

# THE FACTS ARKANSAS

**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. Arkansas received \$128 per capita in public health funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources Services Administration. This ranks the state 21st in the nation. In fiscal year 2021, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded over \$3.02 million in funding to the state for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 9.2% of people in Arkansas do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 8.6%. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Arkansas has 230.6 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, ranking 6th lowest in the nation. Nationally, there are 265.3 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Violent crime** After nearly a decade of the violent crime rate decreasing, Arkansas recently experienced a 29% increase from 460 offenses per 100,000 people in 2015 to 672 offenses per 100,000 people in 2021. Arkansas now ranks 3rd highest in the nation for violent crime. Violent crimes may cause injuries, disability and early death. Additionally, violent crimes may cause long-term stress for families and communities, and interfere with leading a healthy life by discouraging physical activity. However, violent crime can be prevented. Numerous programs and practices have shown that by addressing root causes it is possible to prevent violence.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences** Arkansas ranks 7th worst in the nation for adverse childhood experiences, with 18.7% of children, ages 0-17, experiencing parental divorce, parental mental distress, parental death, etc.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **Obesity** Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. The state obesity rate has steadily increased over the past two and a half decades, ranking Arkansas 6th in the nation with 38.7% of the adult population obese.
- **Tobacco use** 21.1% of adults smoke cigarettes, ranking Arkansas the 2nd highest in the nation. Each year, about 5,800 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Arkansas and \$1.2 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.

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 2023; 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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