

# THE FACTS NEVADA

**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. Nevada receives \$46 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 \$4.05 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2018.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 11.2 percent of people in Nevada do not have health insurance coverage, well above the national uninsured rate of 8.8 percent. This is the 8th highest uninsured rate in the country. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Nevada has 107.4 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, ranking 3rd lowest in the nation. Nationally, there are 159.6 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** 15.7 percent of adults in Nevada smoke cigarettes. Each year, 4,050 people die from smoking-related illnesses in Nevada and \$1.1 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Obesity** 29.5 percent of adults in Nevada 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.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **High school graduation** Only 80.9 percent of students graduate from high school in Nevada, ranking the state 11th lowest in the nation. This is a major public health concern as there is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- **Drug deaths** The rate of drug-related deaths in Nevada is 22.1 deaths per 100,000 people, ranking the state 33rd lowest in the nation. The national rate is 19.2 drug deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Violent crime** Nevada has the 5th highest violent crime rate in the nation, with 541 offenses per 100,000 people. 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.

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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