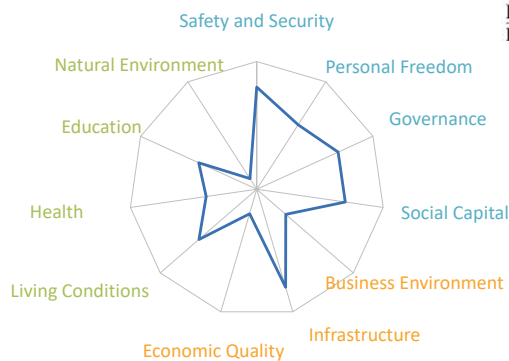
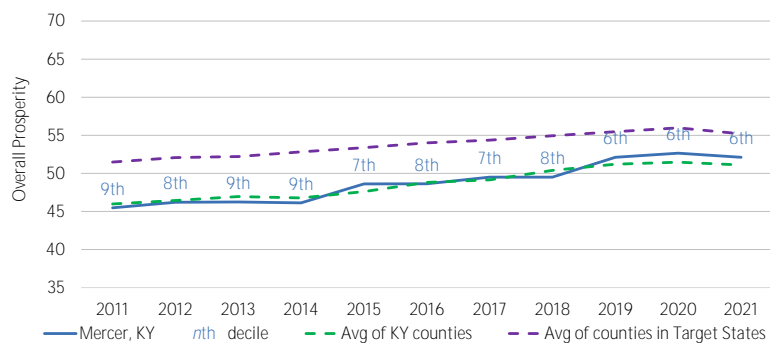


Mercer, KY: Overall Prosperity 52.1 (6th decile*)














Prosperity over time



Breakdown of performance

	2011	Score 10-year trend	2021	Deciles - US Counties (1 to 10) 2021	10-year decile change	Ranks - KY (1 to 120) 2021
Overall Prosperity	45.5		52.1	6	▲ 3	34
Inclusive Societies	49.1		59.2	4	▲ 3	62
Safety and Security	62.9		76.1	3	▲ 3	65
Personal Freedom	49.4		54.4	5	— -	2
Governance	36.4		55.6	4	▲ 4	1
Social Capital	47.6		50.6	4	▲ 1	19
Open Economies	42.2		46.8	8	— -	30
Business Environment	39.4		41.3	8	— -	65
Infrastructure	50.9		52.9	3	▲ 1	32
Economic Quality	36.1		46.1	9	— -	39
Empowered People	45.2		50.3	8	▲ 1	68
Living Conditions	54.4		64.5	5	▲ 1	30
Health	41.2		47.8	7	▲ 2	26
Education	48.3		50.1	6	▼ 1	50
Natural Environment	36.9		38.9	10	— -	111

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 Safety and Security	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021	 Personal Freedom	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021
			62.9	76.1	3	▲ 3	65				49.4	54.4	5	— -	2
	Mass Killings and Injuries	15%	100.0	100.0	1	— -	1		Agency	30%	64.7	61.8	4	— -	1
	Violent Crime	50%	54.1	80.9	3	▲ 5	52		Freedom of Association and Speech	15%	40.0	40.0	3	▲ 2	1
	Property Crime	35%	59.5	59.1	5	▼ 1	77		Absence of Legal Discrimination	25%	27.6	47.6	4	▲ 1	1
									Social Tolerance	30%	57.1	59.9	8	▼ 2	2
 Governance	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021	 Social Capital	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021
			36.4	55.6	4	▲ 4	1				47.6	50.6	4	▲ 1	19
	Political Accountability	30%	36.3	51.9	9	— -	1		Personal and Family Relationships	25%	45.7	58.8	8	— -	33
	Rule of Law	35%	26.5	64.0	2	▲ 6	1		Social Networks	25%	48.8	50.2	4	— -	7
	Government Integrity	35%	46.4	50.4	5	▲ 3	1		Institutional Trust	20%	65.2	65.2	2	— -	5
									Civic and Social Participation	30%	36.3	34.5	6	— -	14
 Business Environment	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021	 Infrastructure	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021
			39.4	41.3	8	— -	65				50.9	52.9	3	▲ 1	32
	Financing Ecosystems	40%	25.3	25.6	7	▼ 1	65		Communications	40%	48.9	49.0	4	— -	57
	Domestic Market Contestability	30%	48.6	47.2	8	— -	1		Resources	25%	50.6	57.7	4	▲ 2	28
	Burden of Regulation	10%	14.6	18.4	10	— -	1		Transport	35%	53.5	53.9	4	▲ 1	17
	Labor Market Flexibility	10%	70.9	67.6	5	— -	1								
	Price Distortions	10%	61.5	82.9	2	▲ 4	1								
 Economic Quality	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021		Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021
			36.1	46.1	9	— -	39								
	Fiscal Sustainability	25%	30.0	31.4	10	— -	84								
	Productivity and Competitiveness	25%	39.1	47.9	8	— -	33								
	Dynamism	20%	40.5	43.8	9	▼ 1	60								
	Labor Force Engagement	30%	35.7	58.5	3	▲ 3	43								
 Living Conditions	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021	 Health	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021
			54.4	64.5	5	▲ 1	30				41.2	47.8	7	▲ 2	26
	Material Resources	25%	56.0	56.9	7	▼ 1	22		Behavioral Risk Factors	15%	45.3	52.0	6	▲ 2	11
	Nutrition	15%	43.3	52.9	7	▼ 1	39		Preventative Interventions	15%	38.4	52.7	5	▲ 2	24
	Water Services	15%	43.2	89.4	2	▲ 6	19		Care Systems	15%	36.1	57.3	5	— -	58
	Shelter	15%	61.2	68.4	3	▲ 2	93		Mental Health	15%	52.9	40.7	9	— -	17
	Connectedness	15%	65.0	76.2	5	— -	41		Physical Health	20%	29.4	35.0	8	▲ 2	17
	Protection from Harm	15%	56.8	48.1	9	▼ 2	97		Longevity	20%	47.0	51.9	8	▲ 1	51
 Education	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021	 Natural Environment	Overall Prosperity 10-yr trend		2011	2021	US Counties Decile 2021	US Counties Decile 10-yr decile chng	KY Rank 2021
			48.3	50.1	6	▼ 1	50				36.9	38.9	10	— -	111
	Pre-Primary Education	5%	66.6	58.4	4	▼ 2	30		Emissions	25%	41.0	32.9	9	▼ 1	109
	Primary Education	20%	62.8	63.3	4	▼ 1	50		Exposure to Air Pollution	25%	43.2	51.8	9	— -	87
	Secondary Education	25%	59.9	63.9	5	— -	69		Forest, Land and Soil	20%	18.7	27.9	10	— -	119
	Tertiary Education	25%	30.4	31.0	10	▼ 1	79		Freshwater	20%	58.1	58.3	8	— -	106
	Adult Skills	25%	39.2	43.2	7	▼ 1	41		Preservation Efforts	10%	5.0	5.0	6	— -	1

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Italics: Indicator contains imputed values

	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	2021	US Counties Decile	2011	2021		Source	Unit	Weight	2011	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	2021	US Counties Decile	2011	2021
Agency (4th)			30%	64.7	<div></div>	61.8	4	4		Freedom of Association and Speech (3rd)			15%	40.0	<div></div>	40.0	5	3	
Fatal police shootings of unarmed civilians	WaPo	deaths /100,000 population	1.0	0.0	<div></div>	0.0	1	1		Statewide free speech in public places	Cato	coding, 0-3	1.0	0.0	<div></div>	0.0	2	2	
Statewide death row population	NAACP	number /100,000 population	1.0	0.80	<div></div>	0.69	4	6		Statewide right-to-work	NCSL	coding, 0-1	0.5	0.0	<div></div>	1.0	7	1	
Statewide adult incarceration	BJS	number /100,000 adult population	1.0	950.0	<div></div>	1,080.0	5	8		Statewide press suppression	USPFT	number /100,000 state population	0.5	0.000	<div></div>	0.313	1	7	
Statewide youth incarceration	CJRP	prisoners /100,000 youth population	0.5	93.4	<div></div>	47.2	5	6		Statewide invasive cell phone surveillance	ACLU	coding, 0-1	0.5	0.0	<div></div>	0.0	1	1	
Statewide trafficking	POL	reports /100,000 population	1.0	2.7	<div></div>	3.0	2	2											
														</					


Italics: Indicator contains imputed values

Political Accountability (9th)	Source	Unit	Weight	Value			US Counties Decile	
				2011	10-yr trend	2021	2011	2021
Statewide Elections Performance Index	MIT	index score, 0-1	30%	36.3		51.9	9	9
Statewide gender balance in legislatures	CAWP	percentage	0.5	18.8		26.8	9	6
Statewide state campaign disclosure	NIMP	index, 0-1	1.0	0.5		0.7	5	9
Statewide term limits	NCSL	coding, 0-1	0.5	0.0		0.0	4	4
Rule of Law (2nd)	Source	Unit	Weight	Value			US Counties Decile	
				2011	10-yr trend	2021	2011	2021
Statewide Justice Index	NCAJ	index rank 1-51	35%	26.5		64.0	8	2
Statewide judicial integrity	ATRF	coding, 0-1	0.5	0.0		0.0	1	1
Government Integrity (5th)	Source	Unit	Weight	Value			US Counties Decile	
				2011	10-yr trend	2021	2011	2021
Statewide legal corruption perceptions	ICS	expert survey, 3-15	35%	46.4		50.4	8	5
Statewide illegal corruption perceptions	ICS	expert survey, 3-15	1.0	13.0		13.0	10	10
Statewide Corruption Reflection Index	ICS	index score, 0-1	0.5	0.2584		0.0797	3	1
Statewide State Integrity Investigation	CPI	index rank, 1-50	1.0	19.0		9.0	3	1
Statewide public record request compliance	Culliver	percentage	1.0	38.2		38.2	7	7
Statewide Online Spending Transparency Index	USPIRG	index score, 0-100	0.5	83.0		85.0	6	2

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	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	2021	US Counties Decile	2011	2021		Source	Unit	Weight	2011	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	2021	US Counties Decile	2011	2021
Financing Ecosystems (7th)			40%	25.3	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	25.6	6	7		Domestic Market Contestability (8th)			30%	48.6	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	47.2	8	8	
Venture capital invested	NVCA	\$ /capita	1.0	8.1	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	26.2	6	6		Statewide low-income licensed occupations	Inst Just	number	1.5	37.0	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	37.0	2	2	
Number of venture capital deals	NVCA	number /1,000,000	1.0	2.3	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	2.3	7	8		Statewide occupational licensing training cost	Inst Just	\$	1.0	240.0	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	240.0	5	5	
Assets under management	NVCA	\$ /capita	1.0	21.3	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	2.9	6	8		Statewide occupational licensing training time	Inst Just	days	1.0	466.0	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	466.0	8	8	
Venture capital fundraising	NVCA	\$ /capita	1.0	0.0	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	0.0	6	6		Statewide age requirements for license	Inst Just	years	1.0	13.0	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	13.0	8	8	
New foreign direct investment	BEA	\$ /capita	1.0	89.4	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	88.9	7	8		Statewide regulation density index	Cato	index score	1.0	0.000	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	-0.006	4	5	
Bank branch access	FDIC	number /square mile	1.5	0.036	<div>Value 10-yr trend</div>	0.040	3	3											
															</				

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	Source	Unit	Weight	Value			US Counties Decile	
				2011	10-yr trend	2021	2011	2021
Communications (4th)			40%	48.9		49.0	4	4
Mean download speed	BBN	Mbps	1.5	89.0		89.0	3	3
Ultra-fast internet access	BBN	percent	1.0	0.0		0.0	8	8
Fast internet access	BBN	percent	1.0	100.0		100.0	1	1
Internet providers (Business)	FCC	number	0.5	0.0		1.0	6	3
Resources (4th)			25%	50.6		57.7	6	4
Customers affected by electricity outages	Mukherjee	number /10,000 population	0.5	0.11		0.00	7	1
Statewide net electricity generation	EIA	kWh /capita	1.0	0.0207		0.0159	1	5
Water usage	USGS	Mgal /capita	1.0	0.442		0.146	4	6
Electricity outage duration	EIA	minutes	1.0	105.7		102.2	7	5
Electricity outage frequency	EIA	per year	1.0	1.06		1.02	5	5
Transport (4th)			35%	53.5		53.9	5	4
Statewide number of airports	BTS	number /square mile	0.5	0.0		0.0	6	6
Road condition	BTS	percent	1.5	2.8		2.8	7	7
Statewide railroad length	AAR	miles /square mile	1.0	0.1		0.1	3	3
Bus transit route mileage	BTS	miles /square mile	0.5	0.1		0.1	5	5
Public road density	BTS	miles /square mile	1.0	0.4		0.4	5	5
Bridge condition	BTS	percent	0.5	6.85		5.48	7	6
Distance to airport	BTS	km	1.0	34.3		34.3	2	2

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	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	<div><div>Value</div><div>10-yr trend</div></div>	2021	US Counties Decile	2011	2021		Source	Unit	Weight	2011	<div><div>Value</div><div>10-yr trend</div></div>	2021	US Counties Decile	2011	2021
Fiscal Sustainability (10th)			25%	30.0		31.4	10	10	Productivity and Competitiveness (8th)			25%	39.1		47.9	8	8		
Statewide government credit rating	Ballotpedia	rating	0.5	5.0		3.0	9	10	Export value (goods)	BIEM	\$ /capita	1.0	7,020.4		7,590.9	2	3		
Statewide state reserves capacity	O	days	1.0	3.5		12.6	9	10	Export value (services)	BIEM	\$ /capita	0.5	344.3		401.6	10	9		
Government revenue to expenditure ratio	Census	ratio	1.0	0.93		0.96	9	8	Labor productivity	BLS	\$ per hour	1.5	47.5		52.4	10	Red		
Statewide state budget balance	O	\$ /capita	1.0	-493.9		-319.2	1	8											
Statewide state pension funding	FR	percent	1.0	41.0		32.6	10	10											
Debt-to-GDP ratio	Census	percent	1.0	0.18		0.20	3	3											
Dynamism (9th)			20%	40.5		43.8	8	9	Labor Force Engagement (3rd)			30%	35.7		58.5	6	3		
Startup concentration	Kauffman	number /1,000 businesses	0.5	87.4		76.3	8	6	Unemployment	BLS	percent	1.0	11.2		7.3	8	8		
Startup early job creation	Kauffman	number /1,000 population	1.0	4.04		4.06	8	8	Youth unemployment	Census	percent	1.0	19.8		12.9	7	7		
Startup early survival rate	Kauffman	percent	0.5	77.0		79.8	6	3	Employee Engagement	Gallup	percent	0.5	32.0		37.0	3	Green		
Opportunity-driven startups	Kauffman	percent	1.0	58.7		79.4	9	8	Statewide underemployment	BLS	percent	1.0	5.0		2.8	3	1		
Rate of new entrepreneurs	Kauffman	number /100,000 population	1.5	285.6		351.2	7	6	Labor force participation	Census	percent	1.5	64.4		60.5	4	5		
Patent applications	USPTO	number /1,000	1.0	94.0		0.0	5	7											

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Behavioral Risk Factors (6th)	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile 2011	2021	Preventative Interventions (5th)	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile 2011	2021
				45.3		52.0		8					38.4		52.7		7
Obesity	CDC	percentage	1.0	30.6		28.2	8	3	Adult dentist visits	BRFSS	percentage	0.5	60.4		59.7	6	7
Smoking	CHR	percentage	1.5	26.0		24.4	8	9	Adult doctor visits	BRFSS	percentage	0.5	67.8		78.1	6	
Alcohol use disorder	DUH Nat Srvy	percentage	0.5	5.7		4.8	2	3	Colorectal cancer screening	BRFSS	percentage	0.5	65.3		68.0	6	6
Illicit drug use disorder	DUH Nat Srvy	percentage	0.5	2.70		2.76	8	6	Statewide child medical visits	NSCH	percentage	0.5	88.1		77.1	3	1
Pain reliever misuse	DUH Nat Srvy	percentage	0.5	4.1		4.1	6	6	Statewide HPV immunizations	NCIRD	percentage	1.0	34.0		54.9	7	5
									Pap smear test	BRFSS	percentage	0.5	80.5		78.8	6	4
									Statewide child immunization	NCIRD	percentage	1.0	51.8		71.0	7	3
									Statewide child dentist visits	NSCH	percentage	0.5	80.6		79.6	5	5
Care Systems (5th)	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile 2011	2021	Mental Health (9th)	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile 2011	2021
				36.1		57.3		5					52.9		40.7		9
Statewide child mental health access	NSCH	percentage	1.0	31.4		38.6	2	4	Suicide	CDC	deaths / 100,000 population	1.0	13.5		16.9	7	5
Adults with no health care coverage	CHR	percentage	0.5	20.5		7.9	5	3	Drug overdose deaths	CDC	deaths / 100,000 population	0.5	18.4		25.1	8	9
Avoided medical care due to cost	BRFSS	percentage	1.0	20.5		12.8	7	5	Serious mental illness	DUH Nat Srvy	percentage	1.0	4.79		5.29	9	9
Hospital rating	HCA	percentage	0.5	85.0		85.0	2	2	Statewide disability weighted prevalence from mental illness	IMHE	years / 100,000 population	1.0	2,298.6		2,205.5	8	8
Preventable hospitalizations for medicare enrollees	CHR	discharges / 100,000	1.0	9,743.3		6,566.0	7	9	Self-reported mental health not good	CHR	percentage	1.0	12.7		17.1	9	9
Physical Health (8th)	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile 2011	2021	Longevity (8th)	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile 2011	2021
				29.4		35.0		10					47.0		51.9		9
High blood pressure	BRFSS	percentage	1.0	37.9		36.8	10	10	Under 5 mortality	CDC	deaths / 100,000 under 5 population	1.0	163.5		126.0	7	5
Diabetes	CDC	percentage	1.0	10.7		6.7	9	2	5-14 mortality	CDC	deaths / 100,000 5-14 population	0.5	16.5		17.3	8	9
Heart attack	BRFSS	percentage	1.0	5.94		5.54	10	10	15-64 mortality	CDC	deaths / 100,000 15-64 population	2.0	448.0		431.8	9	8
Statewide disability weighted prevalence of infectious diseases	IMHE	years / 100,000 population	0.5	412.9		430.6	7	7	Maternal mortality	IMHE	deaths / 100,000 population	0.5	0.30		0.29	4	4
Self-reported poor physical health	CHR	percentage	1.0	14.2		15.4	9	8	Mortality risk 65-85	IMHE	percentage	1.0	60.1		58.1	9	9

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Pre-Primary Education (4th)	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile	
				2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	2011	2021
Pre-Primary Enrollment	Census	percentage	2.0	50.7		45.9	3	5
Statewide state pre-K quality	NIEER	index score, 0-10	1.0	9.0		8.0	1	1
Secondary Education (5th)	Source	Unit	Weight	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile	
				2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	2011	2021
Math grade 8 level	SEDA	grade level	1.5	7.73		7.82	6	7
Statewide science grade 8 score	NAEP	scale score, 0-500	1.0	156.4		157.2	2	4
English, language and arts grade 8 level	SEDA	grade level	1.5	7.53		8.13	6	4
High school graduation rate	CHR	percentage	1.0	93.3		96.6	2	2
Secondary enrollment	Census	percentage	1.0	95.2		94.3	7	8
Adult Skills (7th)	Source	Unit	Unit	2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	US Counties Decile	
				2011	Value 10-yr trend	2021	2011	2021
Adult population with at least a high school diploma	Census	percentage	1.0	82.3		84.4	6	7
Adult population with bachelor's degree or higher	Census	percentage	1.0	17.0		18.5	5	6

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Source Code	Source Name
AAR	Association of American Railroads
ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
ANES	American National Election Studies
ATRF	American Tort Reform Association
Ballotpedia	Ballotpedia
BBN	BroadbandNow
BEA	United States Bureau of Economic Analysis
BIEM	Brookings Institution Export Monitor
BJS	United States Bureau of Justice Statistics
BLS	United States Bureau of Labour Statistics
BRFSS	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
BTS	United States Bureau of Transportation Statistics
Cato	Cato - Freedom in the 50 States
CAWP	Center for American Women and Politics
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC	CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Diabetes Atlas
CDC	Center for Disease Control (WONDER)
Census	United States Census Bureau
Census	US Census Bureau
Census	United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey
CHR	County Health Rankings
CJRP	Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement
CNCS	Corporation for National and Community Service, Volunteering & Civil Life in America
CPI	Center for Public Integrity
CPS	Current Population Survey, Civic Engagement Supplement
Cuillier	Dave Cuillier
DOL	United States Department of Labor
DUH Nat Srvy	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, The National Survey on Drug Use and Health
EIA	United States Energy Information Administration
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FA	Feeding America
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FDIC	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
FI	Fraser Institute
FR	Federal Reserve
FTC	Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Sentinel Network
Gallup	Gallup
Google	Google Trends
GTD	Global Terrorism Database
GVA	Gun Violence Archive
HCA	Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems
HJK	Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation
HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICS	Institute for Corruption Studies
IMHE	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
Inst Just	Institute for Justice
JBEN	Bennett et al. 2019. "Particulate matter air pollution and national and county life expectancy loss in the USA: A spatiotemporal analysis".
Kauffman	Kauffman Foundation
MAP	Movement Advancement Project
MIT	MIT Election and Data Science Lab coding of state policies
Mukherjee	Mukherjee et al.
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NACJD	National Archive Of Criminal Justice Data
NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress
NCAJ	National Center for Access to Justice
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics
NCIRD	National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
NCSL	National Conference of State Legislatures
NIEER	National Institute for Early Education Research
NIMP	National Institute on Money in Politics
NLCD	National Land Cover Database
NSCH	National Survey of Children's Health
NVCA	National Venture Capital Association
POL	Polaris Project
Pros Now	Prosperity Now Scorecard
PRRI	Public Religion Research Institute
QS Rank	QS World University Rankings
QuantGov	QuantGov
SEDA	Stanford Education Data Archive
SPLC	Southern Poverty Law Center
State OR	State of Oregon
Talk Pov	Talk Poverty
Tax Found	Tax Foundation
UI	Urban Institute
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USPFT	United States Press Freedom Tracker
USPIRG	United States Public Interest Research Group
USPTO	United States Patent and Trademark Office
USRC	United States Religious Census
WaPo	Washington Post