PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Washington receives $96 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 $11.02 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 Washington do not have health insurance coverage, which is below the national uninsured rate is 8.8 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Washington has 150.0 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is slightly below the national average of 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Drug deaths**  Washington has a relatively low rate of drug deaths at 15.2 deaths due to drug injury per 100,000 people. The national rate is 19.2 drug deaths per 100,000 people.

- **Infant mortality**  Washington has the 4th lowest infant mortality rate in the nation with 4.1 deaths per 1,000 live births.

- **Cardiovascular deaths**  The state has the 6th lowest cardiovascular death rate in the nation with 222.4 deaths per 100,000 people.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Tobacco use**  Despite boasting the 3rd lowest adult smoking rate in the nation, each year, 8,300 adults die from smoking-related illnesses in Washington and $2.8 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.

- **High school graduation**  79.4 percent of students in Washington graduate from high school. This is the 7th lowest high school graduation rate in the nation. This is a major public health concern as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.

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.