



THE FACTS

# WEST VIRGINIA

**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. West Virginia receives \$124 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 \$3.58 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure in fiscal year 2023.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 5.9 percent of people in West Virginia do not have health insurance coverage, which is below the national uninsured rate is 7.9 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. West Virginia has 337.4 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, which is above the national average of 283.4 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **High school graduation** West Virginia has the highest high school graduation rate in the nation, with 91.2 percent of students graduating from high school. There is a strong connection between education and health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- **Excessive drinking** The state has the second lowest rate of excessive drinking with 13.3 percent of adults having reported drinking excessively.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **Drug deaths** West Virginia has the highest rate of drug-related death in the nation, with 75.2 drug-related deaths per 100,000 population in 2022. This is more than double the national average of 32.4 drug-related deaths per 100,000 population.
- **Tobacco use** 20.4 percent of the adult population smokes in West Virginia. This is the highest rate in the nation.
- **Obesity** The state has the highest adult obesity rate in the nation with 40.2 percent of the adult population obese. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.

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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