West Virginia

Overall Rank: 43
Change: ▲ 4
Determinants Rank: 38
Outcomes Rank: 48

Strengths:
• Low prevalence of excessive drinking
• Low incidence of infectious disease
• Low percentage of population without insurance

Challenges:
• High rate of drug deaths
• High prevalence of smoking
• Low immunization coverage among children

Ranking:
West Virginia is 43rd this year; it was 47th in 2015. The state ranks 46th for senior health and 38th for the health of women and children.

Highlights:
• In the past three years, drug deaths increased 46% from 22.0 to 32.2 deaths per 100,000 population.
• In the past year, high school graduation increased 6% from 81.4% to 86.5% of students.
• In the past year, the percentage of the population without health insurance decreased 35% from 11.3% to 7.3%.
• In the past year, public health funding increased 71% from $120 to $205 per person.
• In the past 10 years, premature death increased 9% from 9,384 to 10,245 years lost per 100,000 population.

State Health Department Website: www.dhhr.wv.gov

BEHAVIORS

Star Rating | 2016 Value | Rank | No. 1 State
---|---|---|---
Drug Deaths (deaths per 100,000 population) | ★ | 32.2 | 50 | 4.0
Excessive Drinking (% of adults) | ★★★★★ | 11.4 | 2 | 11.2
High School Graduation (% of students) | ★★★ | 86.5 | 18 | 90.8
Obesity (% of adults) | ★ | 35.6 | 47 | 20.2
Physical Inactivity (% of adults) | ★ | 30.8 | 44 | 17.9
Smoking (% of adults) | ★ | 25.7 | 49 | 9.1
Behaviors Total* | ★ | -0.223 | 47 | 0.273

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Air Pollution (micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter) | ★★★★ | 7.9 | 19 | 4.4
Children in Poverty (% of children) | ★★★ | 20.6 | 34 | 8.0
Infectious Disease (mean z score of chlamydia, pertussis, and Salmonella)* | ★★★★★ | -1.347 | 1 | -1.347
Chlamydia (cases per 100,000 population) | ★★★★★ | 254.5 | 1 | 254.5
Pertussis (cases per 100,000 population) | ★★ | 1.0 | 1 | 1.0
Salmonella (cases per 100,000 population) | ★★★★★ | 9.7 | 4 | 6.2
Occupational Fatalities (deaths per 100,000 workers) | ★ | 6.8 | 44 | 2.0
Violent Crime (offenses per 100,000 population) | ★★★ | 338 | 24 | 118
Community & Environment Total* | ★★★★★ | 0.067 | 21 | 0.290

POLICY

Immunizations—Adolescents (mean z score of HPV, meningococcal, and Tdap)* | ★★★★★ | 0.040 | 24 | 1.783
HPV Females (% of females aged 13 to 17 years) | ★★★ | 39.2 | 30 | 66.0
HPV Males (% of males aged 13 to 17 years) | ★★★ | 27.1 | 27 | 58.1
Meningococcal (% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 years) | ★★★★★ | 86.0 | 17 | 97.7
Tdap (% of adolescents aged 13 to 17 years) | ★★★ | 85.8 | 33 | 97.1
Immunizations—Children (% of children aged 19 to 35 months) | ★ | 64.9 | 49 | 80.6
Lack of Health Insurance (% of population) | ★★★★★ | 7.3 | 10 | 3.1
Public Health Funding (dollars per person) | ★★★★★ | $205 | 3 | $261
Policy Total* | ★★★★★ | 0.057 | 15 | 0.165

CLINICAL CARE

Dentists (number per 100,000 population) | ★ | 48.6 | 41 | 81.5
Low Birthweight (% of live births) | ★ | 9.1 | 44 | 5.9
Preventable Hospitalizations (discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees) | ★ | 71.9 | 49 | 23.5
Primary Care Physicians (number per 100,000 population) | ★★★★★ | 151.2 | 18 | 247.7
Clinical Care Total* | ★ | -0.144 | 45 | 0.170
ALL DETERMINANTS* | ★★★★★ | -0.243 | 38 | 0.648

OUTCOMES

Cancer Deaths (deaths per 100,000 population) | ★ | 223.9 | 48 | 149.3
Cardiovascular Deaths (deaths per 100,000 population) | ★ | 297.9 | 44 | 188.2
Diabetes (% of adults) | ★ | 14.5 | 49 | 6.8
Disparity in Health Status (% difference by high school education) | ★★★★★ | 24.6 | 11 | 14.8
Frequent Mental Distress (% of adults) | ★ | 15.6 | 50 | 7.1
Frequent Physical Distress (% of adults) | ★ | 18.6 | 50 | 8.5
Infant Mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births) | ★ | 7.3 | 45 | 4.3
Premature Death (years lost per 100,000 population) | ★ | 10,245 | 49 | 5,389
ALL OUTCOMES* | ★ | -0.352 | 48 | 0.289
OVERALL* | ★ | -0.595 | 43 | 0.905

* Value indicates z score. Negative scores are below US value; positive scores are above US value.
For complete definitions of measures including data sources and years, see Table 5.