

# THE FACTS KENTUCKY

## 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. Kentucky receives \$169 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 2023, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded Kentucky about \$6.67 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 5.6 percent of people in Kentucky do not have health insurance coverage, which is well below the national uninsured rate of 8.0 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Kentucky has 270.8 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, which is well above the national average of 232.0 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

### Notable Health Measures

- **High school graduation** 91.1 percent of students graduate from high school in Kentucky, ranking 3rd 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** Homicide increased 58% from 5.7 to 9.0 deaths per 100,000 population between 2018-2019 and 2020-2021.

### The Challenges Ahead

- **Obesity** 37.7 percent of adults in Kentucky are obese, ranking 9th highest in the nation. Obesity contributes to poor health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **Diabetes** The current diabetes rate is 14.8 percent of the adult population, ranking the state 5th highest in the nation.
- **Drug deaths** Drug deaths increased significantly from 15.0 cases per 100,000 people in 2008 to 53.7 cases per 100,000 people in 2021. This is the 4th highest rate in the nation, and well above the national rate of 32.1 cases per 100,000 people.
- **Tobacco use** 17.4% of adults report smoking cigarettes, and 22.5% of high school students report using any tobacco product including e-cigarettes. The state experiences \$2.7 million in total annual morbidity-related productivity losses related to adults who currently smoke.

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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