

Covid-19 Community Explorer

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The best and worst-performing counties in the U.S.

Key findings for August 2021:

Community Profile One is the best performing of the county profiles on average. Its vaccination rate is the highest (at 57.56%, more than ten percentage points higher than the following highest profile at 46.78%), and its case rate is the lowest (10,527 cases per 100,000). While its average rate of deaths per 100,000 people is slightly higher than that of Community Profile Two, this difference is relatively small (164 deaths for Profile one versus 155 deaths for Profile Two). Community Profile One represents 38 percent of the U.S. population and is the most ethnically diverse community with the highest income level. It is a highly educated cohort that resides in large metro areas.

Community Profile Three is arguably the worst performing of the county profiles on average. It has the highest average number of deaths and cases per 100,000 people (289 and 13,876 respectively). While its average vaccination rate is higher than Community Profile Four, it is higher by less than one-half of one percentage point (37.08% versus 36.72%). Community Profile Three represents 12 percent of the U.S. population and has the largest Black population, with the lowest income of all the profiles. These counties are primarily concentrated in the Southeast.

Community Profile Eight shows the most variation of the county profiles, containing several counties among the best and the worst performers. Of the 79 counties that appear in the best ten percent by one metric while simultaneously appearing in the worst ten percent of counties by another metric, 36 (46%) are in this profile. Community Profile Eight represents 3 percent of the U.S. population and is the most rural cohort, consisting of an older White population with limited access to healthy food. The counties are mostly in the north part of the West, Midwest, and Northeast regions.

For the best performing counties – Top 10%:

- **By vaccination rate:** close to 60% of the 274 counties with the higher vaccination rate are within Profile Two (36%), Eight (23%), and One (17%), that is, mostly White counties in both metro and rural areas and large metro areas that are more ethnically diverse and highly populated.¹
 - New York has the largest number of highly vaccinated counties, 26 in total, and an average vaccination rate of 54.85% statewide (62.29% within these 26 counties).
- **By number of cases per 100,000:** close to 70% of the 315 counties with the least number of cases per 100 000 are within Profile Eight (45%) and Two (23%).
 - Virginia has the largest number of counties or county-equivalents with low case rates (35 in total) with an average case rate of 9,600 cases per 100,000 statewide (6,765 cases per 100,000 within these 35 county-equivalents).²
- **By number of deaths per 100,000:** 38 counties have no recorded deaths from Covid-19; most of them (33) within Profile Eight.
 - 38 counties within the U.S. have no recorded deaths; Alaska and Nebraska each contain eight of these counties.
 - Alaska is the state with the most counties with low death rates; 26 counties have an average death rate of 40 deaths per 100,000 (32.5 deaths per 100,000 for these 26 counties).
- **Overall, the population of the 59 counties that perform the best on all three Covid-19 metrics is split between Profiles Eight (40%), Two (25%), and One (20%).**
 - All four of Hawaii's counties are among the best performing 10% of counties by the three Covid-19 metrics, as are ten of Maine's 16 counties; this makes Maine the state with the highest number of high performing counties and Hawaii the state with the highest percentage of its counties being considered high performing.

¹ Community Profile Two represents 25 percent of the US population and consists of highly educated, economically prosperous, mostly White counties in metro areas. Community Profile Eight represents 3 percent of the US population and is the most rural cohort, consisting of an older White population with the most limited access to healthy food. The counties are mostly in the north part of the West, Midwest, and Northeast regions. Community Profile One represents 38 percent of the US population and is the most ethnically diverse community with the highest income level. It is a highly educated cohort that resides in large metro areas.

² Five of the 35 Virginia counties in the bottom decile by case rate are actually independent cities; VA has 38 independent cities that are considered county equivalents.

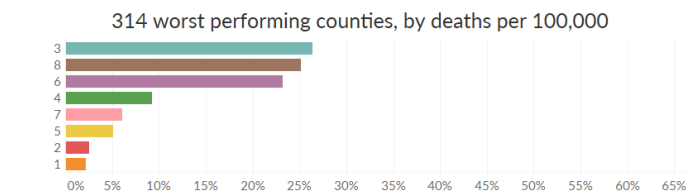
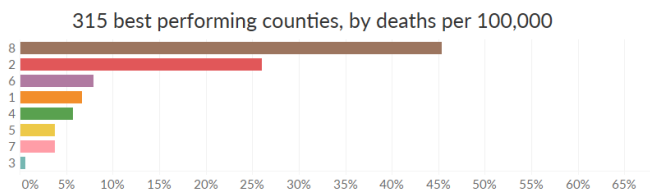
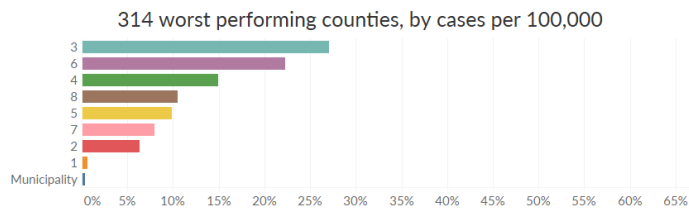
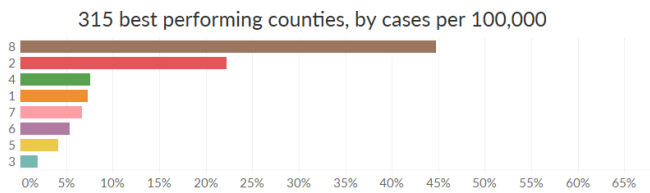
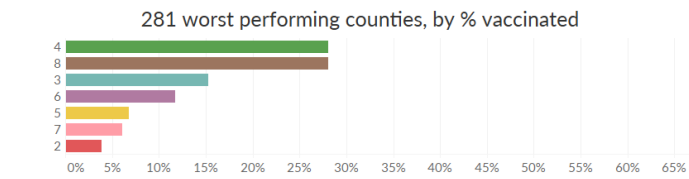
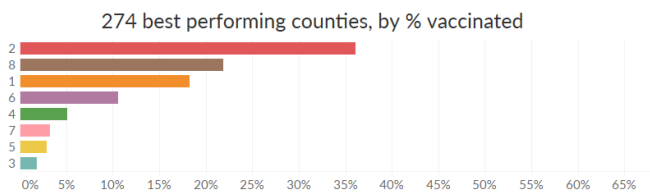
For the worst performing counties – Bottom 10%:

- **By vaccination rate:** more than 71% of the 281 counties with the worst vaccination rate is split between Profiles Four (28%), Eight (28%), and Three (15%)³, that is White and Black population with the lowest income level of all the profiles and rural areas.
 - Texas is the state with the highest number of poorly performing counties by vaccination rate, with 38 counties in the bottom tenth; statewide, the average vaccination rate for Texas counties is 36% (25.6% in those 38 counties).
 - Seven of Wyoming's 23 counties are in the bottom 10% by vaccination rate, making it the state with the highest proportion of its counties performing in the bottom tenth on vaccinations; statewide, the average county vaccination rate is 35% (25% in those seven counties).
 - 33 of Missouri's 115 counties have vaccination rates in the bottom 10%, making it second by the number of counties and the proportion of its counties in the bottom tenth; statewide, the average county vaccination rate is 33% (25% in those 33 counties).
- **By number of cases per 100,000:** 64% of the 314 worst performing counties in terms of cases per 100,00 are captured by Profiles Three (27%), Six (22%), and Four (15%)⁴
 - Tennessee has the largest number of counties with very high case rates and the state with the highest proportion of such counties. 42 of its 95 counties, or 44% of Tennessee counties, have case rates in the highest tenth, for an average of 15,800 deaths per 100,000 across all counties in the state (17,606 deaths per 100,000 on average in the worst 42 counties).
 - Of the 85 poorly performing counties in Profile Three, there is a distribution across states in the South; of the 70 counties within Profile Six, 28 (40%) are located in Texas.
 - Only two of the worst-performing counties by case rate fall in Profile One, both of which are located in Florida (Broward County: 16,430 cases per 100,000; Miami-Dade: 22,838 cases per 100,000)
- **By number of deaths per 100,000:** almost 75% of the worst-performing counties in terms of deaths per 100,000 are in Profiles Three (26%), Six (23%), and Eight (25%)
 - Almost one-third of the worst-performing counties by death rate (approximately 32%) are in two states: Texas (19.75%) and Georgia (12.1%)
 - 62 counties in Texas fall within the worst-performing tenth of counties by death rate; Texas' average county death rate is 296 deaths per 100,000 (in those 62 counties, the average death rate is 462 deaths per 100,000).
- **Overall, five of the eight counties that can be considered among the worst-performing by vaccination, case, and death rates fall within community Profile Three.**

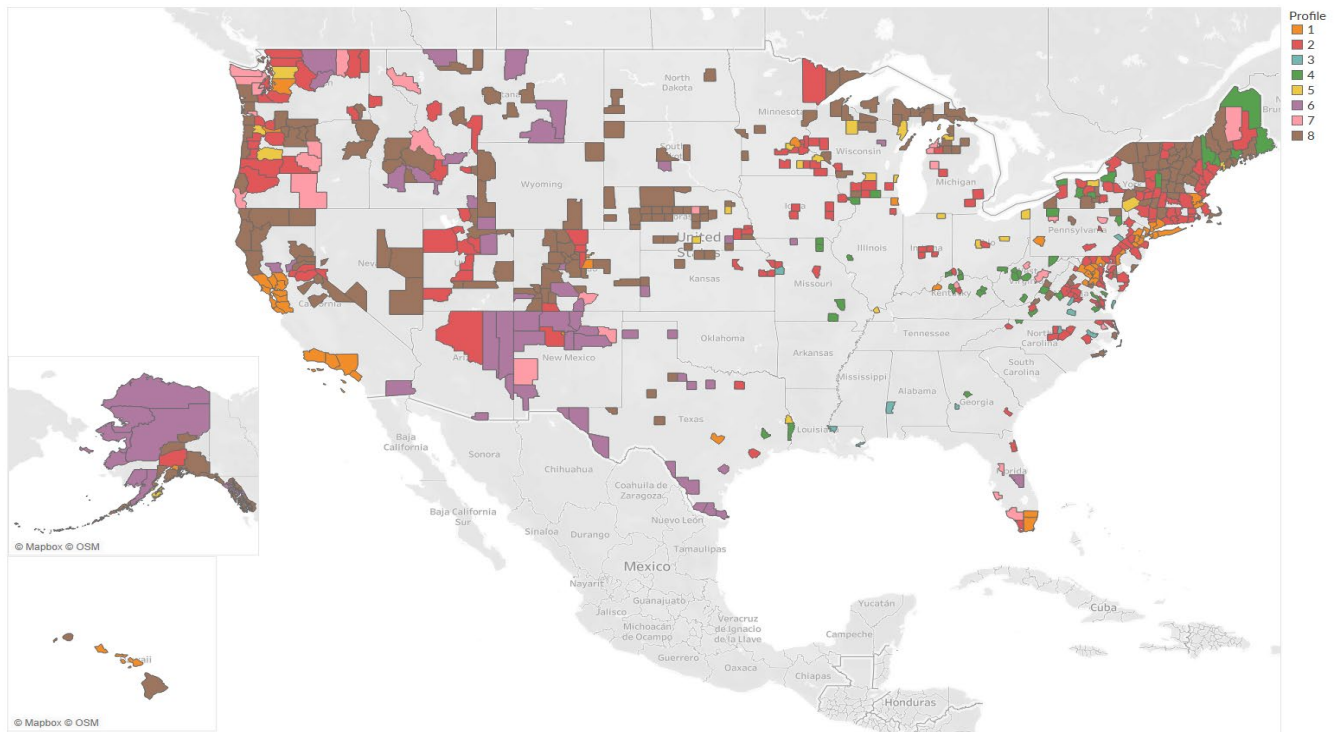
³ Community Profile Three represents 12 percent of the US population and has the largest Black population, whose income is the lowest income of all the profiles. These counties are primarily concentrated in the Southeast. Community Profile Four represents 7 percent of the US population and has the largest White population. This population reports the lowest income of all the profiles. It encompasses mostly rural counties in the East North Central and Northeast regions. Community Profile Eight represents 3 percent of the US population and is the most rural cohort, consisting of an older White population with the most limited access to healthy food. The counties are mostly in the north part of the West, Midwest, and Northeast regions.

⁴ Community Profile Six represents 5 percent of the US population and is the youngest cohort of the profiles, with the largest Hispanic population, the least education level, access to healthy food, and health insurance. The counties are concentrated in the West and West South-Central regions.

Best and Worst Performing Counties Based on Three Covid-19 Measures



Where are the Best-Performing Counties?

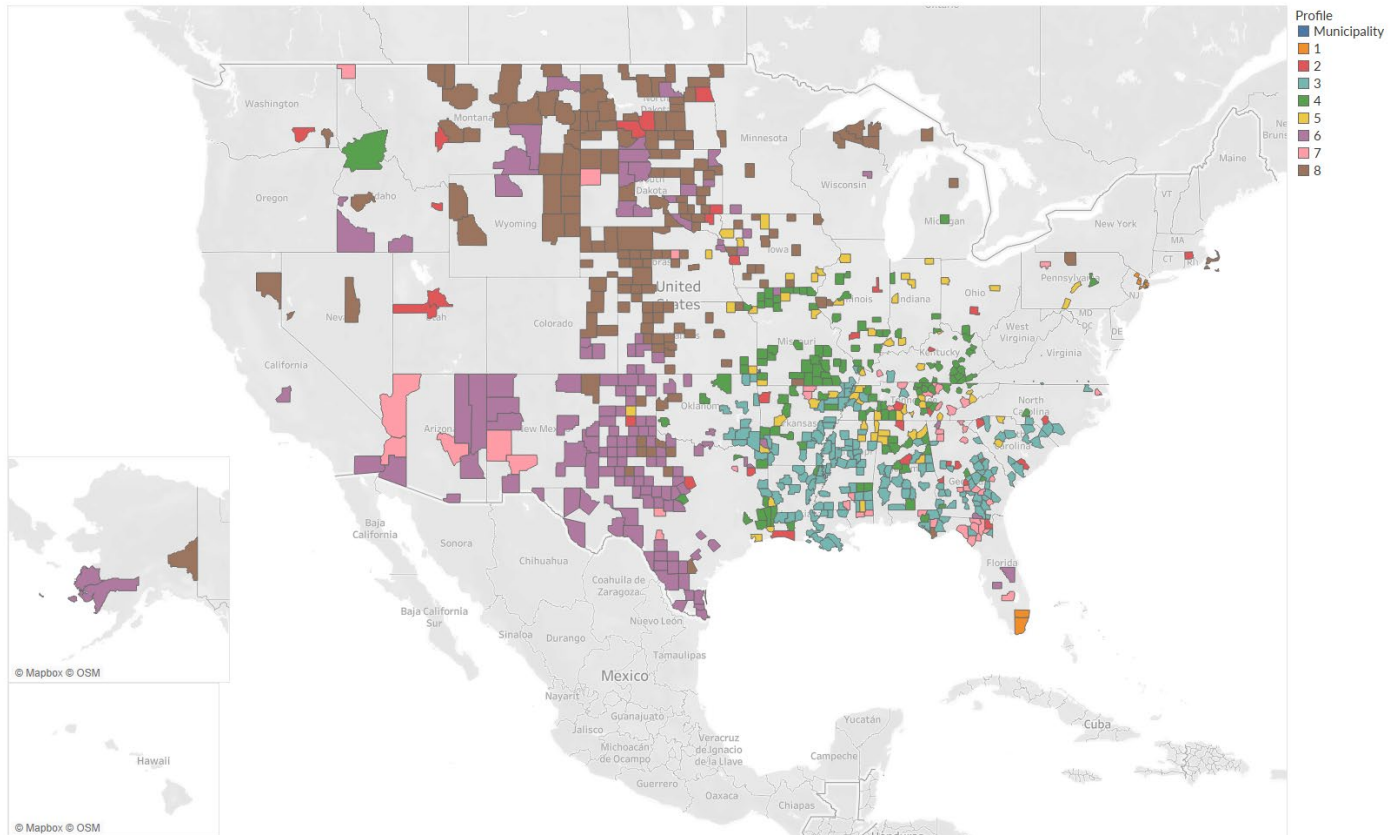


The following map shows the 59 counties that fall within the best performing 10% of counties based on all three Covid-19 metrics:

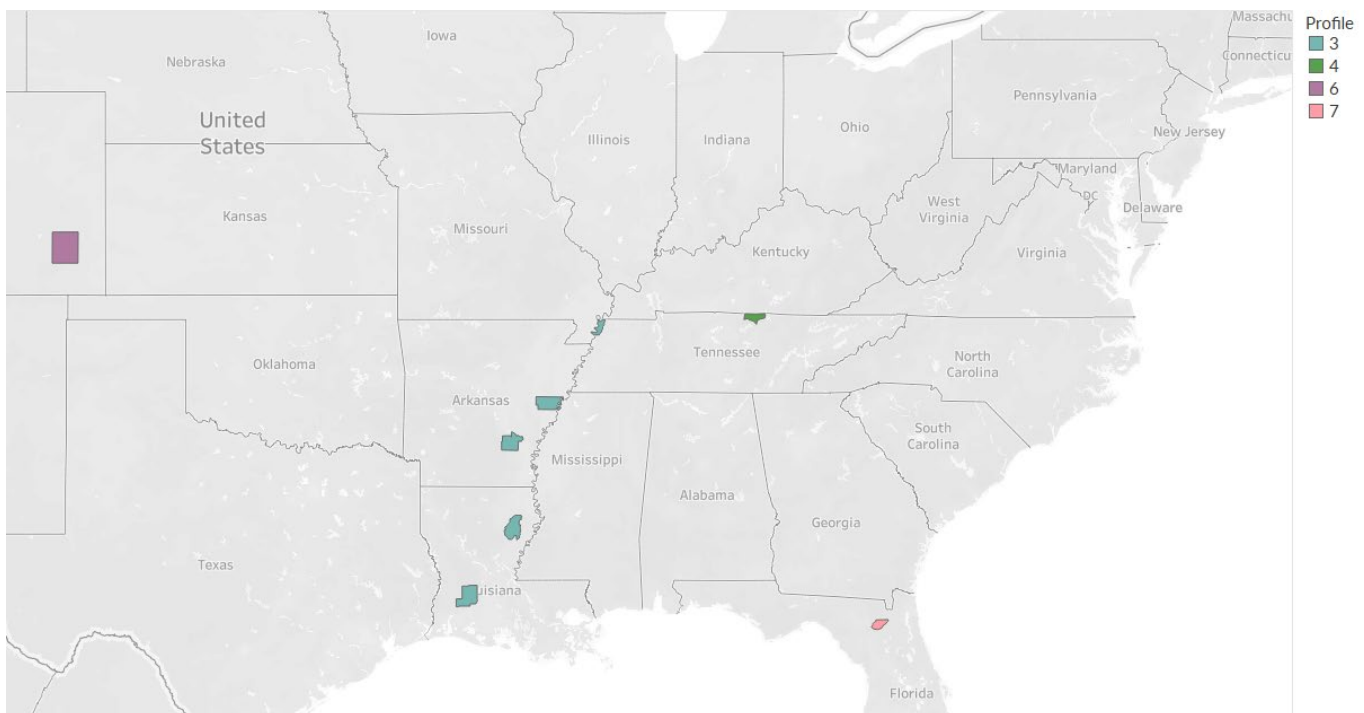


Where are the Worst-Performing Counties?

The following map shows the 753 counties that fall within the worst-performing 10% of counties based on at least one of the three Covid-19 metrics:



The following map shows the eight counties that fall in the worst-performing 10% of counties based on all three Covid-19 metrics:



	Average Vaccination Rate	Average Deaths per 100,000	Average Cases per 100,000
Profile 1	57.59%	164	10,527
Profile 2	46.78%	155	11,341
Profile 3	37.08%	289	13,876
Profile 4	36.72%	223	12,251
Profile 5	39.98%	222	12,639
Profile 6	38.84%	273	13,485
Profile 7	39.72%	233	11,959
Profile 8	41.13%	195	10,612
Total	40.78%	219	12,103