

# THE FACTS NEW MEXICO

**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. New Mexico receives \$226 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 \$10.32 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 10.0 percent of people in New Mexico 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. New Mexico has 247.9 active primary care providers per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Air pollution** 5.9 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, ranking the state 8th 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.
- **Exercise** New Mexico ranks 8th highest in the nation for physical activity, with 25.7 percent of adults reporting physical activity that meets the federal physical activity guidelines.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **High school graduation** 73.9 percent of students graduate from high school in New Mexico, ranking lowest in the nation. This is a major 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.
- **Drug deaths** New Mexico is ranked 15th highest in the nation for deaths due to drug injury with 26.4 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Violent crime** New Mexico has the 2nd highest violent crime rate in the nation. The rate of violent crime in New Mexico was 832 cases of violent crime per 100,000 people in 2020. Violent crimes may cause injuries, disability and early death. 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 have shown that by addressing root causes it is possible to prevent violence.

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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