

THE FACTS

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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. The District of Columbia receives \$1,084 total per capita in funds dedicated to public health, both from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). This is the highest per capita public health funding in the nation. The Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state \$7.38 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2023.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 2.7 percent of people in D.C. do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 7.9 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. D.C. has 553.6 active primary care providers per 100,000 people in comparison to the national rate of 283.4 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **Drug deaths** D.C. reported 67.1 drug deaths per 100,000 population, compared to a national average of 32.4.
- **Air pollution** D.C. reports an estimated 8.8 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, compared to the national average of 8.6 micrograms. Poor air quality can have severe health effects and impact a large number of people, particularly impacting young children and older adults.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **Homicide** D.C. reported 29.2 homicides per 100,000 population, compared to a national average of 7.6.
- **High school graduation** Only 76.4 percent of students in D.C. graduate high school compared to the national rate of 86.6 percent. 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. The health benefits of educational attainment accumulate and as a result will also impact the community level and social/cultural context.

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](https://AmericasHealthRankings.org), Accessed 2025; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Funding Profiles Totals, (2023). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://fundingprofiles.cdc.gov/>

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