THE FACTS: New Jersey

Public Health Funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. New Jersey receives $17.29 per person in funding from CDC (48th in the nation) and $20.34 per person from HRSA (46th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over $62 million in grants to New Jersey since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to Care: 8.0 percent of people in New Jersey do not have health insurance coverage compared with the national uninsured rate of 8.6 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. New Jersey has 171.1 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: Adult smoking has decreased 19 percent from 17.3 percent in 2013 to 14.0 percent in 2017, ranking 3rd lowest in the nation. Yet, each year, 11,800 people die from smoking-related illnesses in New Jersey and $4.1 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- High school graduation: 89.7 percent of students graduate from high school in New Jersey, ranking the state 2nd 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.
- Infant mortality: New Jersey has the 5th lowest infant mortality rate in the nation with 4.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The Challenges Ahead
- Drug deaths: Deaths due to drug injury have increased 83 percent in the past ten years from 8.1 deaths per 100,000 population to 14.8 deaths per 100,000 population.
- Air pollution: New Jersey is ranked 34th in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 8.5 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

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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