

# THE FACTS VIRGINIA

**Speak**  
for **Health**

AN INITIATIVE OF THE  
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING** Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Virginia receives \$80 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 \$21.34 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 7.9 percent of people in Virginia do not have health insurance coverage, compared to the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Virginia has 230.3 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, which is below the national average of 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Drug deaths** Virginia has the 20th lowest drug death rate in the nation with 16.8 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Infant mortality** In the past five 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 6th lowest violent crime rate in the nation with 208 offenses per 100,000 people. The national rate is much higher at 379 offenses per 100,000 people.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **Tobacco use** 14.0 percent of Virginia adults report smoking cigarettes regularly. 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** 31.9 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** 10.9 percent of adults in Virginia have been diagnosed with diabetes, similar to the national average of 10.8 percent.

Sources: America's Health Rankings analysis of Trust for America's Health, U.S. HHS, U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population, United Health Foundation, AmericasHealthRankings.org, Accessed 2021; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) State Fact Sheets, (March 2021). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/about/osh/state-fact-sheets/index.htm>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fiscal Year 2020 Grant Funding Profiles Totals, (July 2021). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/>



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