

2022 Data Comparability Across States

The County Health Rankings gather data from around the nation that is comparable between counties, within states. For most of our measures, county data is also comparable across state lines. However, for a few of our measures, some caution must be exercised when making comparisons between counties in different states. Please note our cautions below:

Food environment index	The food insecurity models include state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
Sexually transmitted infections	Chlamydia screening patterns may vary between states and health care systems. Differences in rates may reflect differences in these screening patterns, rather than differences in the underlying rates of disease.
Living wage	For the childcare cost aspect of the measure, childcare cost data are based on market-rate surveys reported separately by state, published in different years. Some states only report state- or region-level estimates, and thus require county-level imputation. Due to this, states may differ in the extent to which estimates are modeled vs. observed.
Childcare cost burden	Childcare cost data are based on market-rate surveys reported separately by state, published in different years. Some states only report state- or region-level estimates, and thus require county-level imputation. Due to this, states may differ in the extent to which estimates are modeled vs. observed.
Childcare centers	Childcare centers are regulated by state licensing. Definitions of childcare facilities vary by state making comparisons across states difficult. Data were acquired from respective states departments and therefore may be subject to reporting differences.

Juvenile arrests	Juvenile arrests are not comparable across states due to different reporting practices, arrest rules and laws, as well as different juvenile age limits. Additionally, some states report calendar year estimates while other states use fiscal year estimates.
Violent crime	Violent crime rates are dependent on the reporting practices of both residents and law enforcement offices in states and jurisdictions. These practices can vary by both state and jurisdiction, so caution should always be observed when comparing crime rates.
Traffic volume	States collect and report these data differently. Traffic counts are performed by state Departments of Transportation, so this measure is not comparable across states.