

# THE FACTS LOUISIANA

**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. Louisiana receives \$126 total per person from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) for public health funding. In 2022 fiscal year, the Prevention and Public Health Fund awarded the state about \$10.23 million in grants for community and clinical prevention efforts and improvements to public health infrastructure.

**ACCESS TO CARE** 7.6 percent of people in Louisiana do not have health insurance coverage, below the national uninsured rate of 8.6 percent. The number of practicing primary care providers is also an important measure of health care availability. Louisiana has 243.9 active primary care providers per 100,000 people, which is below the national average of 265.3 practicing primary care providers per 100,000 people.

## Notable Health Measures

- **High school graduation** 80.1 percent of students graduate from high school in Louisiana, ranking the state 4th lowest 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.
- **HPV Vaccination** Louisiana has a high adolescent HPV vaccination rate of 63.9% of adolescents, ages 13-17, having received an HPV vaccination. This vaccine is incredibly important in preventing the development of cancers and HPV.

## The Challenges Ahead

- **Tobacco use** 19.5 percent of adults in Louisiana smoke cigarettes, ranking the state 6th highest in the nation.
- **Obesity** 38.6 percent of adults in Louisiana are obese. The state has the 7th highest obesity rate in the nation. Obesity contributes to poor general health and is a leading factor in preventable diseases.
- **Low birthweight** 10.9 percent of live births are low birthweight in Louisiana, ranking the state 2nd highest in the nation. Low birthweight is associated with short- and long-term complications and an increased risk of infant mortality.

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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