PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Maryland receives $104 per person total 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 Maryland $14.8 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE  6.1 percent of people in Maryland do not have health insurance coverage, well below the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. The number of practicing health care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Maryland has 192.1 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 9th highest in the nation. Additionally, Maryland has 70.6 dentists per 100,000 people, ranking 10th highest in the nation.

Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** 12.5 percent of adults in Maryland smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 5th lowest in the nation. Still, about 7,500 people die from smoking-related illnesses each year in the state, and $2.7 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.

- **High school graduation** 87.7 percent of students graduate from high school in Maryland, which is above the national average of 84.6 percent of students. 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.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** Maryland’s drug death rate has exponentially increased in recent years. In 2014, there were 12.2 reports of drug deaths per 100,000 people—which continued to grow yearly to the current rate of 30.2 cases per 100,000 people. This is the 6th highest rate of drug deaths in the country, with the national average at 19.2 drug deaths per 100,000 people.

- **Violent crime** The state is ranked 11th highest in the nation for violent crime, with 469 offenses per 100,000 people. Violent crimes may cause injuries, disability and early death. Additionally, violent crimes may cause long-term stress for families and communities, and interfere with leading a healthy lifestyle. However, violent crime can be prevented. Numerous programs and practices have shown that by addressing root causes it is possible to prevent violence.

- **Low birthweight and infant mortality** In Maryland, 8.9 percent of live births are low birthweight, ranking 37th in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality. The state is ranked 35th in the nation for infant mortality with 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

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.