PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING  Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. West Virginia receives $140 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 $4.94 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 West Virginia 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. West Virginia has 172.8 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is above the national average of 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Infectious diseases**  West Virginia has the lowest rate infectious disease in the nation, based on rates of pertussis, chlamydia, and Salmonella.

- **Excessive drinking**  The state has the second lowest rate of excessive drinking with 12.6 percent of adults having reported drinking excessively.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths**  In the past four years, drug deaths increased 49.1 percent from 32.4 to 48.3 deaths per 100,000 people. This is the highest death rate due to drug injury in the nation.

- **Tobacco use**  25.2 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 highest adult obesity rate in the nation with 39.5 percent of the adult population obese. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

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.