

THE FACTS WEST 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. West Virginia receives \$147 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 \$5.97 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

ACCESS TO CARE 6.7 percent of people in West Virginia do not have health insurance coverage, which is below the national uninsured rate is 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. West Virginia has 282.7 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, which is above the national average of 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **High school graduation** West Virginia has the 4th highest high school graduation rate in the nation, with 90.2 percent of students graduating from high school. There is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- **Excessive drinking** The state has the second lowest rate of excessive drinking with 13.2 percent of adults having reported drinking excessively.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** West Virginia has the highest rate of drug-related death in the nation, with 49.1 drug-related deaths per 100,000 population in 2020. This is more than double the national average of 20.6 drug-related deaths per 100,000 population.
- **Tobacco use** 23.8 percent of the adult population smokes in West Virginia. This is the highest rate in the nation. Each year, 4,300 adults die from smoking-related illnesses in West Virginia and \$1.0 billion is spent on health care costs due to do smoking.
- **Obesity** The state has the 2nd highest adult obesity rate in the nation with 39.7 percent of the adult population obese. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

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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