

# THE FACTS KENTUCKY

**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. Kentucky receives \$110 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) dedicated to public health. In fiscal year 2021, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded Kentucky about \$7.28 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 5.7 percent of people in Kentucky do not have health insurance coverage, which is well below the national uninsured rate of 8.6 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Kentucky has 297.3 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, which is well above the national average of 265.3 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **High school graduation** 90.6 percent of students graduate from high school in Kentucky, ranking 4th 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.
- **Violent crime** Violent crime has decreased over recent years, and is currently reported at 259 cases of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault per 100,000 people. This ranks Kentucky 11th lowest in the nation for cases of violent crime.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **Obesity** 40.3 percent of adults in Kentucky are obese, ranking 2nd highest in the nation. Obesity contributes to poor health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases. Each year, an estimated \$190.2 billion is spent on obesity-related issues in the U.S.
- **Diabetes** The current diabetes rate is 13.8 percent of the adult population, ranking the state 5th highest in the nation.
- **Drug deaths** In the past ten years, drug deaths increased significantly from 15.0 cases per 100,000 people in 2008 to 47.3 cases per 100,000 people in 2022. This is the 2nd highest rate in the nation, and well above the national rate of 27.9 cases per 100,000 people.
- **Tobacco use** 19.6 percent of the adult population smokes cigarettes in Kentucky, ranking the state 5th highest in the nation.

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 2023; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) State Fact Sheets, (2023). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/state-fact-sheets/index.htm>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Funding Profiles Totals, (2023). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/>



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