

Ranking: Washington is 10th this year; it was 12th in 2007.

Strengths: Strengths include a low prevalence of smoking at 16.8 percent of the population, a low percentage of children in poverty at 11.6 percent of persons under age 18, a low infant mortality rate at 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births and a low rate of preventable hospitalizations with 51.9 discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees.

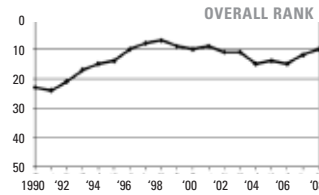
Challenges: Challenges include low immunization coverage with 73.9 percent of children ages 19 to 35 months receiving complete immunizations, a low high school graduation rate with 75.0 percent of incoming ninth graders who graduate within four years, many poor physical health days per month at 3.6 days in the previous 30 days and high geographic disparity within the state at 12.3 percent.

Significant Changes:

- ▲ In the past year, the percentage of children in poverty increased from 10.5 percent to 11.6 percent of persons under age 18.
- ▼ In the past year, the rate of uninsured population decreased from 12.5 percent to 11.6 percent.
- ▼ Since 1990, the infant mortality rate decreased from 9.7 to 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- ▲ Since 1990, the prevalence of obesity increased from 9.4 percent to 25.9 percent of the population.

Health Disparities: In Washington, low birth weight babies are more common among non-Hispanic blacks at 10.6 percent than Hispanics at 5.9 percent. Cardiovascular death rates vary by race in the state, with all races experiencing 263.7 deaths per 100,000 population in contrast to blacks who experience 329.7 deaths per 100,000 population.

State Health Department Web Site: www.doh.wa.gov



Overall Rank: 10
Change: ▲ 2

Strengths:

- Low prevalence of smoking
- Low rate of preventable hospitalizations
- Low percentage of children in poverty

Challenges:

- Low immunization coverage
- Low high school graduation rate
- High geographic disparity within the state

Significant Changes:

- In the past year, the percentage of children in poverty increased by 11%
- In the past year, the rate of uninsured population decreased by 7%
- Since 1990, the infant mortality rate decreased by 51%
- Since 1990, the prevalence of obesity increased by 176%

DETERMINANTS	2008		2007		2003		1990	
	VALUE	RANK	VALUE	RANK	VALUE	RANK	VALUE	RANK
PERSONAL BEHAVIORS								
Prevalence of Smoking (Percent of population)	16.8	6	17.1	5	21.5	12	28.6	16
Prevalence of Binge Drinking (Percent of population)	15.0	20	14.0	19	15*	19	—	—
Prevalence of Obesity (Percent of population)	25.9†	23	24.2	20	21.3	22	9.4	5
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT								
High School Graduation (Percent of incoming ninth graders)	75.0	32	74.6	30	65.9*	35*	78.1*	20
Violent Crime (Offenses per 100,000 population)	333	23	346	23	355	24	439	28
Occupational Fatalities (Deaths per 100,000 workers)	3.7	5	3.8	5	3.5	4	9.9*	28
Infectious Disease (Cases per 100,000 population)	12.4	24	13.3	22	18.6	21	84.1	47
Children in Poverty (Percent of persons under age 18)	11.6†	5	10.5	4	13.7	24	11.8	7
Air Pollution (Micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter)	10.4↓	18	10.8	20	11.7	20.0	—	—
PUBLIC & HEALTH POLICIES								
Lack of Health Insurance (Percent without health insurance)	11.6	16	12.5	19	13.5	30	10.4	19
Public Health Funding (Dollars per person)	\$92	17	\$98	10	—	—	—	—
Immunization Coverage (Percent of children ages 19 to 35 months)	73.9↓	48	78.6	37	69.2	42	—	—
CLINICAL CARE								
Adequacy of Prenatal Care (Percent of pregnant women)	53.1*	—	66.9*	35	72.93*	35	71.7*	21
Primary Care Physicians (Number per 100,000 population)	124.0	13	123.7	12	—	—	—	—
Preventable Hospitalizations (Number per 1,000 Medicare enrollees)	51.9	4	51.9	4	55.0	4	—	—
ALL DETERMINANTS								
	10.7	11	9.2	11	6.4	15	6.6	12
HEALTH OUTCOMES								
Poor Mental Health Days (Days in previous 30 days)	3.2	19	3.2	18	2.9	12	—	—
Poor Physical Health Days (Days in previous 30 days)	3.6	30	3.5	31	2.9	10	—	—
Geographic Disparity (Relative standard deviation)	12.3	30	12.2	32	—	—	—	—
Infant Mortality (Deaths per 1,000 live births)	4.8	1	5.3	7	5.5	5	9.7	22
Cardiovascular Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 population)	263.7	13	273.4	15	297.4	0	357.8	12
Cancer Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 population)	189.5	17	191.9	21	195.2	17	189.2	17
Premature Death (Years lost per 100,000 population)	6,131	7	6,168	10	6,283	7	7,725	16
ALL HEALTH OUTCOMES								
	4.2	10	3.0	12	3.5	9	-2.2	36
OVERALL								
	14.9	10	12.2	12	12.9	11	4.5	23

↓ and † indicate major increases and decreases in the last year. — indicates data not available. *Data may not be comparable. **See measure description for full details.