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.

Public Health Funding

Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. North Dakota receives $113 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) for public health funding. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state $5.00 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

Access to Care

7.4 percent of people in North Dakota 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. North Dakota has 154.9 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Low birthweight** 6.7 percent of live births are low birthweight in North Dakota. This is the 4th lowest rate in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality.

- **Drug deaths** North Dakota has the 3rd lowest rate of deaths due to drug injury with 9.3 deaths per 100,000 people.

- **Tobacco use** 19.1 percent of adults in North Dakota regularly smoke cigarettes. Each year, 1,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses in North Dakota and $326 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Excessive drinking** 22.8 percent of the adult population in North Dakota reports drinking excessively. The state ranks 4th highest in the nation. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other major health problems.

- **Obesity** 35.1 percent of the adult population in North Dakota is obese. The adult obesity rate in the state has more than doubled since 1990. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

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.