PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Ohio receives $53 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 $16.62 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

ACCESS TO CARE  6.3 percent of people in Ohio do not have health insurance coverage, well below the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Ohio has 178.2 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Drug deaths**  In the past four years, drug deaths in Ohio have almost doubled from 18.9 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2015 to 37.3 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2019. The state has the 2nd highest drug death rate in the nation.

- **High school graduation**  84.2 percent of students graduate from high school in Ohio. 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

- **Tobacco use**  20.5 percent of the adult population regularly smokes cigarettes in Ohio, ranking the state the 6th highest in the nation. Each year, 20,200 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Ohio and $5.6 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.

- **Air pollution**  Ohio is ranked 6th highest in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 8.5 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

- **Infant mortality**  Ohio has the 9th highest infant mortality rate in the nation with 7.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.

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.