

# THE FACTS RHODE ISLAND

**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. Rhode Island receives \$141 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) for public health funding. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state \$6.18 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 4.4 percent of people in Rhode Island do not have health insurance coverage, well below the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Rhode Island has 274.9 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. This is the highest rate in the nation. Nationally, there are 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Infant mortality** The infant mortality rate in Rhode Island is 6.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, ranking the state 26th in the nation.
- **Tobacco use** 14.6 percent of adults in Rhode Island smoke cigarettes, ranking 15th lowest in the nation. Each year, 1,800 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Rhode Island and \$640 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Cancer deaths** Rhode Island ranks 27th lowest in the nation for cancer deaths with 191.7 deaths per 100,000 people.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** The state has the 7th highest drug death rate in the nation, with 19.6 drug deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Obesity** 27.7 percent of adults in Rhode Island are obese. And while the state boasts a relatively low adult obesity rate in comparison to other states, the obesity rate has more than doubled over the past two and a half decades. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **Physical inactivity** 25.3 percent of adults report doing no physical activity in the past 30 days in Rhode Island. Staying active can help reduce the likelihood of heart diseases, along with other serious illnesses.

Sources: Trust for America's Health, Investing in America's Health; Trust for America's Health, Prevention and Public Health Fund at Work in States; U.S. Census Bureau, 2015, 2016, and 2017 1-Year American Community Surveys; United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Tobacco Control Program Funding.



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