

The  
Social  
Health  
of the

States  
2008



Institute for Innovation  
in Social Policy



# **The Social Health of the States 2008**

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## **Table of Contents**

	Acknowledgments	<i>page 5</i>
	Memo to the States	7
	Summary of Findings	9
Part I	The Social Health of the States: National Patterns	13
	Introduction	15
	Great Contrasts in the Nation	17
	How the States Fare on the Individual Indicators	18
	Social Recession—A Condition Requiring Attention	20
	Principal Indicators—A Gauge of Overall Performance	22
	The Need to Know	23
Part II	State by State: Individual Profiles	25
Part III	Indicator by Indicator: State Rankings	53
	Note on Methodology	71
	Note on Community Indicator Projects	74
	About the Institute for Innovation in Social Policy	78



## Acknowledgments

We are pleased to release the Institute's third *Social Health of the States* report. This document builds on the Institute's 20 years of work on the Index of Social Health of the United States. At both the national and state levels, we have sought to look at social health as a whole, integrating issues of housing, health care, work, income, education, and safety.

We have long argued that just as we routinely measure the economy, evaluating the ups and downs of the GDP or the stock market, so too we should measure our nation's social well-being. This report seeks to do just that. It assesses the social health of the fifty states, providing a bird's-eye view of the quality of life across the nation.

This report focuses on sixteen social indicators that bridge the age spectrum from childhood to old age, providing an overview of our social well-being at various critical junctures in the life span. From infant mortality to poverty of the elderly, from teenage drug abuse to unemployment, we have identified key indicators that allow us to monitor social health and to assess the diversity among the states.

There are many people who have supported our work over the years. Most important are Lance Lindblom, President of the Nathan Cummings Foundation, and Joan Shigekawa, Associate Director at the Rockefeller Foundation. We are grateful for their guidance and insights. Our work has benefited from their wise counsel and generous encouragement.

At Vassar College, we are especially grateful to our gifted graphics designer George Laws who, as always, has enhanced this publication with his clear eye and thoughtful perspective. We would also like to express special thanks to James Olson, Director for Corporate, Foundation, and Government Relations, for helping to shepherd each of our initiatives through its various stages. In addition, we are continually grateful to our colleague William Hoynes, who has worked with us on many different projects and has always provided us with incisive commentary.

Finally, this report, like all of our projects, owes its vision to the late Marc Miringoff, who founded the Institute and made this work a vital part of our lives and the lives of many others. We know he would be pleased to see this project live on, and the work of the Institute continue.





## **Memo to the States**

In recent decades, the policies and practices of the states have become increasingly important, representing critical testing grounds for new initiatives and innovative approaches. From health care programs to environmental practices, the states have led the way in developing methods for improving the quality of life for Americans.

The important role played by the states and localities is reflected in the vitality of the community indicators movement. From Maine to Colorado to Alaska, state governments, local agencies, and citizen groups have joined together to develop new measures to monitor and assess the social health of their communities. These projects have made a vital contribution to the study of social indicators, and have helped to inform public policy more generally. (For further information on this social movement, see the Note on Community Indicators Projects.)

The present report is intended to complement the many individual state and community indicator reports that have emerged over the past decade. By documenting the performance of all fifty states, *The Social Health of the States 2008* provides a comparative perspective, a baseline, from which to assess local efforts and national patterns.

We hope this report will be used by many groups: the media, social agencies, local and state governments, policy makers, and policy advocates. We have chosen sixteen critical issues to assess—drawn from such areas as health, safety, work, income, housing, and education—in order to provide a rich overview of the quality of life in the states.

We have found considerable diversity among the states. Some are faring well, and have done so over time. Others have lagged behind, and seem unable to catch up. This report provides data not only from the most recent years available but also presents comparative data from our earlier studies of the social health of the states.

As with our previous state publications, we hope that this report will encourage opinion makers in the fifty states to make critical judgments about where state resources might best go, and which social problems need immediate attention. State governments can build on this report to fashion state-of-the-state messages about their social health. Local media can use these indicators for pinpointing key areas where additional investigation is needed.

It has long been the purpose of this Institute to try to highlight, in as many ways as possible, the vital significance of measuring and monitoring the nation's social health. This report stands in that tradition.



## Summary of Findings

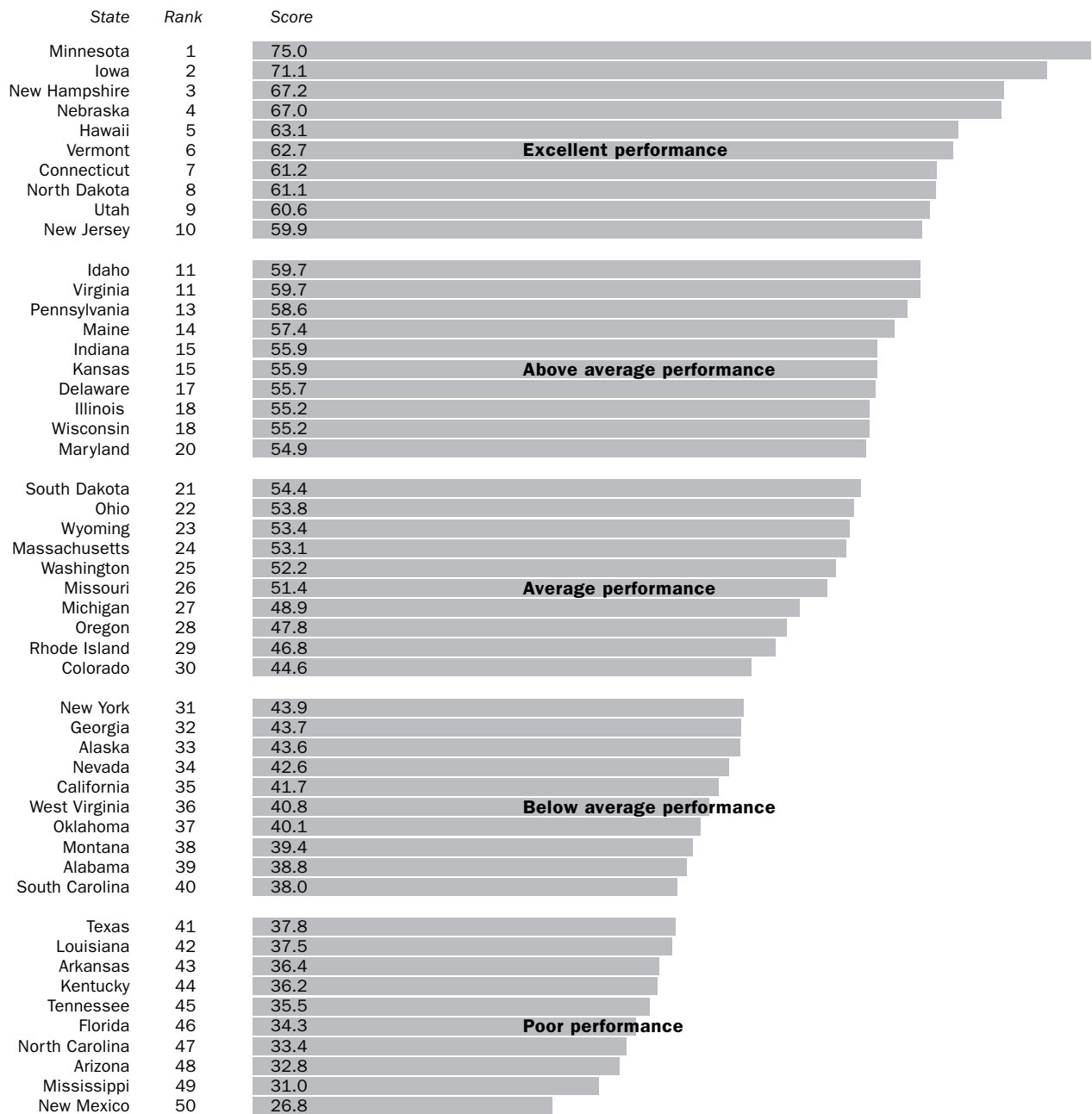
To assess the social health of each of the fifty states, this document combines in a single measure each state's performance on the following sixteen social indicators, representing the well-being of Americans at different stages of life. These indicators are:

<i>Children:</i>	Infant Mortality Child Poverty Child Abuse
<i>Youth:</i>	Teenage Suicide Teenage Drug Abuse High School Completion
<i>Adults:</i>	Unemployment Average Wages Health Insurance Coverage
<i>Aging:</i>	Poverty Among the Elderly Suicide Among the Elderly
<i>All Ages:</i>	Homicides Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities Food Stamp Coverage Affordable Housing Income Inequality

Taken together, these indicators tell us much about the quality of life in each state and about the strength of key aspects of our social life—such as education, health, work, safety, and income.

Each state receives an overall social health score between 1 and 100, based on its cumulative performance on these sixteen indicators. (For further information see Note on Methodology.) The states are then ranked according to these social health scores. The following chart shows the results for 2008.

**Figure 1. Social Health of the States, 2008**



Source: Institute for Innovation in Social Policy

### **Contrasts in the Nation**

There is notable variation in the performance of the states:

- The top ten states—those with excellent performance—have an average social health score of 64.9.
- The middle ten states average 50.6.
- The bottom ten states average 34.2.
- The top-ranking state is Minnesota, with a social health score of 75.0.
- The lowest-ranking state is New Mexico, at 26.8.

Examining the states' performance on individual indicators brings these contrasts into even sharper focus. For example:

- The infant mortality rate in Louisiana is more than twice the rate in Montana.
- The child poverty rate in Mississippi is five and a half times higher than in New Hampshire.
- Teenagers in Alaska commit suicide at seven times the rate found in Delaware.
- The unemployment rate in Michigan is two and a half times higher than in Hawaii.
- Average wages in Connecticut are nearly double those in Montana.
- One-fourth of non-elderly Texans lack health insurance, compared to one-tenth of those in Rhode Island.
- In Mississippi, the poverty rate among the elderly is five times that in Minnesota.
- Elderly suicide is almost seven times more common in Wyoming than in Rhode Island.
- The homicide rate in Maryland is exactly nine times the rate in North Dakota.

### **Social Recession**

The Institute has developed the term “social recession” to describe periods of serious social decline. In this report, we measure social recession at the state level according to two criteria. First, in terms of overall social health, a state ranks among the bottom five states. Second, it shows failing performance on six or more individual indicators. The social recession states are: Arizona, Mississippi, and New Mexico. The conditions in these states warrant urgent attention.

### **Principal Indicators**

We have found three social indicators that appear to be most consistently associated with a state’s overall performance: child poverty, high school completion, and health insurance coverage. A state rarely does well overall without doing well on these three indicators. By the same token, states that rank poorly overall tend to do poorly on these three indicators. These principal indicators, therefore, represent a gauge of the states’ overall social performance and may prove to be of assistance in evaluating which policies will have the greatest impact on social conditions.

### **Conclusion**

The strength of this nation and the quality of Americans’ daily lives are profoundly affected by the social health of the individual states. It is therefore critically important that we regularly monitor the state-of-the-states. This document provides a way to measure social health, assess the states’ progress over time, and rank their standing in relation to each other. We hope this report will help to illuminate the states’ social well-being and stimulate new approaches to assessing the quality of life in the nation.

## **Part I**

# **The Social Health of the States: National Patterns**





**Introduction**

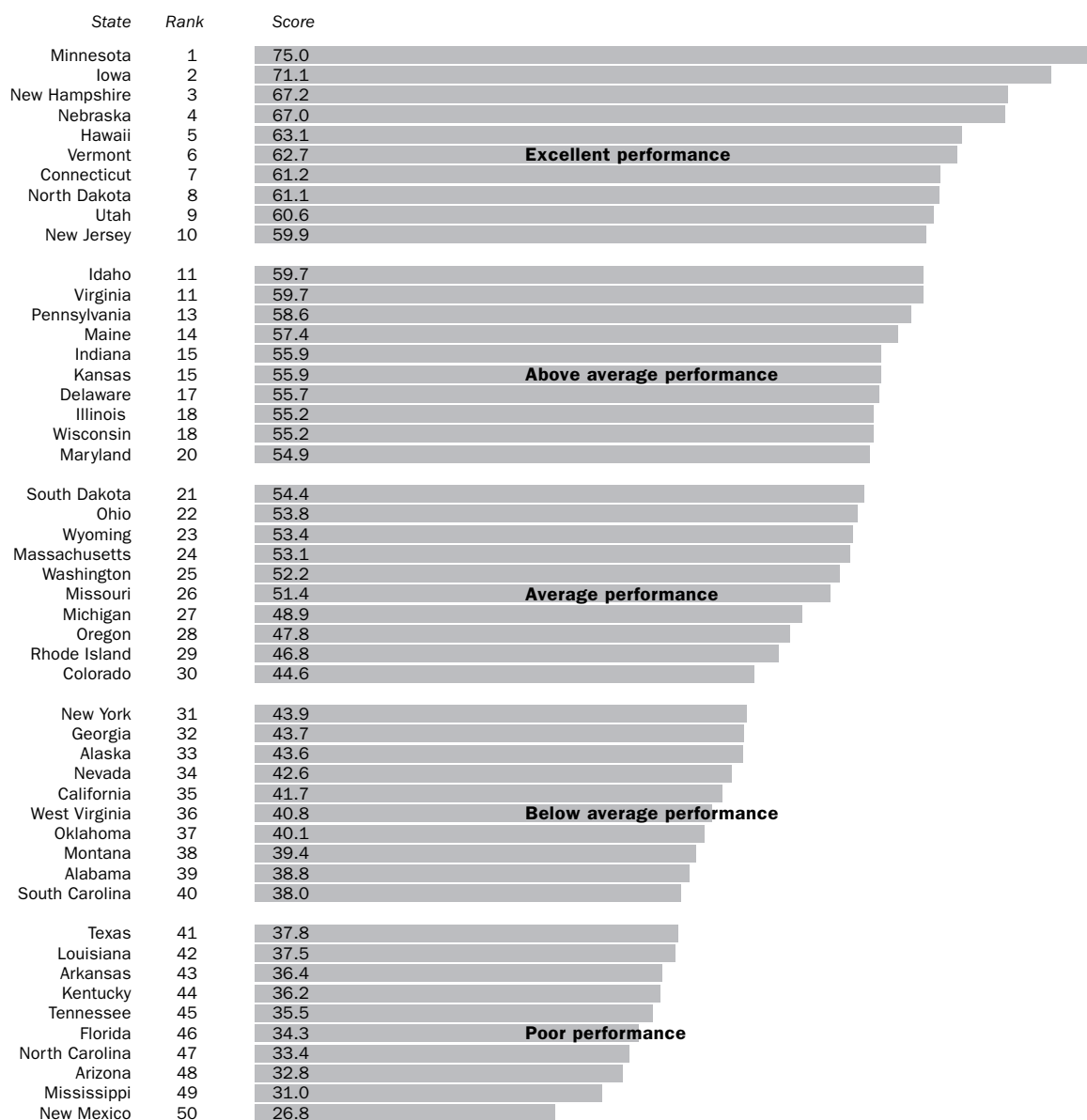
Since 1987, the Institute for Innovation in Social Policy has regularly published the Index of Social Health of the United States. This Index monitors the well-being of the nation on sixteen key social indicators. Similar to the Dow Jones Average or the Gross Domestic Product, the Index provides an overall assessment of performance in a single number. But instead of measuring the movement of the stock market or the magnitude of economic growth, it monitors social conditions.

The document presented here, *The Social Health of the States 2008*, builds on this work. It applies the sixteen indicator areas utilized in the Index to assess the social performance of the fifty states. Taken together, these indicators tell us much about the quality of life in each state, and about the strength of key aspects of American life such as education, health, work, safety, and income. The indicators reflect different stages in the life cycle. They are:

<i>Children:</i>	Infant Mortality Child Poverty Child Abuse
<i>Youth:</i>	Teenage Suicide Teenage Drug Abuse High School Completion
<i>Adults:</i>	Unemployment Average Wages Health Insurance Coverage
<i>Aging:</i>	Poverty Among the Elderly Suicide Among the Elderly
<i>All Ages:</i>	Homicides Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities Food Stamp Coverage Affordable Housing Income Inequality

Each state receives a social health score from 1 to 100 based on its cumulative performance on these indicators and is ranked accordingly among the fifty states. (For further information, see Note on Methodology.)

**Figure 1. Social Health of the States, 2008**



Source: Institute for Innovation in Social Policy

## Great Contrasts in the Nation

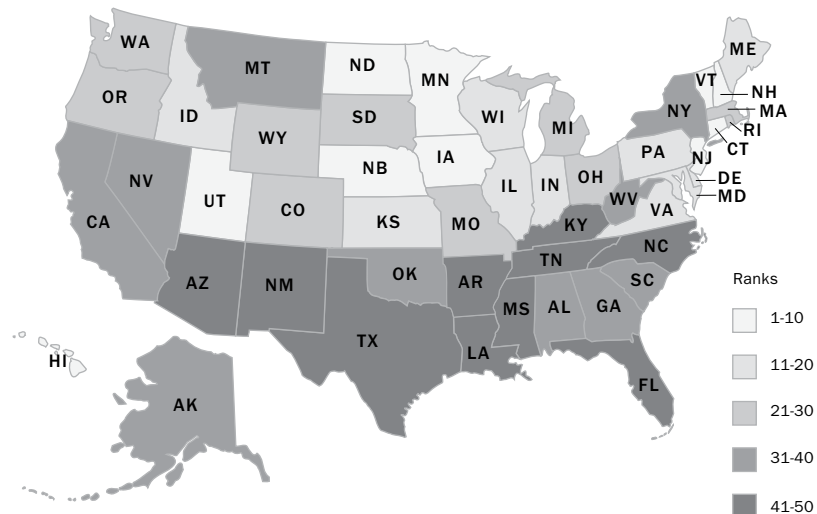
Figures 1 and 2 present the overall social performance of the fifty states. Figure 1 shows the states ranked according to their social health. Figure 2 presents a map, so that the most recent ranking of the states can be viewed geographically.

As Figure 1 makes clear, there is great variety in the social health performance of the fifty states. The highest-performing states, Minnesota and Iowa, have social health scores above 70 out of a possible 100; average-performing states, such as Massachusetts, Washington, and Missouri, score in the 50s; and the poorest-performing states, such as Arizona, Mississippi, and New Mexico score below 35.

The mean social health score of the top ten states is 64.9; the mean of the middle ten is 50.6; and the mean score of the bottom ten is 34.2. The average social health of the top ten states is more than 30 points higher than that of the ten poorest-performing states.

Figure 2 highlights regional differences in social health achievement. Midwestern and Northeastern states tend to have higher scores and rankings than states in the South and West. For example, eight of the top ten states are Midwestern or Northeastern, while every one of the bottom ten states is in either the West or the South.

**Figure 2. Social Health of the States, 2008, Map**



Source: Institute for Innovation in Social Policy

## How The States Fare On The Individual Indicators

As part of the assessment of social performance, the states were ranked according to how well they scored on each individual indicator [see also Part II]. If a state was ranked in the top ten on a given indicator, it received an A. If it ranked 11-20 it got a B, and so on, according to the following scale:

Indicator rank 1-10 = A

Indicator rank 11-20 = B

Indicator rank 21-30 = C

Indicator rank 31-40 = D

Indicator rank 41-50 = F

**Figure 3. Performance on individual indicators by the top, middle, and bottom states**

	A	B	C	D	F
Minne- sota #1	Infant mortality Child poverty Child abuse H.S. completion Health insurance cov. Elderly poverty Elderly suicide Homicides Income inequality	Unemployment Average wages Alcohol traffic deaths	Teenage suicide Teenage drug abuse Affordable housing	Food stamp cov.	
Washing- ton #25	Infant mortality Child poverty	Child abuse Teenage drug abuse Average wages Health insurance cov. Elderly poverty Homicides Food stamp cov.	Teenage suicide H.S. completion	Unemployment Income inequality Affordable housing	Elderly suicide Alcohol traffic deaths
New Mexico #50		Infant mortality Food stamp cov. Affordable housing	Unemployment Alcohol traffic deaths	Child abuse Income inequality	Child poverty Teenage suicide Teenage drug abuse H.S. completion Average wages Health insurance cov. Elderly poverty Elderly suicide Homicides

Shaded areas represent majority of grades

Source: Institute for Innovation in Social Policy

Variations in the performance of the different states are illustrated in Figure 3. It shows the grades on individual indicators received by three states: Minnesota, which was ranked number one in overall social health; Washington, the middle-ranking state; and New Mexico, the bottom-ranking state.

The top-ranked state, Minnesota, has A grades on nine indicators, ranging from infant mortality and child poverty to homicides and income inequality. Minnesota has no Fs and only one D. A similar pattern can be seen among other top-ten performing states. Although Minnesota is the only state in the country that earned nine As, most of the top ten states have numerous As and Bs and very few Ds and Fs.

By comparison, Washington, the 25th or middle-ranking state, has a more even distribution of grades, with two As, seven Bs, two Cs, three Ds, and 2 Fs. This pattern of mixed performance is fairly typical of the middle tier states, from South Dakota to Colorado.

New Mexico, the bottom-ranked or 50th state, makes a striking contrast. New Mexico has nine Fs, compared to none in Minnesota; it has no As, compared to Minnesota's nine. As a group, New Mexico and the other states with poor levels of performance have serious problems on indicators representing all stages of life—childhood, youth, adulthood, and old age.

These variations in performance are brought into even sharper relief when we consider the disparities among the states on specific indicators. For example:

- The infant mortality rate in Louisiana is more than twice the rate in Montana.
- The child poverty rate in Mississippi is five and a half times higher than in New Hampshire.
- Teenagers in Alaska commit suicide at seven times the rate found in Delaware.
- The unemployment rate in Michigan is two and a half times higher than in Hawaii.
- Average wages in Connecticut are nearly double those in Montana.
- One-fourth of non-elderly Texans lack health insurance, compared to one-tenth of those in Rhode Island.
- In Mississippi, the poverty rate among the elderly is five times that in Minnesota.
- Elderly suicide is almost seven times more common in Wyoming than in Rhode Island.
- The homicide rate in Maryland is exactly nine times the rate in North Dakota.

These variations in performance reflect the different levels of social health in the states and the relative strength of their social institutions. A state in which more than 85 percent of the young adults graduate from high school represents a very different quality of education from a state where only 57 percent graduate. Over time, this difference may have profound implications for work, health, safety, and other important aspects of social health. Similarly, much is revealed about differences in access to health care when 27 percent of one state’s population is uninsured, compared to 10 percent of another’s—or about law enforcement, when the poorest-performing state has a homicide rate nine times the rate of the best-performing state—or about hunger and nutrition, when one state covers more than 80 percent of those eligible for food stamps, while another serves less than half.

**Social Recession—A Condition Requiring Attention**

Like an annual medical checkup, this document emphasizes trouble spots and warning signs, so that areas of weakness can be monitored and addressed. All of the states, even those with the very best social health, have some areas of below-average or poor performance. For instance, Vermont, which ranks sixth overall, has two Fs and two Ds. Nebraska, which ranks fourth, has two Fs and one D.

More troubling are states that have problems across the board. The Institute has developed the term “social recession” to describe periods of serious social decline. In this report, we measure social recession at the state level according to the following two criteria: a state’s overall social health performance puts it among the bottom five states in the nation, and it has six or more Fs on the individual indicators. (See also Note on Methodology.) There are three states that meet these criteria: Arizona, Mississippi, and New Mexico. Figure 3 shows the overall rankings of these states and the F grades each received.

**Figure 4. The three social recession states, their overall ranks, and the indicators on which they received grades of F**

<b>Arizona (48)</b> Elderly suicide Health insurance cov. H.S. completion Homicides Income inequality Teenage suicide	<b>Mississippi (49)</b> Average wages Child poverty Elderly poverty Health insurance cov. H.S. completion Homicides Infant mortality Unemployment	<b>New Mexico (50)</b> Average wages Child poverty Elderly poverty Elderly suicide Health insurance cov. H.S. completion Homicides Teenage drug abuse Teenage suicide
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Source: Institute for Innovation in Social Policy

The performance of these recession states puts them at or near the bottom of the nation on many of the individual indicators. For example:

- Arizona is 47th in income inequality and 46th in homicides, elderly suicide, and health insurance coverage.
- Mississippi ranks 50th in both child poverty and elderly poverty, 49th in unemployment and infant mortality, and 48th in average wages.
- New Mexico ranks 49th in both teenage suicide and health insurance coverage, 47th in teenage drug abuse, and 46th in child poverty.

There are other states, particularly in the below-average tier, that also merit critical attention. Although they are not in social recession, they show significant warning signs that should be heeded and addressed. Three states can be used to illustrate such problems: California, Montana, and New York.

- California ranks 35th in the nation, and has shown some improvement over the past several years. Nevertheless, it has four Fs and 5 Ds. California ranks worst among the fifty states in both affordable housing and food stamp coverage, 43rd in income inequality, and 41st in health insurance coverage.
- Montana, with a rank of 38, has also shown improvement over time. Yet it too has continuing problems that need to be addressed. Overall, it has 6 Fs and 4 Ds. It is last in the nation on average wages, 47th in teenage suicide and alcohol-related traffic fatalities, 45th in teenage drug abuse, and 43rd in both elderly suicide and elderly poverty.
- New York, with a rank of 31, has lost ground over time, and shows significant weaknesses. It has five Fs and 3 Ds, with serious problems in income inequality, high school completion, affordable housing, food stamp coverage, and elderly poverty.

California, Montana, and New York are examples of states that need to monitor their problem areas closely, since despite their moderate rankings overall, they have serious “soft spots” that may lead to broader problems in the future if they are not addressed.

Principal Indicators—A Gauge of Overall Performance

We have found three indicators that appear to be most consistently associated with the success or failure of a state’s overall performance:

- Child poverty
- High school completion
- Health insurance coverage.

A state rarely does well overall without doing well on these indicators. By the same token, few states have generally poor performance without doing poorly on these three.

None of the top-ranked twenty-five states (from Minnesota to Washington) has an F grade on any of the three principal indicators. By comparison, the bottom twenty-five states (from Missouri to New Mexico) have among them a total of 30 Fs on these indicators. The grades of A show a similar pattern; the top twenty-five states have 27 As on the principal indicators, while the bottom twenty-five states have only 3.

The importance of these indicators becomes even more evident when we examine the three states that are in social recession. Figure 5 shows the performance of these social recession states on the three principal indicators. All of the grades but one are Fs, and the remaining grade is a D. The consistency of this pattern demonstrates the important role of the principal indicators in the poorest-performing states.

Figure 5. The three social recession states and their number of F grades on the principal indicators

State	Rank	Child poverty	High school completion	Health insurance coverage
Arizona	48	D	F	F
Mississippi	49	F	F	F
New Mexico	50	F	F	F

Source: Institute for Innovation in Social Policy



The three principal indicators have proved to be strong gauges of overall social performance in all three of our state reports. While additional data will be needed to confirm this pattern, there does appear to be a strong relationship between these indicators and social health as a whole. It is therefore important to monitor the principal indicators frequently and precisely. If future years show the same pattern, tracking local performance on these indicators may be of assistance to the states in evaluating which policies will have the greatest impact on improving overall conditions.

### **The Need to Know**

This report details the social health of the fifty states along sixteen strategic dimensions, from child well-being to the quality of life of the elderly, and all ages in between. We see substantial variation among the states, with particularly strong performance in some areas of the Northeast and Midwest. Key areas have been noted where stronger policies are needed and public attention is required.

The states, which closely reflect the grass-roots experience of their people, have the potential to lead the nation in designing public policies that address health, education, housing, safety and other social concerns. They can complement efforts at the national level to address long-term problems and to reduce the significant disparities that exist in social well-being.

To accomplish these tasks, the first step is assessment. We need to be well-informed about the quality of life of our citizens. This report is a beginning step. We hope that, side by side with this report, will come additional indicator reports for each state and region, which more fully document the particular characteristics and unique problems of each area.

We hope, too, that members of the general public will be engaged and informed about the quality of life in their own regions and states. Governors can contribute to this effort by preparing state-of-the-state messages that address issues beyond the economy, development, and budgets. They can and should address in detail the social condition of their states, ranging from infant mortality to child abuse, from health care coverage to the extent of inequality.

At the same time, the national government could be more involved and more helpful. More timely and detailed data could be made available to the states, to facilitate such assessments. Policies that are more fully enforced and resources that are more fully shared would also help the states address their most serious problems.

We are living at a time when Americans in many states are struggling with problems of unemployment and the loss of health insurance, inadequate schools and unaffordable housing, as well as the social calamities that too often follow natural disasters. The stability and well-being of this nation depend on ensuring that the residents of every state in the union can live in conditions of safety, security, comfort, and hope. We dedicate this report to that goal.

## **Part II**

### **State by State: Individual Profiles**



**Figure 6. Summary of Changes in Social Performance, 2003 to 2008**

STATE	RANK 2003	RANK 2008	CHANGE, 2003-2008	
			Improved	Worsened
Alabama	43	39	4	
Alaska	36	33	3	
Arizona	47	48		1
Arkansas	38	43		5
California	41	35	6	
Colorado	25	30		5
Connecticut	6	7		1
Delaware	16	17		1
Florida	33	46		13
Georgia	34	32	2	
Hawaii	19	5	14	
Idaho	37	11	26	
Illinois	31	18	13	
Indiana	12	15		3
Iowa	1	2		1
Kansas	24	15	9	
Kentucky	27	44		17
Louisiana	49	42	7	
Maine	4	14		10
Maryland	13	20		7
Massachusetts	17	24		7
Michigan	17	27		10
Minnesota	2	1	1	
Mississippi	48	49		1
Missouri	22	26		4
Montana	44	38	6	
Nebraska	5	4	1	
Nevada	46	34	12	
New Hampshire	11	3	8	
New Jersey	7	10		3
New Mexico	50	50	no change	
New York	26	31		5
North Carolina	42	47		5
North Dakota	28	8	20	
Ohio	22	22	no change	
Oklahoma	40	37	3	
Oregon	30	28	2	
Pennsylvania	3	13		10
Rhode Island	20	29		9
South Carolina	35	40		5
South Dakota	14	21		7
Tennessee	32	45		13
Texas	44	41	3	
Utah	10	9	1	
Vermont	9	6	3	
Virginia	15	11	4	
Washington	21	25		4
West Virginia	39	36	3	
Wisconsin	8	18		10
Wyoming	28	23	5	

**Figure 7. Biggest Winners 2003-2008**

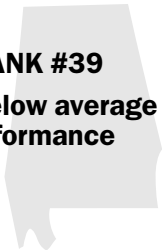
STATE	Rank 2003	Rank 2008	Improved by
Idaho	37	11	26
North Dakota	28	8	20
Hawaii	19	5	14
Illinois	31	18	13
Nevada	46	34	12
Kansas	24	15	9
New Hampshire	11	3	8
Louisiana	49	42	7
California	41	35	6
Montana	44	38	6

**Figure 8. Biggest Losers 2003-2008**

STATE	Rank 2003	Rank 2008	Worsened by
Kentucky	27	44	17
Tennessee	32	45	13
Florida	33	46	13
Maine	4	14	10
Michigan	17	27	10
Pennsylvania	3	13	10
Wisconsin	8	18	10
Rhode Island	20	29	9
Maryland	13	20	7
Massachusetts	17	24	7
South Dakota	14	21	7

ALABAMA

RANK #39  
Below average  
performance



Alabama has improved by four ranks since 2003, from 43 to 39, but its social performance remains below average. It has eleven grades of D or F and only four As or Bs. It performs poorly in infant mortality and high school completion, and has one of the worst homicide rates in the country. Alabama’s best performance is in child abuse, and it also performs quite well on unemployment, affordable housing, and alcohol-related traffic deaths.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Child abuse 5	Unemployment 12 Affordable housing 12 Alcohol traffic deaths 18	Health insurance cov. 29	Average wages 32 Teenage drug abuse 33 Food stamp cov. 33 Child poverty 34 Income inequality 34 Teenage suicide 36 Elderly suicide 36 Elderly poverty 38	Infant mortality 45 H.S. completion 45 Homicides 47

ALASKA

RANK #33  
Below average  
performance



Alaska ranks 33rd among the states, an improvement of three places from its rank of 36 in 2003. Its grades are broadly distributed, with two to four indicators at each level, but tilting slightly toward the negative. Alaska has seven Ds and Fs, compared to five As and Bs. The state’s best performance is on the socio-economic indicators, doing well on child poverty and elderly poverty as well as income inequality. It has poor grades on teenage drug abuse, alcohol-related traffic deaths, and unemployment; its teenage suicide rank is the worst in the nation.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Child poverty 6 Elderly poverty 6 Income inequality 8	Child abuse 18 Average wages 18	Affordable housing 21 Infant mortality 25 Homicides 26 Food stamp coverage 26	Health insurance cov. 33 Elderly suicide 34 H.S. completion 40	Teenage drug abuse 46 Alcohol traffic deaths 46 Unemployment 48 Teenage suicide 50

Worst in the nation

## ARIZONA

**Rank #48**  
**Poor performance**

Arizona's score of 48 represents a worsening by one point from its rank of 47 in 2003. This makes it among the three poorest performing states in the country. It has just one A grade, for food stamp coverage. At the negative end of the scale, it has six Fs; only three states have more. Arizona performs poorly on high school completion and teenage suicide, while it ranks among the five worst-performing states in the nation on health insurance coverage, elderly suicide, homicides, and income inequality.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Food stamp cov. 9	Elderly poverty 11 Unemployment 20 Average wages 20	Infant mortality 26	Child abuse 32 Affordable housing 35 Alcohol traffic deaths 36 Teenage drug abuse 37 Child poverty 39	H.S. completion 42 Teenage suicide 45 Health insurance cov. 46 Elderly suicide 46 Homicides 46 Income inequality 47

## ARKANSAS

**RANK #43**  
**Poor performance**

Arkansas slipped from 38th place in 2003 to 43rd place this year. Its one A grade is in affordable housing, while it has Bs in food stamp coverage, alcohol-related traffic deaths, and teenage suicide. Arkansas has more Fs (six) than any other grade. It scores poorly on health insurance coverage, child abuse, unemployment, and average wages, and ranks among the three lowest states in the country for elderly poverty and child poverty.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Affordable housing 7	Food stamp cov. 12 Alcohol traffic deaths 13 Teenage suicide 14	Elderly suicide 24 H.S. completion 26 Income inequality 28	Teenage drug abuse 38 Homicides 38 Infant mortality 40	Health insurance cov. 42 Child abuse 42 Unemployment 43 Average wages 44 Elderly poverty 48 Child poverty 49

CALIFORNIA

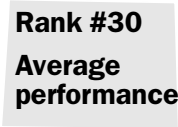


California is in 35th place this year, an improvement over its rank of 41 in 2003. The state performs very well on four indicators: average wages, elderly poverty, infant mortality, and teenage suicide. But more than half its grades are either D or F. It does poorly on health insurance coverage, income inequality, food stamp coverage, and affordable housing. On the last two of these indicators, its scores are the worst in the nation. California is the only state besides Mississippi that has two indicators ranked 50th nationwide.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Average wages 5 Elderly poverty 5 Infant mortality 6 Teenage suicide 9		Child abuse 26 Teenage drug abuse 28 Alcohol traffic deaths 30	H.S. completion 32 Child poverty 33 Elderly suicide 33 Unemployment 35 Homicides 40	Health insurance cov. 41 Income inequality 43 Food stamp cov. 50 Affordable housing 50

Worst in the nation

COLORADO



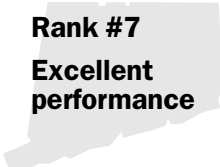
Colorado is ranked 30th, which represents a worsening from its rank of 25 in 2003. It has C grades on five indicators, as well as five As and Bs, and six Ds and Fs. The state excels in average wages and does reasonably well on child abuse, child poverty, high school completion, and homicides. On the negative side, it performs most poorly on three indicators: elderly suicide, teenage drug abuse, and teenage suicide.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Average wages 10	Child abuse 15 Child poverty 19 H.S. completion 20 Homicides 20	Infant mortality 22 Elderly poverty 22 Unemployment 23 Income inequality 25 Alcohol traffic deaths 30	Health insurance cov. 35 Food stamp cov. 36 Affordable housing 40	Elderly suicide 41 Teenage drug abuse 42 Teenage suicide 43



CONNECTICUT

Connecticut slipped one rank, from 6th place in 2003 to 7th this year, but it remains in the top tier of states. Half of Connecticut's grades are either As or Bs, and it has only one F grade, in alcohol-related traffic deaths. Connecticut stands first in the nation on average wages, and it has excellent performance on child poverty, teenage suicide, health insurance coverage, and elderly suicide.



A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Average wages 1	Infant mortality 11	Elderly poverty 21	Child abuse 33	Alcohol traffic deaths 41
Child poverty 4	H.S. completion 13	Unemployment 23	Affordable housing 37	
Teenage suicide 5	Homicides 16	Food stamp cov. 28	Teenage drug abuse 39	
Health insurance cov. 5		Income inequality 28		
Elderly suicide 5				

Best in the nation

DELAWARE

Delaware is in the above-average tier of states with a rank of 17, only one step worse than in 2003. Eight of its indicators rate either an A or a B. It has the nation's best performance on teenage suicide, and excellent grades on average wages, income inequality, and child poverty. Delaware has three Fs, in infant mortality, child abuse, and alcohol-related traffic deaths.



A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Teenage suicide 1	Unemployment 12	Food stamp cov. 21	H.S. completion 35	Infant mortality 43
Average wages 6	Affordable housing 15	Elderly poverty 22	Teenage drug abuse 36	Child abuse 43
Income inequality 8	Elderly suicide 16	Homicides 22		Alcohol traffic deaths 47
Child poverty 10	Health insurance cov. 17			

Best in the nation

FLORIDA



Florida’s performance has worsened significantly since 2003, going from a rank of 33 to 46; it now stands among the five poorest-performing states in the nation. Fourteen of its sixteen grades are C or lower, including five indicators that are graded F: high school completion, income inequality, child abuse, health insurance coverage, and affordable housing. Florida’s best performance is in unemployment, and it also has above-average performance on teenage suicide.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Unemployment 9	Teenage suicide 12	Child poverty 23 Teenage drug abuse 25 Average wages 25 Infant mortality 28 Homicides 28	Elderly poverty 36 Alcohol traffic deaths 36 Elderly suicide 38 Food stamp cov. 38	H.S. completion 43 Income inequality 43 Child abuse 47 Health insurance cov. 47 Affordable housing 47

GEORGIA



With a rank of 32, Georgia has improved by two places from its position in 34th place in 2003. The state has more low grades than high ones, with eight Ds and Fas compared to five As and Bs. Its poorest grades are in infant mortality, child abuse, and high school completion. Georgia ranks third best in the nation on both teenage drug abuse and alcohol-related traffic deaths, and it has Bs on food stamp coverage, average wages, and income inequality.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Teenage drug abuse 3 Alcohol traffic deaths 3	Food stamp cov. 14 Average wages 16 Income inequality 19	Teenage suicide 21 Unemployment 28 Affordable housing 28	Elderly poverty 35 Homicides 36 Health insurance cov. 37 Elderly suicide 37 Child poverty 40	Infant mortality 42 Child abuse 44 H.S. completion 47

## HAWAII

**Rank #5**  
**Excellent**  
**performance**

Hawaii's social performance has improved significantly since 2003, going from a rank of 19 to 5 this year. The state has an unusual distribution of grades, ranging from unemployment, where it scores best in the nation, to alcohol-related traffic deaths, where it scores worst in the nation. Half of Hawaii's grades are As—only Minnesota has more As. Besides unemployment, Hawaii's eight As include child abuse and health insurance coverage, on both of which it places second best in the country, and child poverty, on which it places third.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i>				
Unemployment 1	Infant mortality 16	Income inequality 28	H.S. completion 36	Affordable housing 46
Child abuse 2	Elderly poverty 20	Teenage drug abuse 30		Alcohol traffic deaths 50
Health insurance cov		Average wages 30		
Child poverty 3				
Homicides 6				
Teenage suicide 8				
Food stamp cov. 8				
Elderly suicide 9				

Best/worst in the nation

## IDAHO

**RANK #11**  
**Above average**  
**performance**

Idaho is tied with Virginia for 11th place. This represents a dramatic improvement from 2003, when its rank was a below-average 37. The state has compiled an excellent record this year, with ten indicators receiving either an A or a B, up from only five As and Bs in 2003. Its best grades are in alcohol-related traffic deaths (where it places third in the nation), income inequality, and child abuse. It does poorly in average wages and elderly suicide.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i>				
Alcohol traffic deaths 3	H.S. completion 11	Food stamp cov. 28	Health insurance cov. 32	Average wages 46
Income inequality 5	Homicides 12	Affordable housing 29	Teenage suicide 39	Elderly suicide 47
Child abuse 6	Child poverty 17			
Teenage drug abuse 9	Infant mortality 19			
Elderly poverty 9				
Unemployment 10				

ILLINOIS

Illinois has improved from a below-average rank of 31 in 2003 to a tie with Wisconsin this year for an above-average rank of 18, Illinois has more Cs than any other grade, but its better marks outweigh its poorer ones. Its best indicators are average wages, elderly suicide, teenage suicide, and teenage drug abuse. Illinois scores lowest on affordable housing, and also does poorly on infant mortality, homicides, and alcohol-related traffic deaths.



A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Average wages 7 Elderly suicide 7 Teenage suicide 10 Teenage drug abuse 10	Food stamp cov. 14 H.S. completion 16	Child poverty 24 Unemployment 25 Health insurance cov. 25 Elderly poverty 25 Income inequality 25 Child abuse 27	Infant mortality 31 Homicides 32 Alcohol traffic deaths 39	Affordable housing 41

INDIANA

Indiana has lost a little ground since 2003, slipping from a rank of 12 to a tie with Kansas for 15th place. The state has an unusual grade distribution, with the majority of its indicators rated either B or D. Indiana’s two A grades are in alcohol-related traffic deaths and affordable housing. Among Indiana’s six B grades, its best score is for food stamp coverage. The state’s worst scores are for high school completion, elderly poverty, infant mortality, and unemployment. It is one of seven states with no Fs.



A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Alcohol traffic deaths 7 Affordable housing 8	Food stamp cov. 11 Health insurance cov. 14 Child abuse 17 Teenage suicide 18 Teenage drug abuse 18 Elderly suicide 18 Income inequality 19	Child poverty 21 Average wages 28	Homicides 31 H.S. completion 33 Elderly poverty 33 Infant mortality 38 Unemployment 38	

IOWA

After ranking first in the nation in 2003, Iowa slipped to second place this year. It is still one of the country's best performing states, however, placing among the three best in the nation on the following indicators: homicides, alcohol-related traffic deaths, affordable housing, and income inequality. Iowa has no Fs; its D grades are for child abuse, teenage suicide, and average wages.

Rank #2

Excellent performance

A	B	C	D	F
<div>indicator / rank</div> <div>Homicides 2</div> <div>Alcohol traffic deaths 2</div> <div>Affordable housing 2</div> <div>Income inequality 3</div> <div>H.S. completion 4</div> <div>Infant mortality 5</div>	<div>Teenage drug abuse 11</div> <div>Elderly poverty 11</div> <div>Health insurance cov. 12</div> <div>Elderly suicide 14</div> <div>Unemployment 15</div>	<div>Food stamp cov. 21</div> <div>Child poverty 22</div>	<div>Child abuse 35</div> <div>Teenage suicide 35</div> <div>Average wages 37</div>	

KANSAS

Kansas moved from average to above-average performance this year, improving its rank from 24 in 2003 to a tie with Indiana for 15th place. It has more Cs—six—than any other grade. Most of the rest of its indicators are better. It has three As, and its best indicator, affordable housing, places third in the country. It has below-average performance on average wages, teenage suicide, and child poverty. It is one of only seven states that has no Fs.

Rank #15

Above average performance

A	B	C	D	F
<div>indicator / rank</div> <div>Affordable housing 3</div> <div>Alcohol traffic deaths 9</div> <div>Child abuse 10</div>	<div>Elderly poverty 14</div> <div>Teenage drug abuse 17</div> <div>Health insurance cov. 20</div> <div>Homicides 20</div>	<div>H.S. completion 22</div> <div>Income inequality 22</div> <div>Unemployment 25</div> <div>Elderly suicide 27</div> <div>Food stamp cov. 28</div> <div>Infant mortality 29</div>	<div>Average wages 31</div> <div>Teenage suicide 37</div> <div>Child poverty 38</div>	

KENTUCKY

Rank #44

Poor performance

Kentucky's performance has worsened significantly since 2003, going from a rank of 27 to 44. This places it among the seven poorest performing states in the nation. Kentucky's grades cluster at the negative end of the scale, with only three As and Bs compared to ten Ds and Fs. The state does well on alcohol-related traffic deaths and food stamp coverage, but performs poorly on income inequality, child abuse, unemployment, child poverty, and elderly poverty.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Alcohol traffic deaths 3 Food stamp cov. 9	Affordable housing 13	Homicides 25 Infant mortality 27 Elderly suicide 30	Health insurance cov. 31 Average wages 33 Teenage suicide 34 H.S. completion 34 Teenage drug abuse 40	Income inequality 43 Child abuse 46 Unemployment 46 Child poverty 47 Elderly poverty 49

LOUISIANA

Rank #42

Poor performance

Louisiana ranks 42 this year—still in the lowest tier of states, but an improvement over its even poorer rank of 49 in 2003. Louisiana's scores are mostly below average, with nine of its sixteen indicators graded D or F. It stands among the bottom three states nationally on child poverty and homicides, and it has the worst infant mortality rate in the country. Its best scores are on food stamp coverage and teenage drug abuse.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Food stamp cov. 6 Teenage drug abuse 7	Affordable housing 14 Unemployment 17	Child abuse 21 Elderly suicide 22 Teenage suicide 30	Alcohol traffic deaths 34 Average wages 35 Elderly poverty 37 H.S. completion 39	Income inequality 43 Health insurance cov. 47 Child poverty 48 Homicides 49 Infant mortality 50

Worst in the nation

MAINE

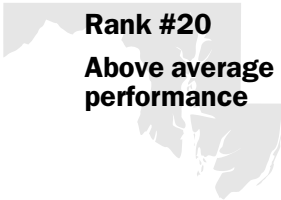


Maine slipped from 4th place to 14th this year, moving from the tier of excellent performance to above-average performance. It has grades of C or better on twelve of the sixteen indicators, including four As. It scores fourth in the nation on two indicators: homicides and food stamp coverage. It performs at a below-average level on elderly poverty and average wages, scores poorly on teenage suicide, and has the worst score in the country on teenage drug abuse.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Homicides 4 Food stamp cov. 4 Health insurance cov. 6 Alcohol traffic deaths 9	Child poverty 11 Child abuse 13 Infant mortality 15 Affordable housing 17	Income inequality 22 H.S. completion 23 Elderly suicide 23 Unemployment 28	Elderly poverty 33 Average wages 40	Teenage suicide 42 Teenage drug abuse 50

■ Worst in the nation

MARYLAND



Maryland ranks 20 this year, seven points worse than its rank of 13 in 2003. The state’s grades are distributed fairly evenly across the spectrum. It has excellent performance on teenage suicide, child poverty, teenage drug abuse, and average wages. It does poorly on infant mortality and food stamp coverage, and has one of the worst homicide rates in the nation.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Teenage suicide 6 Child poverty 7 Teenage drug abuse 8 Average wages 8	Unemployment 16 Elderly poverty 16 H.S. completion 17 Elderly suicide 19	Health insurance cov. 24 Alcohol traffic deaths 24 Affordable housing 25	Income inequality 36	Infant mortality 41 Food stamp cov. 42 Homicides 49

Note: Maryland is not ranked on child abuse, because the state does not report to the federal government the total number of children involved in reports of abuse.

MASSACHUSETTS

Rank #24  
Average  
performance



Massachusetts has lost ground since 2003, going from 17th to 24th place. The state has more As—five—than any other grade, and it is among the three best-performing states in the country on teenage suicide, average wages, and elderly suicide. On the other hand, Massachusetts has one of the three worst rates in the country for food stamp coverage, and it also performs poorly on affordable housing and teenage drug abuse.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Teenage suicide 2 Average wages 3 Elderly suicide 3 Infant mortality 4 Health insurance cov. 10	Homicides 14 Child poverty 18 H.S. completion 18	Alcohol traffic deaths 27 Elderly poverty 30	Child abuse 34 Unemployment 38 Income inequality 40	Affordable housing 42 Teenage drug abuse 44 Food stamp cov. 48

MICHIGAN

Rank #27  
Average  
performance



Michigan's rank of 27 is ten points worse than in 2003, when it tied with Massachusetts for 17th place. It has gone from above-average to average performance. Most of Michigan's scores cluster in the B to D range. It places among the best ten states in the nation on elderly suicide, and does quite well on average wages and health insurance coverage. But its performance on child abuse is poor, and its unemployment rate is the worst in the nation.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Elderly suicide 10	Average wages 11 Health insurance cov. 11 Teenage suicide 13 Food stamp cov. 16 Elderly poverty 18 Alcohol traffic deaths 18	Income inequality 24 Teenage drug abuse 27 Affordable housing 30	Homicides 33 Child poverty 34 Infant mortality 35 H.S. completion 37	Child abuse 41 Unemployment 50

Worst in the nation



MINNESOTA

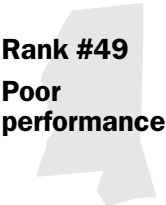


After ranking second in the nation in 2003, Minnesota moved into first place this year. No other state matches its record of nine As, and it performs best in the nation on elderly poverty. In addition, it stands among the top eight states nationwide on all three children’s indicators (infant mortality, child abuse, and child poverty) as well as on both indicators for the aging (elderly poverty and elderly suicide). Minnesota’s only below-average grade is a D for food stamp coverage.

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Elderly poverty 1	Average wages 13	Teenage drug abuse 24	Food stamp cov. 33	
Infant mortality 3	Alcohol traffic deaths 13	Teenage suicide 26		
Child abuse 3	Unemployment 17	Affordable housing 26		
Health insurance cov. 4				
Elderly suicide 6				
H.S. completion 7				
Child poverty 8				
Homicides 8				
Income inequality 8				

Best in the nation

MISSISSIPPI



Mississippi is one of the poorest performing states in the nation, having slipped from a rank of 48 in 2003 to 49 this year. It has more Fs (eight) than any state but New Mexico. Mississippi’s Fs include child poverty and elderly poverty, on both of which it scores worst in the nation. It also scores very close to the bottom nationally on three other indicators: average wages, infant mortality, and unemployment. The state’s only A is in teenage drug abuse, and its only B is in child abuse

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Teenage drug abuse 4	Child abuse 12	Elderly suicide 21	Income inequality 34	Homicides 43
		Food stamp cov. 21		Health insurance cov. 45
		Teenage suicide 22		H.S. completion 46
		Affordable housing 27		Average wages 48
		Alcohol traffic deaths 30		Infant mortality 49
				Unemployment 49
				Child poverty 50
				Elderly poverty 50

Worst in the nation

MISSOURI

Rank #26  
Average  
performance

Missouri has worsened by four ranks; it now stands in 26th place, compared to 22nd in 2003. Its profile includes eight indicators with below average performance, most notably in the areas of child abuse and homicides. On the positive side, Missouri has three As and two Bs, and its performance on food stamp coverage is the best in the nation. The state also does well on elderly poverty and affordable housing. It is one of only seven states with no Fs.

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Food stamp cov. 1	H.S. completion 14	Health insurance cov. 22	Child poverty 32	
Elderly poverty 8	Income inequality 14	Teenage suicide 23	Teenage drug abuse 32	
Affordable housing 10		Average wages 24	Elderly suicide 32	
			Infant mortality 33	
			Unemployment 33	
			Alcohol traffic deaths 34	
			Child abuse 36	
			Homicides 40	

Best in the nation

MONTANA

Rank #38  
Below average  
performance

Montana is in 38th place this year, an improvement over 2003, when it was ranked 44. The state profile ranges from scoring best in the nation on infant mortality to placing 50th on average wages. Montana also does well on unemployment and homicides, but the majority of its grades are at the low end of the scale, with a total of ten Ds and Fs. Besides its low scores on wages, it scores especially poorly on teenage drug abuse, teenage suicide, and alcohol-related traffic deaths.

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Infant mortality 1	Income inequality 12	Food stamp cov. 28	Child poverty 31	Elderly poverty 43
Unemployment 5	H.S. completion 14		Affordable housing 36	Elderly suicide 43
Homicides 6			Child abuse 38	Teenage drug abuse 45
			Health insurance cov. 38	Teenage suicide 47
				Alcohol traffic deaths 47
				Average wages 50

Best/worst in the nation

NEBRASKA

Rank #4

Excellent performance

Nebraska ranks 4th in the nation, having improved by one level from its position in 5th place in 2003. It has excellent performance on five indicators, above average performance on six more, and its record on high school completion is the best in the country. This positive picture is only marred by the state's poor performance on average wages and child abuse, and its below-average score on teenage suicide.

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
H.S. completion 1	Affordable housing 11	Food stamp cov. 21	Teenage suicide 32	Average wages 41
Unemployment 3	Teenage drug abuse 12	Infant mortality 24		Child abuse 48
Elderly poverty 3	Elderly suicide 13			
Income inequality 5	Homicides 13			
Alcohol traffic deaths 6	Child poverty 14			
	Health insurance cov. 17			

Best in the nation

NEVADA

Rank #34

Below average performance

Nevada has improved its social performance considerably, going from a rank of 46 in 2003 to 34 this year. The state has two As and three Bs, doing best on elderly poverty, where it ranks second in the nation, and on child poverty. On the negative side, its performance on high school completion is the worst of all fifty states, and it scores among the three worst states in the nation on homicides, elderly suicide, and affordable housing.

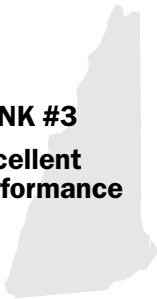
A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Elderly poverty 2	Income inequality 12	Unemployment 21	Food stamp cov. 39	Health insurance cov. 44
Child poverty 9	Alcohol traffic deaths 18	Teenage drug abuse 22		Homicides 48
	Average wages 19	Infant mortality 23		Elderly suicide 49
		Child abuse 25		Affordable housing 49
		Teenage suicide 29		H.S. completion. 50

Worst in the nation

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire has moved from above-average performance in 2003, ranked at 11, to a top-tier rank of 3 this year. With five As and eight Bs, New Hampshire performs well on many indicators. Its best scores are on child poverty—where it places first in the nation—elderly poverty, and homicides. It rates below average on teenage drug abuse and food stamp coverage, and has an F on affordable housing.

RANK #3  
Excellent  
performance



A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Child poverty 1	Infant mortality 12		Teenage drug abuse 34	Affordable housing 43
Elderly poverty 3	Average wages 12		Food stamp cov. 39	
Homicides 4	Health insurance cov. 13			
Child abuse 8	Alcohol traffic deaths 13			
Unemployment 10	Income inequality 14			
	Elderly suicide 17			
	Teenage suicide 19			
	H.S. completion 20			

Best in the nation

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey remains in the top tier of states although it has slipped slightly, from a rank of 7 in 2003 to 10 this year. It has six indicators with excellent performance—a record matched by only seven other states. New Jersey’s As include one indicator on which it places second in the nation (high school completion), and three on which it places fourth. At the negative end of the scale, it is among the poorest-performing states on food stamp coverage and affordable housing.

Rank #10  
Excellent  
performance



A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
H.S. completion 2	Infant mortality 14	Elderly poverty 26		Income inequality 42
Teenage suicide 4	Teenage drug abuse 14	Homicides 26		Food stamp cov. 47
Average wages 4	Child poverty 16	Unemployment 28		Affordable housing 48
Elderly suicide 4		Health insurance cov. 29		
Child abuse 7				
Alcohol traffic deaths 9				

NEW MEXICO

Rank #50  
Poor  
performance

New Mexico, is ranked 50th among the states, as it was in 2003. It has nine Fs, more than any other state. It is also one of only three states that has no As. On several indicators, New Mexico's scores are among the poorest in the country; these include child poverty, teenage drug abuse, teenage suicide, and health insurance coverage. Its only areas of above-average performance are food stamp coverage, affordable housing, and infant mortality.

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank	Food stamp cov. 17 Affordable housing 19 Infant mortality 20	Unemployment 21 Alcohol traffic deaths 27	Income inequality 36 Child abuse 38	H.S. completion 41 Average wages 43 Elderly poverty 43 Homicides 44 Elderly suicide 45 Child poverty 46 Teenage drug abuse 47 Teenage suicide 49 Health insurance cov. 49

NEW YORK

Rank #31  
Below average  
performance

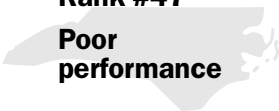
New York has slipped since 2003, going from a rank 26 to 31. It has two or three indicators at each grade-level except F, where it has five. New York has one of the worst rates of income inequality in the country, and it has very low scores on affordable housing and high school completion. It excels in some areas, however, scoring second best in the nation on average wages and elderly suicide, and third best on teenage suicide.

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank Average wages 2 Elderly suicide 2 Teenage suicide 3	Infant mortality 18 Alcohol traffic deaths 18	Homicides 24 Unemployment 25 Health insurance cov. 27	Child abuse 31 Teenage drug abuse 35 Child poverty 37	Elderly poverty 42 Food stamp cov. 42 Affordable housing 45 H.S. completion 48 Income inequality 49

NORTH CAROLINA

Rank #47

Poor performance



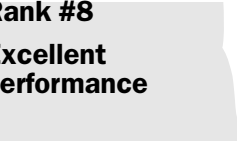
North Carolina has worsened by five points since 2003, going from a rank of 42 to 47. It has Ds on eight indicators; these include problems affecting children, teenagers, adults, and the elderly. The state scores even worse, earning F grades, on three more indicators: income inequality, child poverty, and infant mortality. The only indicator on which North Carolina receives a grade higher than C is alcohol-related traffic deaths.

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank	Alcohol traffic deaths 13	Affordable housing 23 Teenage suicide 24 Elderly suicide 26 Average wages 27	Teenage drug abuse 31 Unemployment 33 Food stamp cov. 36 Child abuse 37 H. S. completion 38 Elderly poverty 38 Homicides 38 Health insurance cov. 39	Income inequality 41 Child poverty 42 Infant mortality 46

NORTH DAKOTA

Rank #8

Excellent performance

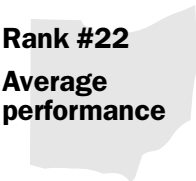


North Dakota has improved more since 2003 than any other state except Idaho, rising from 28th place to 8th. It performs very well on most indicators, and has seven As, compared to only two in 2003. North Dakota scores best in the nation on homicides and affordable housing, and scores very near the top on teenage drug abuse and high school completion. Yet the state does have some problem areas, reflected in its poor scores for food stamp coverage, alcohol-related traffic deaths, teenage suicide, and average wages.

A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank	Infant mortality 13 Health insurance cov. 17 Elderly poverty 17	Child poverty 29 Child abuse 30		Food stamp cov. 42 Alcohol traffic deaths 45 Teenage suicide 46 Average wages 47
Homicides 1				
Affordable housing 1				
Teenage drug abuse 2				
H.S. completion 3				
Unemployment 5				
Income inequality 5				
Elderly suicide 8				

Best in the nation

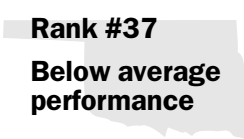
OHIO



Ohio's rank of 22 is the same as it was in 2003. The great majority of its grades are Bs or Cs. Ohio's best performance is on health insurance coverage, where it places eighth in the nation. It also does quite well on elderly poverty and high school completion. It scores poorly on unemployment, and has below average grades on infant mortality and child poverty.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Health insurance cov. 8	Elderly poverty 11 H.S. completion 12 Affordable housing 18 Food stamp cov. 19 Income inequality 19 Elderly suicide 20	Child abuse 22 Average wages 22 Teenage drug abuse 23 Alcohol traffic deaths 24 Teenage suicide 25 Homicides 29	Infant mortality 36 Child poverty 36	Unemployment 45

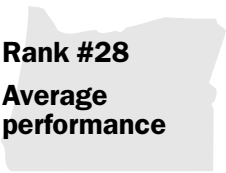
OKLAHOMA



Oklahoma remains in the tier of states performing at below average levels, but its rank of 37 this year is three points better than the 40 it earned in 2003. It has excellent performance on food stamp coverage, affordable housing, and alcohol-related traffic deaths, but its five As and Bs are outweighed by its nine Ds and Fs. Oklahoma's poorest grades are for child poverty, teenage drug abuse, average wages, health insurance coverage, and child abuse.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Food stamp cov. 6 Affordable housing 8 Alcohol traffic deaths 9	Income inequality 16 Unemployment 17	H.S. completion 24 Homicides 30	Infant mortality 37 Teenage suicide 40 Elderly poverty 40 Elderly suicide 40	Child poverty 41 Teenage drug abuse 41 Average wages 42 Health insurance cov. 43 Child abuse 45

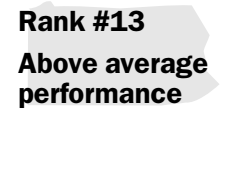
OREGON



Oregon’s rank of 28 this year puts it two points better than its rank of 30 in 2003. Its scores are quite evenly distributed, with two to four indicators at each grade-level. It places second in the nation on food stamp coverage, and is among the best nine states on elderly poverty, homicides, and infant mortality. Its worst scores are for teenage drug abuse, unemployment, and elderly suicide. On the latter indicator, it is third worst in the nation.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Food stamp cov. 2 Elderly poverty 7 Homicides 8 Infant mortality 9	Alcohol traffic deaths 13 Income inequality 16	Average wages 23 Child poverty 28 Child abuse 29	H.S. completion 31 Teenage suicide 38 Affordable housing 38 Health insurance cov. 40	Teenage drug abuse 43 Unemployment 44 Elderly suicide 48

PENNSYLVANIA



Pennsylvania, with a rank of 13, is in the above-average tier of states, but it has slipped considerably from 2003, when it placed 3rd in the nation. Most of Pennsylvania’s grades are Bs, Cs, or Ds. Its three As are for child abuse (on which it places best in the nation), health insurance coverage, and high school completion. Its four Ds are on unemployment, income inequality, homicides, and food stamp coverage. Pennsylvania is one of seven states in the country that has no Fs.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Child abuse 1 Health insurance cov. 7 H.S. completion 10	Elderly suicide 12 Elderly poverty 14 Teenage drug abuse 15 Teenage suicide 16 Average wages 17	Affordable housing 24 Alcohol traffic deaths 27 Infant mortality 30 Child poverty 30	Unemployment 31 Income inequality 31 Homicides 33 Food stamp cov. 33	

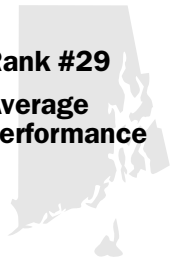
■ Best in the nation



RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island has worsened by nine points since 2003, from a rank of 20 to 29. It has two indicators ranked best in the nation: health insurance coverage and elderly suicide, and it also does well on infant mortality. Yet the state also has five Fs: on unemployment, affordable housing, food stamp coverage, teenage drug abuse, and alcohol-related traffic deaths. On the latter indicator, it scores second worst in the country.

Rank #29  
Average  
performance



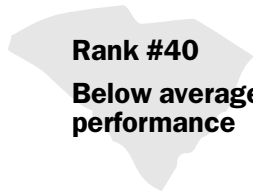
A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
Health insurance cov. 1	Teenage suicide 15	Average wages 21	Elderly poverty 31	Unemployment 41
Elderly suicide 1	Homicides 17	Child abuse 24		Affordable housing 43
Infant mortality 8		Income inequality 25		Food stamp cov. 46
		Child poverty 26		Teenage drug abuse 48
		H.S. completion 29		Alcohol traffic deaths 49

■ Best in the nation

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina’s rank of 40 this year is five points worse than its rank of 35 in 2003. Its grades are fairly evenly distributed from B to F, but it is one of only three states in the country that has no As. South Carolina does have five Bs, including placing twelfth nationally on food stamp coverage. Its worst grades are on homicides, unemployment, infant mortality, and high school completion. Its high school completion rate is the second worst in the nation.

Rank #40  
Below average  
performance



A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank				
	Food stamp cov. 12	Elderly suicide 25	Income inequality 31	Homicides 44
	Teenage drug abuse 18	Child poverty 27	Health insurance cov. 34	Unemployment 47
	Child abuse 19	Elderly poverty 27	Alcohol traffic deaths 36	Infant mortality 48
	Affordable housing 19		Average wages 39	H.S. completion 49
	Teenage suicide 20			

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Rank #21**  
**Average**  
**performance**

South Dakota has worsened by seven points since 2003, from a rank of 14 to 21. Its social performance runs to highs and lows, with ten As or Bs, no Cs, and six Ds or Fs. It has excellent scores on five indicators, standing second best in the country on income inequality, and fourth best on affordable housing. Its poorest grades are for elderly poverty, food stamp coverage, teenage suicide, and average wages. South Dakota's wage-levels are the second lowest in the country.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Income inequality 2 Affordable housing 4 Unemployment 5 H.S. completion 8 Homicides 10	Elderly suicide 11 Child poverty 14 Teenage drug abuse 16 Health insurance cov. 16 Child abuse 20		Infant mortality 39 Alcohol traffic deaths 39	Elderly poverty 41 Food stamp cov. 42 Teenage suicide 48 Average wages 49

## TENNESSEE

**Rank #45**  
**Poor**  
**performance**

Tennessee's rank of 45 puts it among the nation's poorest-performing states—a significant worsening from its rank of 32 in 2003. It is one of only three states that has seven or more Fs. Its worst performance is on income inequality; it also scores very poorly on infant mortality, high school completion, and elderly poverty. Its only area of excellent performance is food stamp coverage, where it places second in the nation.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Food stamp cov. 2	Affordable housing 16 Alcohol traffic deaths 18 Teenage drug abuse 20	Average wages 26 Health insurance cov. 26 Elderly suicide 28	Teenage suicide 31 Child abuse 40	Unemployment 42 Homicides 42 Child poverty 43 Infant mortality 44 H.S. completion 44 Elderly poverty 46 Income inequality 47

TEXAS

Texas is ranked 41. That is three points better than 2003, when it ranked 44, but it is still in the poorest-performing tier of states. It has one A, in teenage drug abuse, compared to five Fs. The rest of its scores are quite evenly balanced. Texas performs poorly on alcohol-related traffic deaths, child poverty, and elderly poverty; it is tied with New York for the nation’s poorest performance on income inequality, and it has the country’s worst rate of health insurance coverage.

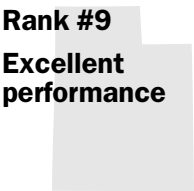


A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Teenage drug abuse 5	Average wages 14 Teenage suicide 17 Infant mortality 20	Child abuse 23 H.S. completion 27 Food stamp cov. 28 Affordable housing 30	Elderly suicide 31 Unemployment 35 Homicides 36	Alcohol traffic deaths 42 Child poverty 45 Elderly poverty 45 Income inequality 49 Health insurance cov. 50

Worst in the nation

UTAH

Utah has improved by one point since 2003, from a rank of 10 to 9. It is one of only five states in the nation with seven or more As, and it has the best record of all fifty states in alcohol-related traffic deaths. It also scores particularly well on unemployment and teenage drug abuse. Utah’s weakest indicator area is suicide; its elderly suicide rate puts it in thirty-ninth place nationally, and its teenage suicide rate is among the ten worst in the country.



A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Alcohol traffic deaths 1 Unemployment 2 Teenage drug abuse 6 Infant mortality 7 Income inequality 8 H.S. completion 9 Homicides 10	Child poverty 11	Elderly poverty 24 Food stamp cov. 25 Child abuse 28	Affordable housing 33 Health insurance cov. 35 Average wages 36 Elderly suicide 39	Teenage suicide 41

Best in the nation

VERMONT

Vermont improved to the rank of 6 this year, from 9th place in 2003. Its seven As and three Bs far outweigh its four below-average grades. Vermont scores second best in the nation on three indicators: infant mortality, child poverty, and homicides, and it places fourth in child abuse. It also performs well on high school completion, teenage suicide, and health insurance coverage. It scores poorly on elderly suicide and its teenage drug abuse rate is the second worst in the nation.

Rank #6  
Excellent  
performance



A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank Infant mortality 2 Child poverty 2 Homicides 2 Child abuse 4 H.S. completion 6 Teenage suicide 7 Health insurance cov. 9	Unemployment 12 Income inequality 14 Food stamp cov. 20	Elderly poverty 29 Alcohol traffic deaths 30	Average wages 34 Affordable housing 34	Elderly suicide 44 Teenage drug abuse 49

VIRGINIA

Virginia ties with Idaho for the rank of 11, an improvement over its rank of 15 in 2003. Virginia's grades are evenly distributed from A to D, and it is one of only seven states with no Fs. It scores best in the nation on teenage drug abuse, third on unemployment, and also does well on child abuse and average wages. Its four below-average indicators are infant mortality, homicides, elderly suicide, and income inequality.

Rank #11  
Above average  
performance



A	B	C	D	F
indicator / rank Teenage drug abuse 1 Unemployment 3 Child abuse 9 Average wages 9	Teenage suicide 11 H.S. completion 18 Alcohol traffic deaths 18 Child poverty 20	Health insurance cov. 21 Affordable housing 22 Food stamp cov. 26 Elderly poverty 28	Infant mortality 32 Homicides 33 Elderly suicide 35 Income inequality 36	

■ Best in the nation

WASHINGTON

Washington's rank of 25 represents a slight worsening from its rank of 21 in 2003, although it remains in the tier of states with average performance. Washington has only two As, for child poverty and infant mortality, but it has seven Bs, for indicators including teenage drug abuse, average wages, health insurance coverage, and child abuse. It scores lowest on elderly suicide and alcohol-related traffic deaths.



A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Child poverty 5 Infant mortality 10	Teenage drug abuse 13 Average wages 15 Health insurance cov. 15 Child abuse 16 Food stamp cov. 17 Elderly poverty 18 Homicides 18	Teenage suicide 28 H.S. completion 30	Income inequality 36 Unemployment 38 Affordable housing 39	Elderly suicide 42 Alcohol traffic deaths 42

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia ranks 36, which is three points better than its position in 39th place in 2003. It has excellent performance on affordable housing, food stamp coverage, and alcohol-related traffic deaths, but all the rest of its grades are C or lower. West Virginia has five Fs, and these include three indicators on which its rates are among the worst in the nation: average wages, elderly poverty, and child abuse.



A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Affordable housing 4 Food stamp cov. 5 Alcohol traffic deaths 7		Homicides 22 Health insurance cov. 23 H.S. completion 25 Teenage drug abuse 29 Elderly suicide 29	Income inequality 31 Infant mortality 34 Unemployment 35	Child poverty 44 Teenage suicide 44 Average wages 45 Elderly poverty 47 Child abuse 49

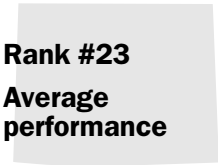
WISCONSIN



Wisconsin dropped out of the top tier of states this year, slipping from a rank of 8 in 2003 to tie with Illinois for 18th place. It has three or four indicators at each grade-level between A and D. Wisconsin’s rate of health insurance coverage is second best in the country, and it stands among the top four states nationwide on high school completion and income inequality. The state has only one F, for alcohol-related traffic deaths.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Health insurance cov. 2 H.S. completion 4 Income inequality 4	Child abuse 11 Elderly suicide 15 Infant mortality 17 Homicides 19	Child poverty 25 Teenage drug abuse 26 Average wages 29 Affordable housing 30	Unemployment 31 Elderly poverty 31 Teenage suicide 33 Food stamp cov. 39	Alcohol traffic deaths 42

WYOMING



Wyoming’s rank improved by five points, from 28 in 2003 to 23 this year. Most of its grades are C or better. Wyoming scores best in the country on income inequality, and places within the top five on affordable housing and unemployment. At the negative end of the scale, its elderly suicide rate is the worst in the country, its rate of food stamp coverage is second worst nationally, and it also performs very poorly on infant mortality.

A	B	C	D	F
<i>indicator / rank</i> Income inequality 1 Affordable housing 4 Unemployment 5 Elderly poverty 9	Child poverty 13 Child abuse 14 Homicides 14	Teenage drug abuse 21 Alcohol traffic deaths 24 Teenage suicide 27 H.S. completion 28 Health insurance cov. 28	Average wages 38	Infant mortality 47 Food stamp cov. 49 Elderly suicide 50

Worst in the nation

## **Part III**

# **Indicator by Indicator: State Rankings**

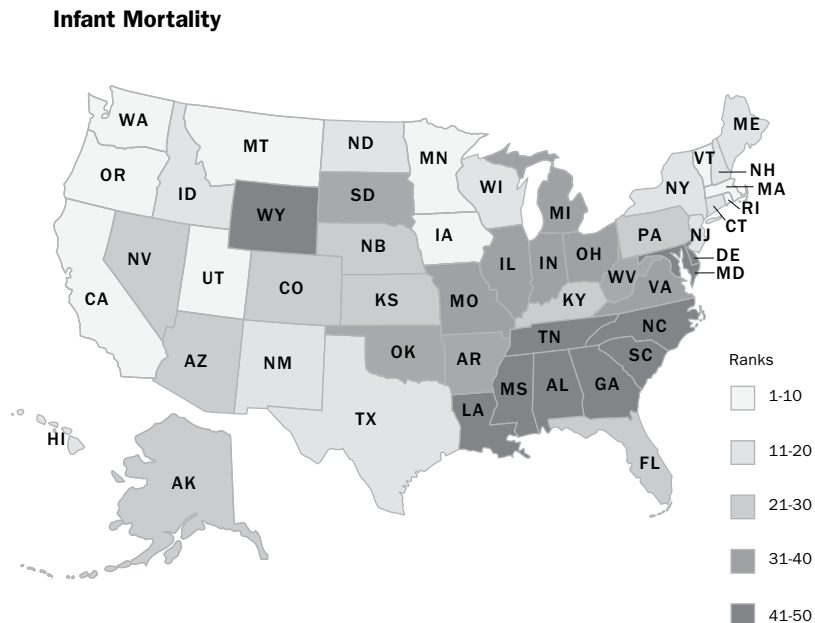




## INFANT MORTALITY

Number of deaths in the first year of life  
per 1000 live births, 2004

Montana 1	4.51
Vermont 2	4.55
Minnesota 3	4.70
Massachusetts 4	4.84
Iowa 5	5.07
California 6	5.16
Utah 7	5.21
Rhode Island 8	5.32
Oregon 9	5.49
Washington 10	5.52
Connecticut 11	5.54
New Hampshire 12	5.56
North Dakota 13	5.62
New Jersey 14	5.65
Maine 15	5.67
Hawaii 16	5.69
Wisconsin 17	5.99
New York 18	6.07
Idaho 19	6.17
New Mexico 20	6.31
Texas 20	6.31
Colorado 22	6.34
Nevada 23	6.39
Nebraska 24	6.57
Alaska 25	6.67
Arizona 26	6.73
Kentucky 27	6.78
Florida 28	7.05
Kansas 29	7.16
Pennsylvania 30	7.25
Illinois 31	7.46
Virginia 32	7.47
Missouri 33	7.51
West Virginia 34	7.57
Michigan 35	7.58
Ohio 36	7.67
Oklahoma 37	8.01
Indiana 38	8.03
South Dakota 39	8.20
Arkansas 40	8.27
Maryland 41	8.44
Georgia 42	8.51
Delaware 43	8.62
Tennessee 44	8.63
Alabama 45	8.67
North Carolina 46	8.79
Wyoming 47	8.81
South Carolina 48	9.28
Mississippi 49	9.81
Louisiana 50	10.46



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

Percentage of related children  
under 18 living in poverty, 2006

**Child Poverty**

Ranks

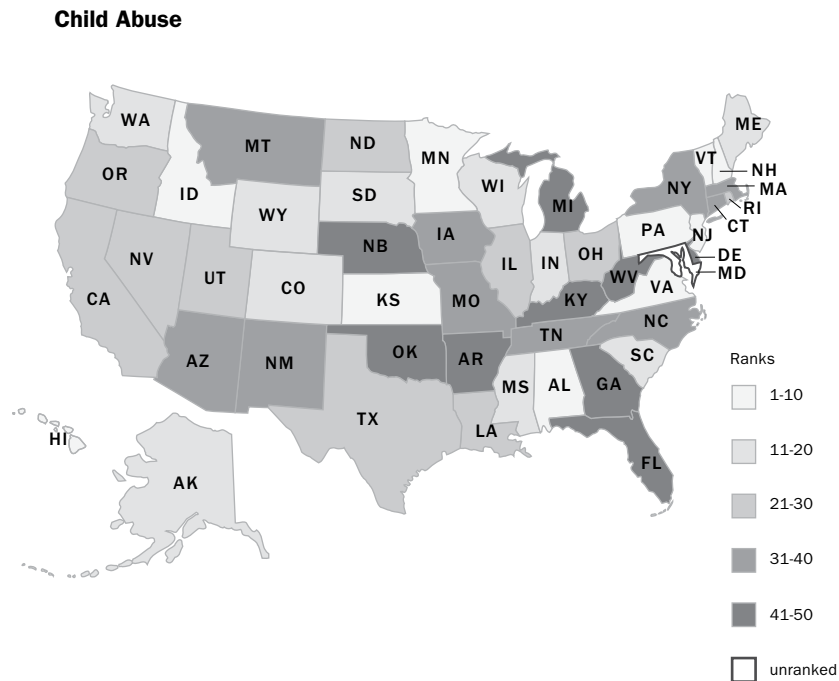
- 1-10
- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50

56

## CHILD ABUSE

Number of children under 18 involved in  
reports of abuse per 1000 population, 2005

Pennsylvania 1	8.2
Hawaii 2	18.1
Minnesota 3	22.5
Vermont 4	23.4
Alabama 5	25.1
Idaho 6	25.8
New Jersey 7	28.2
New Hampshire 8	30.6
Virginia 9	30.8
Kansas 10	31.5
Wisconsin 11	32.0
Mississippi 12	32.9
Maine 13	33.3
Wyoming 14	34.4
Colorado 15	34.9
Washington 16	35.8
Indiana 17	36.0
Alaska 18	36.2
South Carolina 19	37.2
South Dakota 20	38.0
Louisiana 21	38.9
Ohio 22	40.8
Texas 23	42.5
Rhode Island 24	43.7
Nevada 25	44.7
California 26	44.8
Illinois 27	45.1
Utah 28	45.4
Oregon 29	47.2
North Dakota 30	51.1
New York 31	52.1
Arizona 32	53.2
Connecticut 33	54.0
Massachusetts 34	54.8
Iowa 35	56.7
Missouri 36	59.7
North Carolina 37	63.4
Montana 38	67.3
New Mexico 38	67.3
Tennessee 40	67.9
Michigan 41	68.9
Arkansas 42	69.5
Delaware 43	70.8
Georgia 44	73.8
Oklahoma 45	77.0
Kentucky 46	77.2
Florida 47	82.2
Nebraska 48	82.5
West Virginia 49	131.4
Maryland (unranked)	n/a*



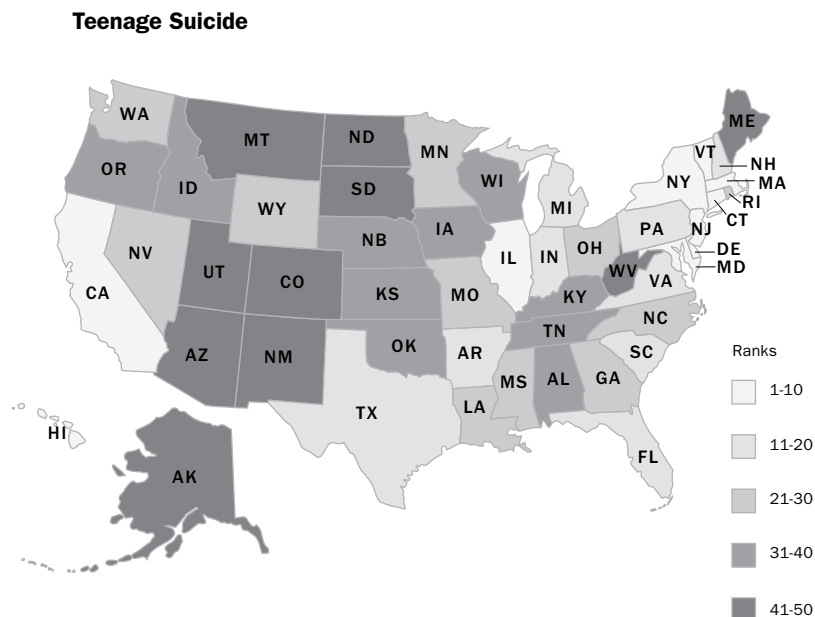
Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

\* Maryland is not ranked on child abuse,  
because the state does not report to the federal government  
the total number of children involved in reports of abuse.

## TEENAGE SUICIDE

Deaths by suicide, ages 15-24, per  
100,000 population, 2004

Delaware 1	5.14
Massachusetts 2	5.76
New York 3	6.44
New Jersey 4	7.05
Connecticut 5	7.43
Maryland 6	7.61
Vermont* 7	7.82
Hawaii* 8	7.98
California 9	8.20
Illinois 10	8.51
Virginia 11	9.20
Florida 12	9.34
Michigan 13	9.51
Arkansas 14	9.59
Rhode Island* 15	9.62
Pennsylvania 16	9.67
Texas 17	9.82
Indiana 18	9.98
New Hampshire* 19	10.00
South Carolina 20	10.40
Georgia 21	10.47
Mississippi 22	10.87
Missouri 23	10.91
North Carolina 24	11.16
Ohio 25	11.20
Minnesota 26	11.27
Wyoming 27	11.30
Washington 28	11.81
Nevada 29	12.17
Louisiana 30	12.20
Tennessee 31	12.31
Nebraska 32	12.39
Wisconsin 33	12.63
Kentucky 34	12.94
Iowa 35	12.99
Alabama 36	13.17
Kansas 37	13.62
Oregon 38	13.64
Idaho 39	14.04
Oklahoma 40	14.07
Utah 41	14.31
Maine 42	15.52
Colorado 43	15.85
West Virginia 44	16.55
Arizona 45	17.04
North Dakota* 46	17.42
Montana 47	19.33
South Dakota* 48	21.37
New Mexico 49	26.20
Alaska 50	38.91



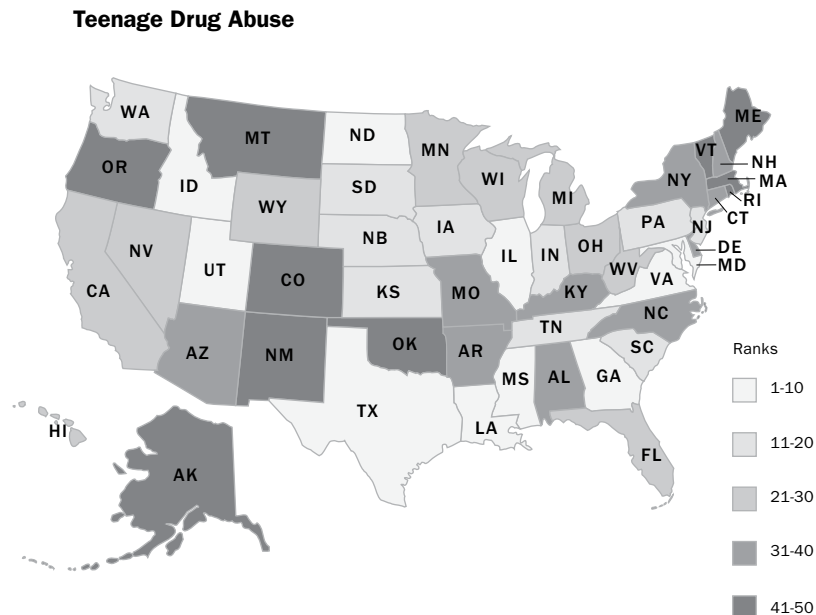
Source: National Center for Health Statistics

\* Based on small sample

## TEENAGE DRUG ABUSE

Percentage of 12 to 17 year olds reporting  
any illicit drug use in the past month,  
2004-2005 average

Virginia	1	8.31
North Dakota	2	8.53
Georgia	3	8.81
Mississippi	4	8.82
Texas	5	8.85
Utah	6	8.93
Louisiana	7	8.99
Maryland	8	9.14
Idaho	9	9.30
Illinois	10	9.41
Iowa	11	9.49
Nebraska	12	9.58
Washington	13	9.62
New Jersey	14	9.64
Pennsylvania	15	9.77
South Dakota	16	9.89
Kansas	17	9.92
Indiana	18	9.97
South Carolina	18	9.97
Tennessee	20	10.03
Wyoming	21	10.05
Nevada	22	10.16
Ohio	23	10.26
Minnesota	24	10.27
Florida	25	10.50
Wisconsin	26	10.55
Michigan	27	10.57
California	28	10.58
West Virginia	29	10.59
Hawaii	30	10.82
North Carolina	31	10.87
Missouri	32	10.92
Alabama	33	10.93
New Hampshire	34	10.98
New York	35	11.05
Delaware	36	11.13
Arizona	37	11.16
Arkansas	38	11.20
Connecticut	39	11.21
Kentucky	40	11.30
Oklahoma	41	11.37
Colorado	42	11.98
Oregon	43	12.18
Massachusetts	44	12.34
Montana	45	12.73
Alaska	46	12.98
New Mexico	47	13.00
Rhode Island	48	13.32
Vermont	49	13.37
Maine	50	14.44

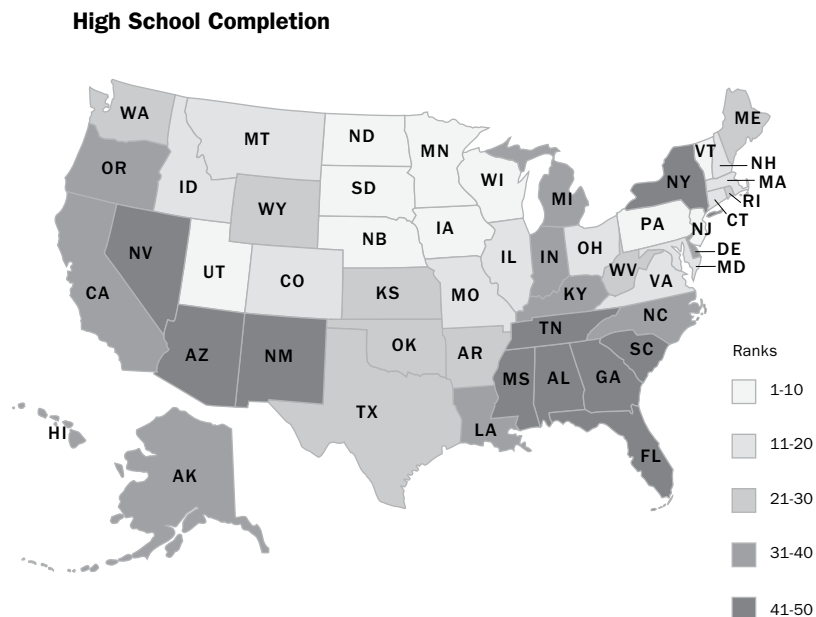


Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,  
National Household Survey on Drug Abuse

## HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

Freshman graduation rate, public high school  
students, 2003-2004 school year

Nebraska 1	87.6
New Jersey 2	86.3
North Dakota 3	86.1
Iowa 4	85.8
Wisconsin* 4	85.8
Vermont 6	85.4
Minnesota 7	84.7
South Dakota 8	83.7
Utah 9	83.0
Pennsylvania 10	82.2
Idaho 11	81.5
Ohio 12	81.3
Connecticut 13	80.7
Missouri 14	80.4
Montana 14	80.4
Illinois 16	80.3
Maryland 17	79.5
Massachusetts 18	79.3
Virginia 18	79.3
Colorado 20	78.7
New Hampshire 20	78.7
Kansas 22	77.9
Maine 23	77.6
Oklahoma 24	77.0
West Virginia 25	76.9
Arkansas 26	76.8
Texas 27	76.7
Wyoming 28	76.0
Rhode Island 29	75.9
Washington 30	74.6
Oregon 31	74.2
California 32	73.9
Indiana 33	73.5
Kentucky 34	73.0
Delaware 35	72.9
Hawaii 36	72.6
Michigan 37	72.5
North Carolina 38	71.4
Louisiana 39	69.4
Alaska 40	67.2
New Mexico 41	67.0
Arizona 42	66.8
Florida 43	66.4
Tennessee 44	66.1
Alabama 45	65.0
Mississippi 46	62.7
Georgia 47	61.2
New York* 48	60.9
South Carolina 49	60.6
Nevada 50	57.4



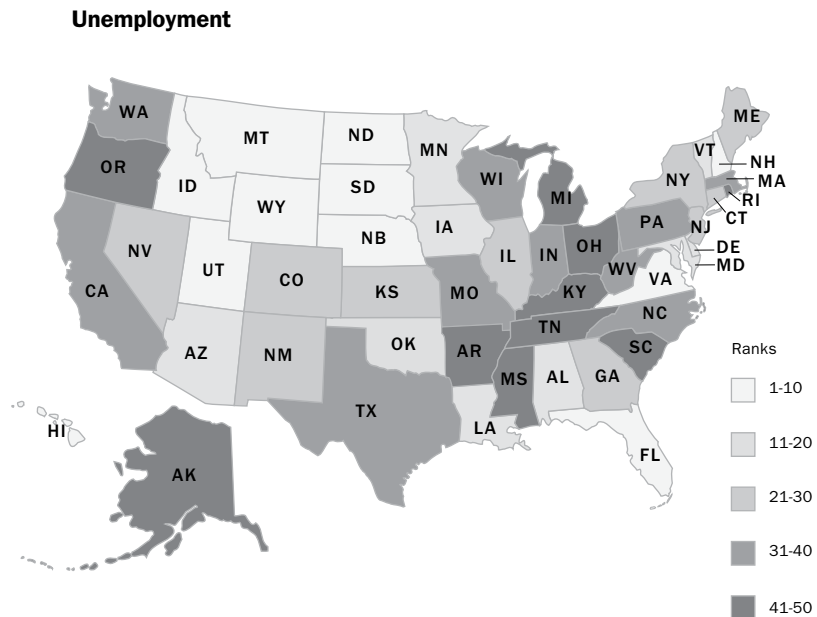
Source: National Center for Education Statistics

\* Data are from 2002-2003

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployed persons as percentage of the civilian labor force, 2006

Hawaii 1	2.4
Utah 2	2.9
Nebraska 3	3.0
Virginia 3	3.0
Montana 5	3.2
North Dakota 5	3.2
South Dakota 5	3.2
Wyoming 5	3.2
Florida 9	3.3
Idaho 10	3.4
New Hampshire 10	3.4
Alabama 12	3.6
Delaware 12	3.6
Vermont 12	3.6
Iowa 15	3.7
Maryland 16	3.9
Louisiana 17	4.0
Minnesota 17	4.0
Oklahoma 17	4.0
Arizona 20	4.1
Nevada 21	4.2
New Mexico 21	4.2
Colorado 23	4.3
Connecticut 23	4.3
Illinois 25	4.5
Kansas 25	4.5
New York 25	4.5
Georgia 28	4.6
Maine 28	4.6
New Jersey 28	4.6
Pennsylvania 31	4.7
Wisconsin 31	4.7
Missouri 33	4.8
North Carolina 33	4.8
California 35	4.9
Texas 35	4.9
West Virginia 35	4.9
Indiana 38	5.0
Massachusetts 38	5.0
Washington 38	5.0
Rhode Island 41	5.1
Tennessee 42	5.2
Arkansas 43	5.3
Oregon 44	5.4
Ohio 45	5.5
Kentucky 46	5.7
South Carolina 47	6.5
Alaska 48	6.7
Mississippi 49	6.8
Michigan 50	6.9

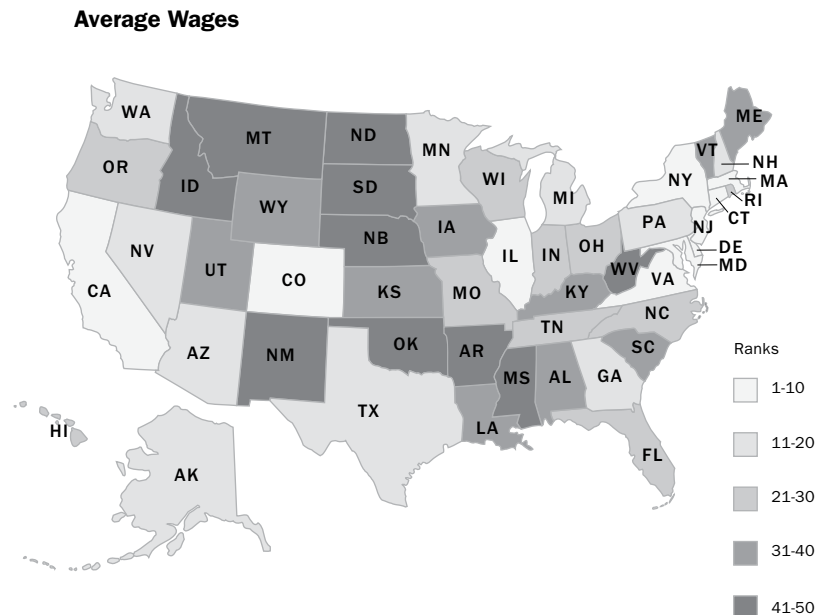


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## AVERAGE WAGES

Average weekly wages,  
workers in private industry, 2005

Connecticut 1	1032
New York 2	1019
Massachusetts 3	970
New Jersey 4	945
California 5	879
Delaware 6	858
Illinois 7	843
Maryland 8	823
Virginia 9	807
Colorado 10	800
Michigan 11	791
New Hampshire 12	789
Minnesota 13	788
Texas 14	786
Washington 15	774
Georgia 16	760
Pennsylvania 17	755
Alaska 18	746
Nevada 19	728
Arizona 20	725
Rhode Island 21	713
Ohio 22	708
Oregon 23	697
Missouri 24	696
Florida 25	694
Tennessee 26	690
North Carolina 27	688
Indiana 28	682
Wisconsin 29	675
Hawaii 30	665
Kansas 31	659
Alabama 32	654
Kentucky 33	649
Vermont 34	647
Louisiana 35	645
Utah 36	631
Iowa 37	628
Wyoming 38	627
South Carolina 39	623
Maine 40	617
Nebraska 41	615
Oklahoma 42	607
New Mexico 43	603
Arkansas 44	592
West Virginia 45	587
Idaho 46	585
North Dakota 47	569
Mississippi 48	562
South Dakota 49	551
Montana 50	537



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

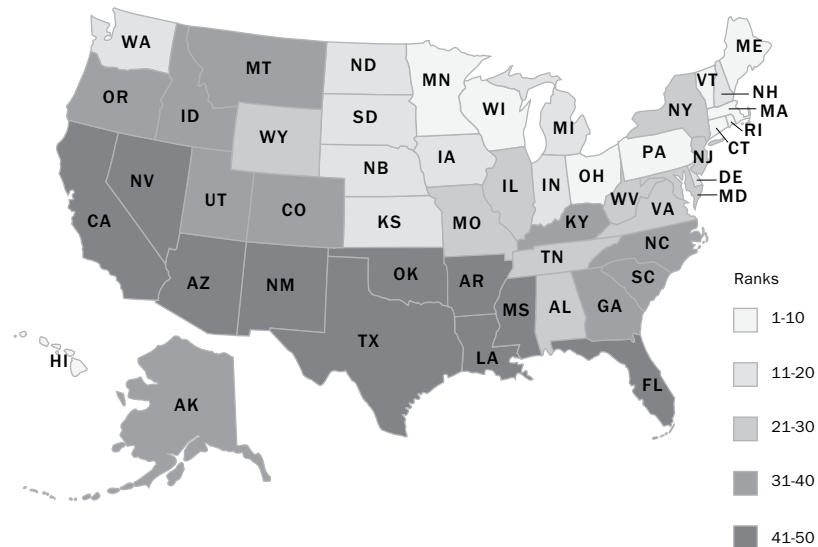


## HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Percentage of persons under age 65 without health insurance, 2006

Rhode Island 1	9.7
Hawaii 2	9.9
Wisconsin 2	9.9
Minnesota 4	10.4
Connecticut 5	10.7
Maine 6	10.8
Pennsylvania 7	11.4
Ohio 8	11.5
Vermont 9	11.6
Massachusetts 10	11.8
Michigan 11	11.9
Iowa 12	12.1
New Hampshire 13	13.0
Indiana 14	13.1
Washington 15	13.2
South Dakota 16	13.7
Delaware 17	13.9
Nebraska 17	13.9
North Dakota 17	13.9
Kansas 20	14.0
Virginia 21	14.7
Missouri 22	15.3
West Virginia 23	15.4
Maryland 24	15.5
Illinois 25	15.6
Tennessee 26	15.8
New York 27	16.0
Wyoming 28	16.8
Alabama 29	17.3
New Jersey 29	17.3
Kentucky 31	17.4
Idaho 32	17.5
Alaska 33	17.7
South Carolina 34	18.1
Colorado 35	18.9
Utah 35	18.9
Georgia 37	19.2
Montana 38	19.3
North Carolina 39	20.2
Oregon 40	20.3
California 41	20.6
Arkansas 42	21.5
Oklahoma 43	21.6
Nevada 44	22.1
Mississippi 45	23.1
Arizona 46	23.3
Florida 47	25.0
Louisiana 47	25.0
New Mexico 49	26.0
Texas 50	27.2

Health Insurance Coverage

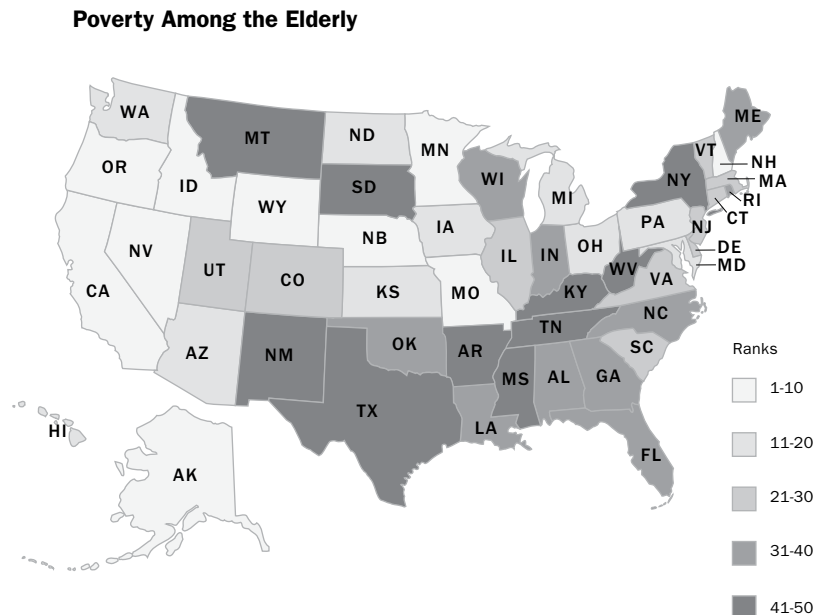


Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey

## POVERTY AMONG THE ELDERLY

Percentage of persons 65 and over  
living in poverty, 2006

Minnesota	1	4.1
Nevada	2	5.1
Nebraska	3	5.2
New Hampshire	3	5.2
California	5	6.2
Alaska	6	6.3*
Oregon	7	6.6
Missouri	8	6.7
Idaho	9	7.0
Wyoming	9	7.0*
Arizona	11	7.1
Iowa	11	7.1
Ohio	11	7.1
Kansas	14	7.2
Pennsylvania	14	7.2
Maryland	16	7.4
North Dakota	17	7.5
Michigan	18	7.6
Washington	18	7.6
Hawaii	20	7.8
Connecticut	21	7.9
Colorado	22	8.1
Delaware	22	8.1
Utah	24	8.4
Illinois	25	8.6
New Jersey	26	8.9
South Carolina	27	9.2
Virginia	28	9.3
Vermont	29	9.5*
Massachusetts	30	9.6
Rhode Island	31	9.7
Wisconsin	31	9.7
Indiana	33	9.8
Maine	33	9.8
Georgia	35	10.1
Florida	36	10.6
Louisiana	37	10.9
Alabama	38	11.0
North Carolina	38	11.0
Oklahoma	40	11.2
South Dakota	41	11.5
New York	42	12.7
Montana	43	12.8
New Mexico	43	12.8
Texas	45	13.1
Tennessee	46	13.4
West Virginia	47	13.5
Arkansas	48	15.1
Kentucky	49	17.3
Mississippi	50	20.7



Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey

\* Based on small sample

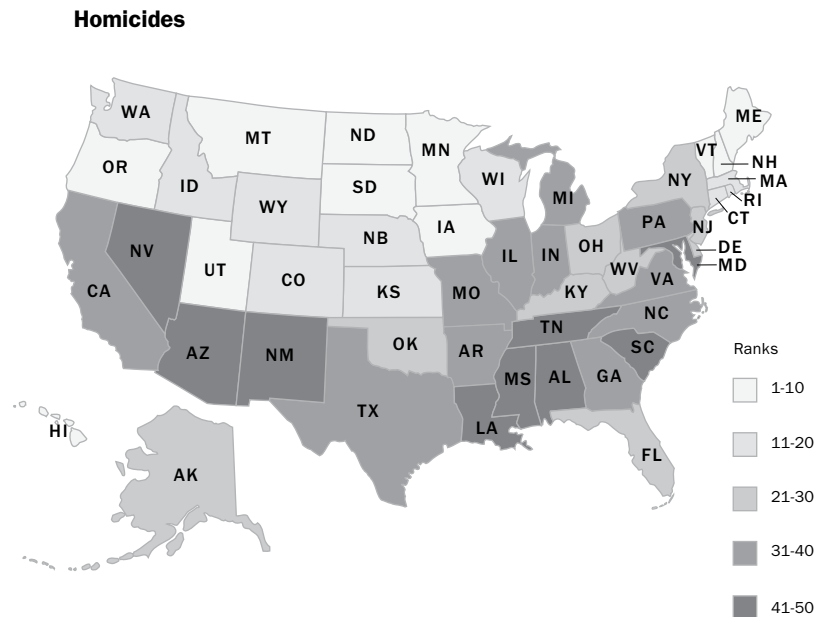
Deaths by suicide, ages 65 and over,  
per 100,000 population, 2004

65

## HOMICIDES

Murders and non-negligent manslaughter  
per 100,000 population, 2005

North Dakota	1	1.1
Iowa	2	1.3
Vermont	2	1.3
Maine	4	1.4
New Hampshire	4	1.4
Hawaii	6	1.9
Montana	6	1.9
Minnesota	8	2.2
Oregon	8	2.2
South Dakota	10	2.3
Utah	10	2.3
Idaho	12	2.4
Nebraska	13	2.5
Massachusetts	14	2.7
Wyoming	14	2.7
Connecticut	16	2.9
Rhode Island	17	3.2
Washington	18	3.3
Wisconsin	19	3.5
Colorado	20	3.7
Kansas	20	3.7
Delaware	22	4.4
West Virginia	22	4.4
New York	24	4.5
Kentucky	25	4.6
Alaska	26	4.8
New Jersey	26	4.8
Florida	28	5.0
Ohio	29	5.1
Oklahoma	30	5.3
Indiana	31	5.7
Illinois	32	6.0
Michigan	33	6.1
Pennsylvania	33	6.1
Virginia	33	6.1
Georgia	36	6.2
Texas	36	6.2
Arkansas	38	6.7
North Carolina	38	6.7
California	40	6.9
Missouri	40	6.9
Tennessee	42	7.2
Mississippi	43	7.3
New Mexico	44	7.4
South Carolina	44	7.4
Arizona	46	7.5
Alabama	47	8.2
Nevada	48	8.5
Louisiana	49	9.9
Maryland	49	9.9

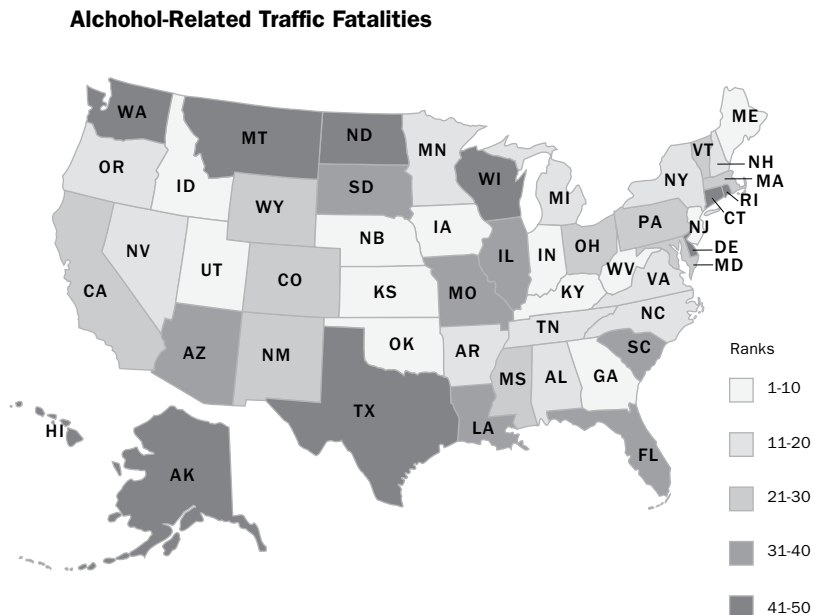


Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Report

## ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES

Traffic deaths involving alcohol,  
as a percentage of all traffic deaths, 2005

Utah	1	13
Iowa	2	26
Georgia	3	32
Idaho	3	32
Kentucky	3	32
Nebraska	6	33
Indiana	7	34
West Virginia	7	34
Kansas	9	35
Maine	9	35
New Jersey	9	35
Oklahoma	9	35
Arkansas	13	36
Minnesota	13	36
New Hampshire	13	36
North Carolina	13	36
Oregon	13	36
Alabama	18	37
Michigan	18	37
Nevada	18	37
New York	18	37
Tennessee	18	37
Virginia	18	37
Maryland	24	38
Ohio	24	38
Wyoming	24	38
Massachusetts	27	39
New Mexico	27	39
Pennsylvania	27	39
California	30	40
Colorado	30	40
Mississippi	30	40
Vermont	30	40
Louisiana	34	41
Missouri	34	41
Arizona	36	42
Florida	36	42
South Carolina	36	42
Illinois	39	43
South Dakota	39	43
Connecticut	41	44
Texas	42	45
Washington	42	45
Wisconsin	42	45
North Dakota	45	47
Alaska	46	48
Delaware	47	49
Montana	47	49
Rhode Island	49	50
Hawaii	50	51

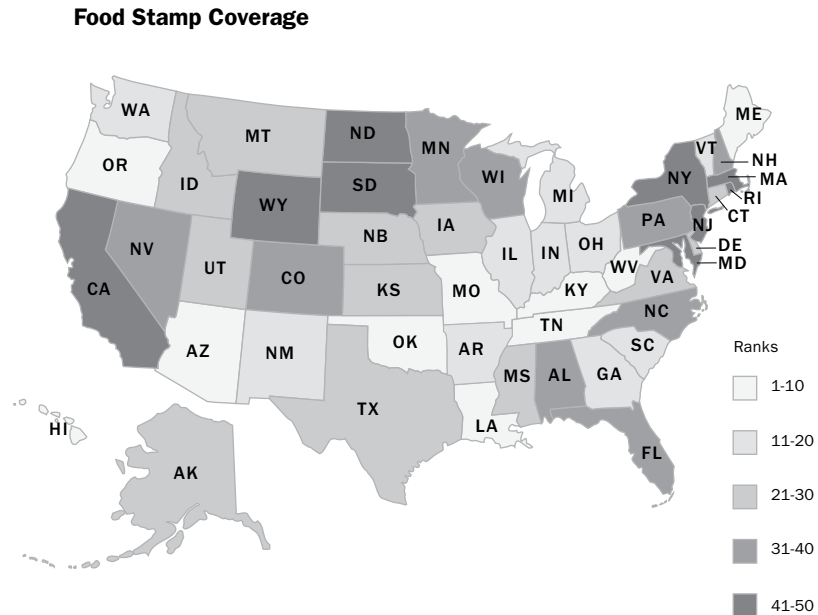


Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

## FOOD STAMP COVERAGE

Number of participating households  
as a percentage of eligible households, 2004

Missouri 1	84
Oregon 2	83
Tennessee 2	83
Maine 4	77
West Virginia 5	76
Louisiana 6	75
Oklahoma 6	75
Hawaii 8	72
Arizona 9	71
Kentucky 9	71
Indiana 11	69
Arkansas 12	68
South Carolina 12	68
Georgia 14	67
Illinois 14	67
Michigan 16	66
New Mexico 17	65
Washington 17	65
Ohio 19	64
Vermont 20	62
Delaware 21	61
Iowa 21	61
Mississippi 21	61
Nebraska 21	61
Utah 25	60
Alaska 26	59
Virginia 26	59
Connecticut 28	58
Idaho 28	58
Kansas 28	58
Montana 28	58
Texas 28	58
Alabama 33	57
Minnesota 33	57
Pennsylvania 33	57
Colorado 36	56
North Carolina 36	56
Florida 38	55
Nevada 39	54
New Hampshire 39	54
Wisconsin 39	54
Maryland 42	53
New York 42	53
North Dakota 42	53
South Dakota 42	53
Rhode Island 46	52
New Jersey 47	50
Massachusetts 48	49
Wyoming 49	48
California 50	46

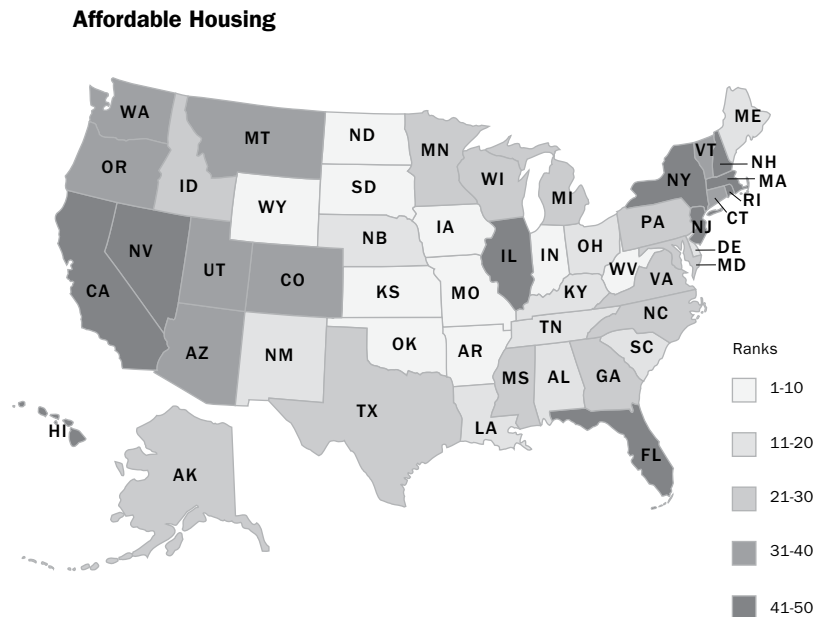


Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Percentage of mortgaged owners spending 30 percent or more of household income on monthly owner costs, 2005

North Dakota	1	21.5
Iowa	2	24.3
Kansas	3	25.4
South Dakota	4	25.5
West Virginia	4	25.5
Wyoming	4	25.5
Arkansas	7	25.6
Indiana	8	25.9
Oklahoma	8	25.9
Missouri	10	26.3
Nebraska	11	26.4
Alabama	12	26.9
Kentucky	13	27.1
Louisiana	14	28.5
Delaware	15	28.6
Tennessee	16	29.5
Maine	17	29.8
Ohio	18	29.9
New Mexico	19	30.6
South Carolina	19	30.6
Alaska	21	30.7
Virginia	22	30.8
North Carolina	23	30.9
Pennsylvania	24	31.0
Maryland	25	31.3
Minnesota	26	31.4
Mississippi	27	31.6
Georgia	28	31.8
Idaho	29	32.0
Michigan	30	32.4
Texas	30	32.4
Wisconsin	30	32.4
Utah	33	32.8
Vermont	34	33.3
Arizona	35	33.7
Montana	36	34.4
Connecticut	37	34.8
Oregon	38	35.8
Washington	39	36.0
Colorado	40	36.9
Illinois	41	37.2
Massachusetts	42	37.3
New Hampshire	43	37.8
Rhode Island	43	37.8
New York	45	38.9
Hawaii	46	39.7
Florida	47	40.6
New Jersey	48	40.7
Nevada	49	42.4
California	50	47.7

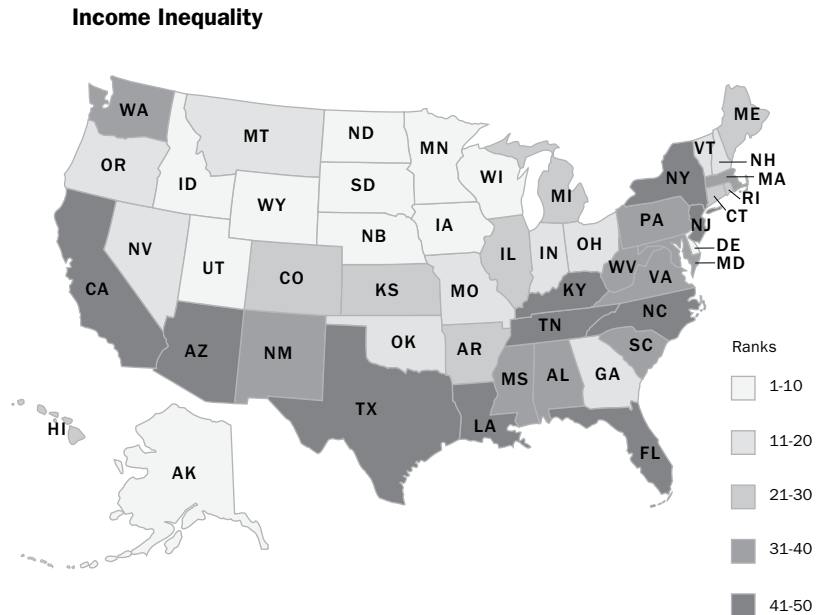


Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey

## INCOME INEQUALITY

Ratio of incomes of top and bottom fifths of families,  
2001-2003 average (2002 dollars)

Wyoming	1	5.2
South Dakota	2	5.3
Iowa	3	5.4
Wisconsin	4	5.5
Idaho	5	5.6
Nebraska	5	5.6
North Dakota	5	5.6
Alaska	8	5.8
Delaware	8	5.8
Minnesota	8	5.8
Utah	8	5.8
Montana	12	5.9
Nevada	12	5.9
New Hampshire	14	6.0
Vermont	14	6.0
Missouri	14	6.0
Oklahoma	16	6.3
Oregon	16	6.3
Georgia	19	6.4
Indiana	19	6.4
Ohio	19	6.4
Kansas	22	6.5
Maine	22	6.5
Michigan	24	6.7
Colorado	25	6.8
Illinois	25	6.8
Rhode Island	25	6.8
Arkansas	28	6.9
Connecticut	28	6.9
Hawaii	28	6.9
Pennsylvania	31	7.0
South Carolina	31	7.0
West Virginia	31	7.0
Alabama	34	7.1
Mississippi	34	7.1
Maryland	36	7.2
New Mexico	36	7.2
Virginia	36	7.2
Washington	36	7.2
Massachusetts	40	7.3
North Carolina	41	7.4
New Jersey	42	7.5
California	43	7.6
Florida	43	7.6
Kentucky	43	7.6
Louisiana	43	7.6
Arizona	47	7.7
Tennessee	47	7.7
New York	49	8.1
Texas	49	8.1



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities



# Note on Methodology

This is the third edition of *The Social Health of the States*. Earlier editions were published in 2001 and 2003. In each report, the social health of the fifty individual states was assessed based on their performance on sixteen key social indicators.

## The Indicators

The sixteen indicators used in these reports have been adapted from the indicators that comprise the Index of Social Health of the United States. The Index was designed by Marc L. Miringoff, Marque-Luisa Miringoff, and Sandra Opdycke. It has been released annually by the Institute for Innovation in Social Policy since 1987.

The indicators were selected for *The Social Health of the States* based on the following guidelines:

- They are regularly assessed at the state level by federal agencies or recognized private research organizations.
- They represent a distribution over the age spectrum. The chosen indicators reflect the conditions of children, youth, adults, the elderly, and some that affect all age groups.
- They reflect a balance between social and socioeconomic dimensions. The selected indicators address social concerns such as health, education, and public safety, as well as issues of socioeconomic well-being such as poverty, wages, and unemployment.
- They address issues that are at the center of public concern and policy debate, and are monitored because of their significance in American life.
- They represent social issues on which different states perform at different levels, thus meriting comparative assessment.

The same indicator areas have been used in each of the three *Social Health of the States* reports. For four of the indicators, data sources have been modified over time in order to improve the quality of the comparison or to adapt to changing data availability. Listed below are the indicators used in the current report, annotated to show which measures have changed since the previous report in 2003.

## Children

Infant mortality: Number of deaths in the first year of life per 1000 live births.

Child poverty: Percentage of related children under 18 living in poverty.

Child abuse: Number of children under 18 involved in reports of abuse per 1000 population.

## Youth

Teenage suicide: Deaths by suicide, ages 15-24, per 100,000 population [2003 report: The age group was 15-19.]

Teenage drug abuse: Percentage of 12 to 17 year olds reporting any illicit drug use in the past month.

High school completion: Freshman graduation rate, public high school students. [2003 report: The measure was the percentage of persons ages 18 to 24 not currently in high school]

## Adults

Unemployment: Unemployed persons as percentage of the civilian labor force.

Average wages: Average weekly wages, workers in private industry. [2003: Production workers' wages were compared, rather than all workers in the private sector.]

Health insurance coverage: Percentage of persons under age 65 without health insurance.

## The Elderly

Poverty among the elderly: Percentage of persons 65 and over living in poverty.

Suicide among the elderly: Deaths by suicide, ages 65 and over, per 100,000 population.

### **All Ages**

Homicides: Murders and non-negligent manslaughter per 100,000 population.

Alcohol-related traffic fatalities: Traffic deaths involving alcohol, as a percentage of all traffic deaths.

Food stamp coverage: Number of participating households as a percentage of eligible households.

Affordable housing: Percentage of mortgaged owners spending 30 percent or more of household income on monthly owner costs. [2003: The measure was the ratio of average construction cost of a new home to per capita income.]

Income inequality: Ratio of incomes of top and bottom fifths of families.

The most recent statistics available are used for each indicator. In the current report, for example, the figures for poverty, health insurance, and unemployment are from 2006, while the most recent data on income inequality in the states is an average for the years 2001–2003.

## **Methodology for Assessing Social Health**

The first step in assessing the states' social health is to rank their performance on each of the sixteen indicators. Each state's sixteen ranks are then averaged, and the average is subtracted from the worst possible average score a state could attain, which is 50 (representing last place on each of the sixteen indicators). The difference between the state's actual average and the worst possible average is then expressed as a percentage of 50; this represents the state's social health score. The larger the difference, the higher the percentage and therefore the higher the social health score.

As a final step, states are ranked according to their social health scores, and are then assigned to the following tiers: ranks 1 to 10—excellent performance; ranks 11 to 20—above average performance; ranks 21 to 30—average performance; ranks 31 to 40—below average performance; and ranks 41 to 50—poor performance.

[Note: Additional calculations were required in this year's report, to allow for the fact that comparable data on child abuse rates in Maryland were not available. It was thus necessary to average Maryland's performance based on fifteen indicators instead of sixteen. In addition, the "worst possible" average score for each of the other 49

states became 799/16 instead of 800/16, since the worst possible score on child abuse (without data for Maryland) was 49 instead of 50.]

### **Social Recession**

The Institute has developed the term "social recession" to describe periods of serious social decline. At the national level, we identify social recessions by tracking annual changes in our Index of Social Health. This permits us to factor in the concept of change over time, as is done with economic recessions. Since the present report deals only with a single time-period, we measure social recession at the state level according to the following criteria: a state's overall social health performance puts it among the bottom five states in the nation, and it has six or more Fs on the individual indicators.

### **Indicator sources:**

Infant mortality: Number of deaths in the first year of life per 1000 live births, 2004. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Final Mortality Data 2004, Table 32.

Child poverty: Percentage of related children under 18 living in poverty, 2006. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Detailed Poverty Tables, Table POV46, at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

Child abuse: Number of children under 18 involved in reports of abuse per 1000 population, 2005. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2005* (2007), at [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov). Note that child protective service agencies use the term "report" to designate a referral that is judged credible enough to merit further investigation. See: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2004* (2006) 7, at [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov).

Teenage suicide: Deaths by suicide, ages 15-24, per 100,000 population, 2004. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Final Mortality Data 2004 (unpublished table).

Teenage drug abuse: Percentage of 12 to 17 year olds reporting any illicit drug use in the past month, 2004-2005 average. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Statistics, *Results from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings* (Sept. 2006), Table B.1, at [www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov](http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov).

High school completion: Freshman graduation rate, public high school students, school year 2003-2004. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics, *Dropout Rates in the United States: 2005* (June 2007), Table 12, at [nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov).

Unemployment: Unemployed persons as percentage of the civilian labor force, 2006. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Statewide Data, Annual Averages, "Unemployment Rates for the States," at [stats.bls.gov/lau](http://stats.bls.gov/lau).

Average wages: Average weekly wages, workers in private industry, 2005. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment and Wages, Annual Averages 2005* (February 2007), Table 6, at [www.bls.gov/cew](http://www.bls.gov/cew).

Health insurance coverage: Percentage of persons under age 65 without health insurance, 2006. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Detailed Health Insurance Tables, Table H105, at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

Poverty among the elderly: Percentage of persons 65 and over living in poverty, 2006. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Detailed Poverty Tables, Table POV46, at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

Suicide among the elderly: Deaths by suicide, ages 65 and over, per 100,000 population, 2004. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Final Mortality Data 2004 (unpublished table).

Homicides: Murders and non-negligent manslaughter per 100,000 population, 2005. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States 2005* (2006), at [www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm).

Alcohol-related traffic fatalities: Traffic deaths involving alcohol, as a percentage of all traffic deaths, 2005. U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatal Accident Reporting System, National Center for Statistics and Analysis, Traffic Safety Fact Sheets, *Traffic Safety Facts: Alcohol* (September 2006), Table 7, at [www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov).

Food stamp coverage: Number of participating households as a percentage of eligible households, 2004. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Food Stamp Program Studies, *Reaching Those in Need: State Food Stamp Participation Rates in 2004* (October 2006), 2, at [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).

Affordable housing: Percentage of mortgaged owners spending 30 percent or more of household income on monthly owner costs, 2005. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Housing Costs (October 2006), Table GCT2513, at [www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html).

Income inequality: Ratio of incomes of top and bottom fifths of families, average 2001—2003 (2002 dollars). Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Poverty and Income, *Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends* (January 2006), Table 2, at [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org).

# Note on Community Indicator Projects

During the past two decades, social reporting at the local level has become well established in communities across the United States. Regions, states, cities, and towns have set up regular monitoring systems to measure progress over time and to formulate goals for future progress. Below is a sampling of community indicator projects in the nation.

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## Selected community indicator projects

### MULTI-STATE PROJECTS

<i>Geographic Focus</i>		<i>Project Title</i>
<b>New England</b>	6 states	Community Development Indicators
<b>Northwestern U.S.</b>	8 states	Indicators Website
<b>Southern U.S.</b>	13 states	Southern Community Index
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>	3 states and British Columbia	Cascadia Scorecard Project

### STATE AND LOCAL PROJECTS

<b>Alabama</b>	Statewide	Southern Community Index—See Multi-State Projects
<b>Alaska</b>	Statewide	Alaska Progress Report
<b>Arizona</b>	Statewide	Policy Choices
<b>Arkansas</b>	Statewide	Southern Community Index—See Multi-State Projects
<b>California</b>	Bay Area	State of the Bay Area: A Regional Report
	Los Angeles County	Children's Scorecard
	Los Angeles County	State of the County Report
	Nevada County	Nevada County Economic and Social Indicator Review
	Pasadena	Quality of Life in Pasadena
	San Mateo County	Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County
	San Mateo/Santa Clara counties	Kids Data
<b>Colorado</b>	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara South Coast Community Indicators
	Santa Monica	Sustainable City Progress Report
	Silicon Valley	Index of the Silicon Valley
	Statewide	Colorado: The State of Opportunity
	Statewide	Colorado Health Watch
	Boulder County	Quality of Life in Boulder County
	Denver neighborhoods	Neighborhood Facts
	Gunnison County	Community Indicators Project
	Roaring Fork/Colorado River Valleys	Growth Scenarios Project
	Yampa Valley	Community Indicators Project

<b>Connecticut</b>	Statewide	The Social State of Connecticut
	Statewide	Social Indicators
	Statewide	Community Development Indicators— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Florida</b>	Greater New Haven Region	DataHaven
	Norwalk	Community Indicators
	Jacksonville/Duval Counties	Life in Jacksonville
<b>Georgia</b>	Osceola County	Community Report Card
	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Hawaii</b>	Statewide	Community Indicators
	Statewide	County Fact Sheets
	Honolulu	Quality of Life
	Kaua'i	Community Indicators Project
	North Hawaii	Community Health Improvement Progress Reports
<b>Idaho</b>	Statewide	Indicators Website— See Multi-State Projects
	Statewide	Cascadia Scorecard— See Multi-State Projects
	Statewide	IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs)
<b>Illinois</b>	Chicago metro area	Chicago Metropolitan Index
	Statewide	Stats Indiana
	Northwest Indiana	Quality of Life Indicators Report
<b>Iowa</b>	Statewide	Indicators Website— See Multi-State Projects
	Johnson County	Community Indicators
	Kansas City metro area	Metro Dataline
<b>Kansas</b>	Sedgwick County	Community Indicators Database
	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Kentucky</b>	Statewide	Kentucky Kids Count
	Statewide	Visioning Kentucky's Future
	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Louisiana</b>	Greater New Orleans	Katrina Index
	Greater New Orleans	Community Data Center
	Statewide	Measures of Growth
<b>Maine</b>	Statewide	Maine Marks
	Statewide	Community Development Indicators— See Multi-State Projects
	Statewide	Vital Signs
<b>Maryland</b>	Baltimore neighborhoods	Regional Economic Indicators
	Baltimore metro area	Community Development Indicators— See Multi-State Projects
	Statewide	The Boston Indicators Project
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Boston	

<b>Michigan</b>	Manistee County	EnVision Manistee County Fact Book
<b>Minnesota</b>	Northwest Michigan	Benchmarks Northwest
	Statewide	Indicators Website— See Multi-State Projects
	Minneapolis	Sustainability Initiative
	Twin Cities Metro Area	Metro Trend Watch
<b>Mississippi</b>	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Missouri</b>	Statewide	Community Partnership Benchmark Database
	Statewide	Southern Community Index See Multistate Projects
	Boone County	Boone County Indicators
	Kansas City metro area	Metro Dataline
<b>Montana</b>	Statewide	Indicators Website— See Multi-State Projects
	Missoula	Missoula Measures
<b>Nebraska</b>	Statewide	County Profiles and Highlights
<b>Nevada</b>	Eureka County	Socioeconomic Conditions and Trends
	Truckee Meadows	Report on Community Well-Being
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Statewide	Vital Signs: Economic and Social Indicators for New Hampshire
	Statewide	Community Development Indicators— See Multi-State Projects
<b>New Jersey</b>	Statewide	Living with the Future in Mind
<b>New Mexico</b>	Statewide	New Mexico Annual Social and Economic Indicators
<b>New York</b>	Long Island	The Long Island Index
	Long Island	Vital Signs: Measuring Long Island's Social Health
	New York City	Annual Report on Social Indicators
	New York City	State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods
<b>North Carolina</b>	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
	Statewide	North Carolina Scorecard
	Statewide	North Carolina 2020 Update Report
	Statewide	Rural Data Bank
	Beaufort County	Together for Beaufort
	Cabarrus County	Community Statistical Indicators
<b>North Dakota</b>	Statewide	Indicators Website— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Ohio</b>	Northeast Ohio	Social Indicators
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
	Oklahoma County	Vital Signs
	Greater Tulsa	Community Profile

<b>Oregon</b>	Statewide	Indicators Website— See Multi-State Projects
	Statewide	Cascadia Scorecard— See Multi-State Projects
	Statewide	Oregon Benchmarks
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Portland/Multnomah County	Community Benchmarks
	Southwestern PA	Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Indicators Report
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Canonsburg	Canonsburg Sustainability Indicators Report
	Statewide	Vision 2010
	Statewide	Community Development Indicators— See Multi-State Projects
<b>South Carolina</b>	Providence	Providence Neighborhood Profiles
	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
<b>South Dakota</b>	Spartanburg County	Community Indicators
	Statewide	Indicators Website— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Tennessee</b>	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Texas</b>	Hamilton County	Life in Hamilton County
	Austin/Travis counties	Community Conditions Reports
	Central Texas	Sustainability Indicators Project
	Dallas metro area	Dallas Indicators
<b>Vermont</b>	Statewide	Community Development Indicators— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Virginia</b>	Statewide	Vermont Well-Being
	Statewide	Vermont Indicators Online
	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
	Fairfax County	Anticipating the Future
<b>Washington</b>	Statewide	Indicators Website— See Multi-State Projects
	Statewide	Cascadia Scorecard— See Multi-State Projects
<b>Washington, D.C.</b>	King County	King County Benchmarks
	King County	Communities Count
	South Puget Sound	State of the Community Report
	City neighborhoods	Neighborhoodinfo DC
	Statewide	Southern Community Index— See Multi-State Projects
<b>West Virginia</b>	Statewide	

For a discussion of the community indicator movement, see our book: *America's Social Health: Putting Social Issues Back on the Public Agenda*, by Marquee Miringoff and Sandra Opdycke, M. E. Sharpe Press, 2008.

For the Internet addresses of the indicator projects listed above, see the website of the Institute for Innovation in Social Policy, at <http://iisp.vassar.edu>.

# About the Institute for Innovation in Social Policy

The Institute for Innovation in Social Policy devotes its full capacity to the analysis and publication of social indicators. Established in 1986, the Institute has worked on social indicators at the international, national, state, and community levels as a way to improve the reporting and understanding of social conditions. The Institute's work has had significant impact on public policy, social research, and the advocacy community.

Since its inception, the Institute has released numerous social indicator reports and working papers. The Institute staff has collaborated on two books: *America's Social Health: Putting Social Issues Back on the Public Agenda* (2008) and *The Social Health of the Nation: How America is Really Doing* (1999), as well as articles in journals and other publications. In addition, over the past decade the Institute has conducted eight national conferences on social health and social indicators.

For further information about the Institute, see <http://iisp.vassar.edu> or contact:

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## Selected Publications by the Institute Staff

Sandra Opdycke and Marque-Luisa Miringoff, *The Social Health of the States 2008* (2008).

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