

# THE FACTS MISSOURI

**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. Missouri receives \$61 per person total from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) in public health funding. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state \$13.00 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 10.0 percent of people in Missouri do not have health insurance coverage compared with the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing health care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Missouri has 259.4 active primary care providers per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Obesity** 34.8 percent of adults in Missouri are obese compared to the national average of 31.9 percent. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **Diabetes** In the past four years, diabetes rates have decreased—dropping from 11.5 percent of the adult population in 2016 to 10.3 percent in 2020.
- **High school graduation** 89.2 percent of students graduate from high school in Missouri, ranking 9th highest in the nation. 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

- **Tobacco use** 19.6 percent of adults regularly smoke cigarettes in Missouri, ranking the state 9th highest in the nation. Each year, 11,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Missouri and \$3 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Violent crime** In 2020, there were 495 offenses per 100,000 people in Missouri, which is the 8th highest rate of violent crime in the nation. 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.
- **Excessive drinking** Missouri's excessive drinking rates have steadily increased in recent years, from 17.7 percent of the adult population excessively drinking in 2016 to 18.1 percent of the population excessively drinking in 2020.

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](http://www.apha.org).