PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. New Mexico receives $220 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 $9.98 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

ACCESS TO CARE  9.3 percent of people in New Mexico 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. New Mexico has 144.7 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Air pollution**  6.0 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.

- **Cancer deaths**  Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in the nation. The cancer death rate in New Mexico is the 7th lowest in the nation with 170.0 deaths per 100,000 people.

The Challenges Ahead

- **High school graduation**  71.1 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 12th highest in the nation for deaths due to drug injury with 24.7 deaths per 100,000 people.

- **Violent crime**  New Mexico has the 2nd highest violent crime rate in the nation. The rate of violent crime has grown 39.8 percent in the past four years, from 613 cases of violent crime per 100,000 people in 2015 to 857 cases of violent crime per 100,000 people in 2019. 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: 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.

The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a nearly 150-year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health. Learn more at [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org).