

THE FACTS ALASKA

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. Alaska receives \$289 per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources Services Administration in public health funding. In fiscal year 2020 the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state \$8.44 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE 12.2% of people in Alaska do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 9.2%. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Alaska has 321.2 active primary care providers per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **High school graduation** Alaska's graduation rate is 78.5% which is significantly lower than the national graduation rate of 85.3%. This data is of concern given the connection between education and health. Individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- **Diabetes** 7.3% of adults have diabetes, ranking the state 2nd lowest in the nation.
- **Chlamydia** 832.5 cases per 100,000 people, ranking the state the highest in the nation.
- **Flu Vaccination** Alaska has the fourth lowest rate of flu vaccination at 37.4%.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Tobacco use** 17.4% of the adult population smokes cigarettes, higher than the national average of 15.9%. Each year 600 Alaskans died from smoking-related illnesses. Smoking-attributable costs, such as prescription drugs and medical care, consume about \$438 million of Alaska's annual budget.
- **Violent crime** The number of violent offenses in the state has been steadily increasing in the past four years, and reported 867 violent crimes in 2020. Alaska currently has the highest violent crime rate in the country. 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 lifestyle. However, violent crime can be prevented. Numerous programs and practices have shown that by addressing root causes it is possible to prevent violence.

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/>



The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a nearly 150-year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health. Learn more at www.apha.org.