PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Michigan receives $58 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) in public health funding. In 2018 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state $17.9 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE  5.3 percent of people in Michigan do not have health insurance coverage, 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. Michigan has 205.2 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 6th highest in the nation. Additionally, Michigan has 60.6 dentists per 100,000 people, ranking 18th highest in the nation.

Notable Health Measures

• Violent crime: While Michigan’s violent crime rate is still above the national average of 449 offenses per 100,000 people, it has decreased significantly over the last two and a half decades. However, the state experienced a recent increase from 416 offenses per 100,000 people in 2016 to 449 offenses per 100,000 people in 2019.
• Drug deaths: In the past three years, drug deaths significantly—rising from 13.9 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2014 to 23.9 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2019. This ranks Michigan 14th highest for rate of drug deaths in the nation; with the national rate at 19.2 drug deaths per 100,000 people.
• Cardiovascular deaths: Michigan has the 8th highest cardiovascular death rate with 300.7 cardiovascular deaths per 100,000 people.

The Challenges Ahead

• Tobacco use  18.9 percent of the adult population smokes cigarettes in Michigan, ranking the state 15th highest in the nation. While this number has been steadily decreasing in recent years, Michigan is ranked 15th highest in the nation for smoking. Each year, 16,200 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Michigan and $4.6 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
• High school graduation  80.2 percent of students graduate from high school in Michigan, which is below the national average of 84.6 percent. This is of public health concern as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
• Obesity  33.0 percent of the adult population in Michigan is obese—the 11th highest rate in the nation. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

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.