

# THE FACTS UTAH

**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. Utah receives \$81 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 \$7.76 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2020.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 9.7 percent of people in Utah do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 9.2 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Utah has 187.5 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, the 2nd lowest in the nation and well below the national average of 241.9 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Tobacco use** 7.9 percent of adults smoke cigarettes in Utah. This is the lowest adult smoking rate in the nation. Still, every year, 1,300 adults in Utah die from smoking-related illnesses and \$542 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Obesity** While the state has the 13th lowest adult obesity rate in the nation, the rate has more than doubled since 1990 with 29.2 percent of adults now obese. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** Utah has the 25th highest drug death rate in the nation with 21.6 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Air pollution** Utah is ranked 19th worst in the nation in terms of air pollution with an estimated 7.8 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: 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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