

THE FACTS LOUISIANA

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. Louisiana receives \$94 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) for public health funding. In 2020 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state about \$12.41 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE 8.9 percent of people in Louisiana do not have health insurance coverage, below the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Louisiana has 217.2 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, which is below the national average of 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **High school graduation** 81.4 percent of students graduate from high school in Louisiana, ranking the state 9th 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.
- **Diabetes** Louisiana ranks 12th highest in the nation for diabetes rates with 12.6 percent of adults being diagnosed with diabetes.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Tobacco use** 21.9 percent of adults in Louisiana smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 3rd highest in the nation. Each year, 7,210 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Louisiana and \$1.9 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Obesity** 35.9 percent of adults in Louisiana are obese. The state has the 9th highest obesity rate in the nation. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. Each year, an estimated \$190.2 billion is spent on obesity-related health issues in the U.S., accounting for 21 percent of annual medical spending.
- **Low birthweight** 10.8 percent of live births are low birthweight in Louisiana, ranking the state 2nd highest in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality.

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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