

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Nebraska receives $98 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) in public health funding. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state $8.54 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

ACCESS TO CARE  8.3 percent of people in Nebraska 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. Nebraska has 158.2 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, compared to the national average of 159.6 physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Low birthweight**  7.5 percent of the infant population in Nebraska is considered low birthweight. This ranks the state for 15th lowest prevalence of low birthweight infants; and is lower than the national rate at 8.3 percent. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality.

- **High school graduation**  89.1 percent of students in Nebraska graduate high school, ranking 8th 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.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Obesity**  Rates of obesity have been consistently climbing since 1990. At that time, about 11.6 percent of the adult population was obese, but that number has increased each year to the current rate of 34.1 percent.

- **Excessive drinking**  22.3 percent of adults reported drinking excessively in Nebraska. While this percentage has followed a decreasing pattern in recent years, this percentage is still dangerously high. Nebraska is has the 6th largest percentage of adults who drink excessively. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other major health problems.

- **Pertussis**  Nebraska has pertussis rate of 5.1 cases per 100,000 people. The state has shown a dramatic decrease in cases in the past two years. In 2017, there were a staggering 27.2 cases of pertussis per 100,000 people; the highest in the country at the time. 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.