The Facts: Washington

Public Health Funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Washington receives $22.53 per person in funding from CDC (26th in the nation) and $30.00 per person from HRSA (21st in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over $96 million in grants to Washington since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to Care: 6.0 percent of people in Washington do not have health insurance coverage, which is well below the national uninsured rate of 8.6 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Washington has 144.0 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, which is slightly below the national average of 149.7 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures
- Drug deaths: In the past five years, drug deaths decreased 10.7 percent from 15.9 deaths per 100,000 people to 14.2 deaths per 100,000 people.
- Infant mortality: Washington has the 8th lowest infant mortality rate in the nation with 4.7 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Cardiovascular deaths: The state has the 6th lowest cardiovascular death rate in the nation with 215.7 deaths per 100,000 people.

The Challenges Ahead
- Tobacco use: Despite boasting the 7th lowest adult smoking rate in the nation, each year, 8,300 adults die from smoking-related illnesses in Washington and $2.8 billion is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- High school graduation: 78.2 percent of students in Washington graduate from high school. This is the 10th lowest high school graduation rate 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.

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.