

THE FACTS

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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. The District of Columbia receives \$874 total per capita in funds dedicated to public health, both from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). This is the highest per capita public health funding in the nation. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state \$10.93 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2021.

ACCESS TO CARE 3.7 percent of people in D.C. do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 8.6 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. D.C. has 546.43 active primary care providers per 100,000 people in comparison to the national rate of 265.3 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** D.C. ranks 3rd lowest in the nation for smoking rates, with 9.5 percent of adults regularly smoking cigarettes. Yet, each year, about 800 people die from smoking-related illnesses in D.C. and \$391 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Air pollution** D.C. ranks 42nd in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 8.7 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Violent crime** There were 1,000 violent offenses per 100,000 people in D.C. in 2022, topping the highest ranked state of Alaska at 838 offenses per 100,000 people and well above the national rate of 399 offenses per 100,000 people. 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.
- **High school graduation** Only 68.9 percent of students in D.C. graduate high school compared to the national rate of 85.8 percent. This is a major 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.

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/>



The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We are the only organization that combines a 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence policy to improve the public's health. Learn more at www.apha.org.