

THE FACTS ALASKA

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. Alaska receives \$449 per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources Services Administration in public health funding. In fiscal year 2021 the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state \$6.42 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

ACCESS TO CARE 11.4% of people in Alaska do not have health insurance coverage compared to the national uninsured rate of 8.6%. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Alaska has 342 active primary care providers per 100,000 people. Nationally, there are 265.3 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

Notable Health Measures

- **High school graduation** Alaska's graduation rate is 80.4% which is significantly lower than the national graduation rate of 85.8%. This data is of concern given the connection between education and health. Individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.
- **Diabetes** 8.3% of adults have diabetes, ranking the state 3rd lowest in the nation.
- **Chlamydia** 695.8 cases per 100,000 people, ranking the state the 3rd highest in the nation.
- **Flu Vaccination** Alaska has the twelfth lowest rate of flu vaccination at 41.5%.

The Challenges Ahead

- **Tobacco use** 17.1% of the adult population smokes cigarettes, higher than the national average of 14.4%. Each year 600 Alaskans died from smoking-related illnesses. Smoking-attributable costs, such as prescription drugs and medical care, consume about \$438 million of Alaska's annual budget.
- **Violent crime** The number of violent offenses in the state has been steadily increasing in the past four years, and reported 838 violent crimes in 2022. Alaska currently has the highest violent crime rate in the country. Violent crimes may cause injuries, disability and early death. Additionally, violent crimes may cause long-term stress for families and communities, and interfere with leading a healthy lifestyle. However, violent crime can be prevented. Numerous programs and practices have shown that by addressing root causes it is possible to prevent violence.

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 2023; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) State Fact Sheets, (2023). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/state-fact-sheets/index.htm>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 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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