| **📦 Dataset** | **🔎 Why It's Needed** | **🧠 What It Tells Us** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Population by State (2023)** | To normalize other metrics (e.g., hospitals per 10,000 people) | You can't compare Texas and Vermont raw — population gives context |
| **2. Median Household Income (2022)** | Low income = less access to care; it also affects insurance & affordability | Used to adjust or weight the accessibility score |
| **3. Health Insurance Coverage (2022)** | Being uninsured makes access difficult | Directly used as a **positive** accessibility factor |
| **4. Healthcare Facilities & Providers** | More clinics/hospitals = better access | Calculated as **hospital density per 10k people** |
| **5. Broadband Availability (2023)** | Telehealth depends on good internet — very important post-COVID | Adds a **tech accessibility** component |
| **6. Travel Distance to Hospital** *(API)* | Long travel = poor physical access | Adds a **mobility burden** to the index (optional but impactful) |