2014 Edition
WEST VIRGINIA

America’s Health Rankings® is the longest running comparative health index of states. It uses measures of behavior, community and environment, policy, clinical care, and health outcomes to describe the health and wellness of each state compared to all other states. The Rankings are updated each year and provide a perspective on change in health over the last 25 years. The primary objective of America’s Health Rankings® is to stimulate discussion and action among individuals, community leaders, elected officials, health professionals, educators, and employers to improve the health of each state and our nation.

The Rankings are sponsored by United Health Foundation in partnership with American Public Health Association and Partnership for Prevention.

Overall, West Virginia ranks 44th. The state has varied from 42nd, its healthiest rank, to 49th, its poorest rank. It ranked 46th last year.

**Strengths**
- Low prevalence of binge drinking
- Low incidence of infectious disease
- High prevalence of smoking
- High rate of drug deaths
- High prevalence of obesity

**Challenges**
- High prevalence of smoking
- High rate of drug deaths
- High prevalence of obesity

**Highlights**
- In the last 15 years, violent crime increased by 44 percent from 219 to 316 offenses per 100,000 population.
- In the past year, children in poverty increased by 23 percent from 19.0 percent to 23.3 percent of children.
- In the past year, immunization coverage among adolescents increased by 14 percent from 56.1 percent to 64.1 percent of adolescents aged 13 to 17 years.
- Since 1990, infant mortality decreased by 30 percent from 10.0 to 7.0 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- In the past year, drug deaths increased by 42 percent from 22.0 to 31.3 deaths per 100,000 population.
Smoking

Smoking is the prevalence of adults who smoke cigarettes regularly. It is defined as the percentage of adults who self-report smoking at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and who currently smoke.

Physical Inactivity

Physical Inactivity is the percentage of adults who report doing no physical activity or exercise (such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking) other than their regular job in the last 30 days.

Obesity

Obesity is the percentage of adults who are estimated to be obese, defined as having a body mass index (BMI) of 30.0 or higher, according to self-reported height and weight. BMI is equal to weight in pounds divided by height in inches squared and then multiplied by 703.

Binge Drinking

Percentage of adults who had 4 or more (women) or 5 or more (men) alcoholic beverages on a single occasion in the past 30 days.

Drug Deaths

Number of deaths due to drug injury of any intent (unintentional, suicide, homicide, or undetermined) per 100,000 population. (3-year average)

West Virginia - Drug Deaths

Source: National Vital Statistics System

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High School Graduation

Percentage of incoming ninth graders who graduate in 4 years from a high school with a regular degree.
Violent Crime

Number of murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults per 100,000 population.

Children in Poverty

Percentage of persons younger than 18 years who live in households at or below the poverty threshold.

Air Pollution

Average exposure of the general public to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in size (PM2.5).
Lack of Health Insurance
Percentage of the population that does not have health insurance privately, through their employer, or the government. (Two year average)

Immunization - Children
Percentage of children aged 19 to 35 months receiving recommended doses of DTaP, polio, MMR, Hib, hepatitis B, varicella, and PCV vaccines.

Immunization - Adolescents
Percentage of adolescents aged 13 to 17 years who have received 1 dose of Tdap since the age of 10 years, 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, and 3 doses of HPV (females).
**Low Birthweight**

Percentage of infants weighing less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth.

![Graph showing the percentage of births in West Virginia compared to the US from 1990 to 2015.]

**Preventable Hospitalizations**

Discharge rate among the Medicare population for diagnoses that are amenable to non-hospital based care.

![Graph showing the number of preventable hospitalizations per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries in West Virginia compared to the US from 2000 to 2014.]

Source: National Vital Statistics System

Source: Dartmouth Atlas
Diabetes

Percentage of adults who responded yes to the question "Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have diabetes?" (Excludes pre-diabetes and gestational diabetes).
Disparity in Health Status

Difference in the percentage of adults aged 25 and older with vs without a high school education who report their health is very good or excellent.

High Health Status

Less than High School
High School
Some College
College Graduate

Percent of Adults - aged 18+

West Virginia - Disparity in Health Status

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

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**Infant Mortality**

Number of infant deaths (before age 1) per 1,000 live births.

**Premature Death**

Number of years of potential life lost prior to age 75 per 100,000 population.
Cancer Deaths

Number of deaths due to all causes of cancer per 100,000 population.

Source: National Vital Statistics System
Cardiovascular Deaths

Number of deaths due to cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, per 100,000 population.