PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Virginia receives $77 per person total 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 $15.81 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

ACCESS TO CARE   8.8 percent of people in Virginia do not have health insurance coverage, which is equal to the national uninsured rate. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Virginia has 148.1 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is below the national average of 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Drug deaths**  Virginia has the 18th lowest drug death rate in the nation with 15.4 deaths per 100,000 people.

- **Infant mortality**  In the past four years, infant mortality decreased 6 percent from 6.3 to 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. However, while having made progress to reduce infant mortality, the state infant mortality rate remains consistently higher than that of other developed countries.

- **Violent crime**  Virginia has the 4th lowest violent crime rate in the nation with 200 offenses per 100,000 people. The national rate is much higher at 381 offenses per 100,000 people.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Tobacco use**  In the past four years, smoking decreased 23.6 percent from 19.5 percent to 14.9 percent of adults. Yet, each year, 10,300 adults die from smoking-related illnesses in Virginia and $3.1 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.

- **Obesity**  30.3 percent of adults in Virginia are obese. The obesity rate has nearly tripled since 1990. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

- **Diabetes**  In the past four years, diabetes increased 8.2 percent from 9.7 percent to 10.5 percent of 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.