THE FACTS: Wyoming

Public Health Funding: Strong investments in public health allow a state to carry out programs that improve health. Wyoming receives $30.40 per person in funding from CDC (10th in the nation) and $24.52 per person from HRSA (35th in the nation). The Prevention and Public Health Fund has awarded over $12 million in grants to Wyoming since 2010 for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

Access to Care: 11.5 percent of people in Wyoming do not have health insurance coverage, well above the national uninsured rate of 8.6 percent. The number of practicing primary care physicians is also an important measure of health care availability. Wyoming has 105.7 active primary care physicians per 100,000 people, well below the national average of 149.7 practicing primary care physicians per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures
- **Drug deaths**: In the past ten years, drug deaths increased 167 percent from 6.6 deaths per 100,000 people to 17.6 deaths per 100,000 people.
- **Air pollution**: The state has the best air quality in the nation with an estimated 3.8 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. Reduced exposure to air pollution is important to public health as poor air quality leads to reduced lung function, increased risk of asthma complications, heart attacks, heart failure and death, and impacts a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

The Challenges Ahead
- **High school graduation**: 79.3 percent of students graduate from high school in Wyoming, ranking the state 37th in the nation. This is of 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.
- **Tobacco use**: 18.9 percent of the adult population in Wyoming smokes cigarettes. Each year, 800 adults die from smoking-related illnesses in Wyoming and $258 million is spent on health care costs due to smoking.
- **Occupational fatalities**: The state has the highest rate of occupational fatalities in the nation with 12.6 deaths per 100,000 workers.
- **Low birthweight**: 8.6 percent of live births in Wyoming are low birthweight, ranking the state 35th in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality.

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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