

# THE FACTS SOUTH CAROLINA

**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. South Carolina receives \$84 total per person 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 \$9.85 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 10.8 percent of people in South Carolina do not have health insurance coverage, which is above the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. South Carolina has 226.2 active primary care providers per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Excessive drinking** South Carolina ranks 12th highest for excessive drinking, with 20.1 percent of adults reporting drinking excessively in 2020. Excessive alcohol use can lead to fetal damage, liver diseases, high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases and other health problems.
- **Preventable hospitalizations** The state has a relatively low rate of preventable hospitalization with 4,141 discharges for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **High school graduation** 81.0 percent of students graduate from high school in South Carolina, ranking the state 8th lowest in the nation. There is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- **Low birthweight** 9.6 percent of live births in South Carolina are low birthweight. This is the 5th highest rate of low birthweight babies in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality.
- **Tobacco use** 17.5 percent of adults in South Carolina regularly smoke cigarettes, which is above the national rate of 15.9 percent. Each year, 7,200 people die from smoking-related illnesses in South Carolina and \$1.9 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.

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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