as heart and lung disease.

- **Cancer deaths**  Not surprisingly due to the state’s smoking rate, Kentucky has the most cancer deaths in the U.S. (233.4 deaths per 100,000 people).