

THE FACTS MARYLAND

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. Maryland receives \$108 per person total in public health funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). In 2020 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded Maryland \$17.78 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE 6.0 percent of people in Maryland do not have health insurance coverage, well below the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing health care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Maryland has 263.8 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, ranking 20th highest in the nation.

Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** 12.7 percent of adults in Maryland smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 7th lowest in the nation. Still, about 7,500 people die from smoking-related illnesses each year in the state, and \$2.7 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **High school graduation** 87.1 percent of students graduate from high school in Maryland, which is above the national average of 85.3 percent of students. This is a notable measure as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** Maryland's drug death rate has exponentially increased in recent years. In 2014, there were 12.2 reports of drug deaths per 100,000 people—which continued to grow yearly to the current rate of 37.7 cases per 100,000 people. This is the 3rd highest rate of drug deaths in the country, with the national average at 20.6 drug deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Violent crime** The state is ranked 11th highest in the nation for violent crime, with 454 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.
- **Low birthweight** In Maryland, 8.8 percent of live births are low birthweight, ranking 36th 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/>



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.