

# THE FACTS COLORADO

**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. Colorado receives \$104 per person in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), ranking the state 21st in the country. In fiscal year 2020, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded \$11.05 million in grants to Colorado for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 8.0 percent of people in Colorado do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Colorado has 256 active primary care providers per 100,000 people in comparison to 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people nationally.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Obesity and physical activity** Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. While the state boasts the lowest rate in the nation with 23.8 percent of adults obese, the obesity rate has tripled in Colorado over the past two and a half decades. The state also holds the 2nd lowest rate of physical inactivity among adults with 18.7 percent of adults physically inactive.
- **Mental distress** Colorado ranks 13th in the nation for rates of mental distress, with 11.9% of adults reporting that their mental health was not good on 14 or more days within the past 30 days.
- **Chlamydia** The number of new cases of chlamydia per 100,000 people has been steadily increasing since 2015 when there were about 393 reported cases. In 2020, the state reported 519.4 cases.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **High school graduation** 80.8 percent of students graduate high school in Colorado, ranking the state the 7th lowest in the nation. This is of public health concern as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors. The health benefits of educational attainment accumulate and as a result will also impact the community level and social/cultural context.
- **Low birthweight** 9.4% of infants born in Colorado weigh less than 5 lbs, 8 oz, ranking the state 42nd in the nation for healthy birthweight.

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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