

THE FACTS MONTANA

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. Montana receives \$125 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 \$6.62 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

ACCESS TO CARE 8.3 percent of people in Montana do not have health insurance coverage compared with the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Montana has 261.5 active primary care providers per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Obesity:** Montana ranks 9th lowest in the nation in terms of obesity rate, with 28.3 percent of adults diagnosed as obese. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **Air pollution:** 6.3 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, ranking the state 9th 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 4th highest excessive drinking rate in the nation with 21.8 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 69.1 percent of the child population in Montana has received recommended vaccine doses. This is the 3rd lowest rate of immunization in the country, with the national rate at 75.8 percent and the highest state rate at 86.6 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: 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 2021; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) State Fact Sheets, (March 2021). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/about/osh/state-fact-sheets/index.htm>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fiscal Year 2020 Grant Funding Profiles Totals, (July 2021). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/>



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