PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Maine receives $99 per person total from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) in public health funding. In 2018 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state over $6.3 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE  8.1 percent of people in Maine do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Maine has 199.1 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 7th highest in the nation.

Notable Health Measures

• High school graduation  86.9 percent of students graduate from high school in Maine, ranking the state 19th 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  The state has the lowest violent crime rate in the nation with 112 offenses per 100,000 people.

• Air pollution  5.9 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, ranking the state 7th lowest in air pollution in the nation. Poor air quality leads to reduced lung function, risk of asthma complications, heart attacks, heart failure, and death, and particularly impacts young children and older adults.

The Challenges Ahead

• Tobacco use  17.8 percent of adults in Maine smoke cigarettes, which is the same as the national percentage. Each year, 2,400 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Maine and $811 million is spent on smoking-related health care.

• Child Immunization  72.7 percent of children received recommended vaccines in 2019, ranking the state with the 17th highest vaccinated child population in the country.

• Drug deaths  The rate of drug deaths in Maine has skyrocketed in recent years—climbing from 11.0 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2014 to 27.0 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2019. This ranks Maine with the 10th highest rate of drug deaths in the country.

• Pertussis  The state has the the highest rate of pertussis cases in the nation with 30.7 cases of pertussis per 100,000 people. Also known as whooping cough, pertussis is highly contagious, but can be prevented through immunization.

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.