Public Health Funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Arizona receives $21.94 per person in funding from CDC (31st in the nation) and $20.44 per person from HRSA (44th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over $62.4 million in grants to Arizona since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to Care: 10.0 percent of people in Arizona do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 8.6 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Arizona has 126.0 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 149.7 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- Tobacco use: Over the past five years, smoking has decreased 24 percent from 19.3 percent to 14.7 percent of adults, ranking the state 13th lowest in the nation.
- Cancer deaths: 169.6 cancer deaths per 100,000 people, which is below the national average of 189.8 deaths per 100,000 people and ranks the state 6th lowest in the nation.
- Air pollution: 9.7 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, ranking the state 5th highest in air pollution in the nation. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

The Challenges Ahead

- High school graduation: 77.4 percent of students graduate from high school, ranking 7th lowest in the nation, which is of public health concern given that individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- Drug deaths: 19 deaths due to drug overdose per 100,000 people, ranking the state 14th highest in the nation. Deaths due to drug injury have increased by 32 percent in the past ten years. Additionally, opioids have had a significant impact on Arizona’s medical care system due to the volume and cost of hospital admission and emergency department use.
- Mental Health: There are 121.9 mental health providers per 100,000 people in Arizona compared to the national average of 218, ranking the state 47th in the nation. 11.7 percent of adults in Arizona experience frequent mental distress, which is equal to the national average.

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.