PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  
Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Montana receives $120 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) in public health funds. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state $6.94 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

ACCESS TO CARE  
8.4 percent of people in Montana do not have health insurance coverage compared with the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Montana has 116.0 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 7th lowest in the nation. Nationally, there are 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Obesity:** While Montana ranks 6th lowest in terms of obesity rate, the rate has more than doubled since 1990, with 26.9 percent of the adult population now obese in the state. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

- **Air pollution:** 6.6 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, ranking the state 11th lowest in air pollution in the nation. Reduced exposure to air pollution is important to public health as poor air quality leads to reduced lung function, increased risk of asthma complications, heart attacks, heart failure and death, and impacts a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Excessive drinking**  
Montana has the 11th highest excessive drinking rate in the nation with 20.1 percent of the adult population reporting excessively drinking. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other major health problems.

- **Child Immunization**  
About 66.2 percent of the child population in Montana has received recommended vaccine doses. This is the 4th lowest rate of immunization in the country, with the national rate at 70.4 percent and the highest state rate at 82.1 percent. Childhood vaccinations are shown to dramatically reduce the number of cases of pertussis, measles, mumps, and diphtheria, and other diseases within a population.

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.