PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Pennsylvania receives $57 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 $18.11 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

ACCESS TO CARE  5.5 percent of people in Pennsylvania do not have health insurance coverage, which is 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. Pennsylvania has 216.3 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, well above the nation average of 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use**  In the past four years, the smoking rate in Pennsylvania has decreased from 19.9 percent of adults regularly smoking cigarettes to 17.0 percent of adults regularly smoking cigarettes. Yet, each year, 22,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Pennsylvania and $6.4 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.

- **Physical inactivity**  The physical inactivity rate in Pennsylvania is 24.0 percent, compared to the national inactivity rate which is 23.8 percent.

- **Obesity**  30.9 percent of the adult population in Pennsylvania is obese, ranking the state 25th in the nation. 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.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths**  Pennsylvania has the 4th highest drug death rate in the nation. In the past four years, drug deaths have almost doubled from 18.7 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2015 to 35.1 drug deaths per 100,000 people in 2019.

- **Air pollution**  Pennsylvania has the 4th highest rate of air pollution in the nation with an estimated 9.2 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.

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.