

THE FACTS

MASSACHUSETTS

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. Massachusetts receives \$253 total per person in public health funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). In fiscal year 2023, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded over \$11.61 million in grants to Massachusetts for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE 2.4 percent of people in Massachusetts do not have health insurance coverage, well below the national uninsured rate of 8.0 percent. The number of practicing health care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Massachusetts has 322.1 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, ranking highest in the nation.

Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** 10.4% of adults report smoking cigarettes, and 18.7% of high school students report using any tobacco product including e-cigarettes. The state experiences \$3.3 million in total annual morbidity-related productivity losses related to adults who currently smoke.
- **Obesity** While the state boasts the 4th lowest adult obesity rate in the nation – 27.2 percent of adults are obese – the obesity rate has more than doubled over the past two and a half decades. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** Drug deaths in Massachusetts have skyrocketed in recent years. In 2014, the rate of drug deaths per 100,000 people was 12.1, but that number has steadily climbed to 36.2 deaths per 100,000 people in 2022, compared to a national average of 32.1 deaths per 100,000.
- **Excessive drinking** 19.1 percent of the adult population reports excessively drinking, ranking the state as the 16th highest in the nation. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other major health problems.
- **Lead risk** 29.7% of houses in Massachusetts are at high risk for lead exposure, the third highest rate in the nation. Lead exposure can have long-term effects on children's brain development.

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 2024; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) State Fact Sheets, (2023). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/state-fact-sheets/index.htm>. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Funding Profiles Totals, (2023). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/>



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