

## 2020 Data Comparability Across States

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

<b>Poor or fair health</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>Poor physical health days</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>Poor mental health days</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>Frequent physical distress</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>Frequent mental distress</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>Diabetes prevalence</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>Adult obesity</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>Food environment index</b>	The food insecurity models include state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>Physical inactivity</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.

<b>Sexually transmitted infections</b>	Chlamydia screening patterns may vary between states and health care systems. Differences in rates may reflect differences in these screening patterns, rather than differences in the underlying rates of disease.
<b>Insufficient Sleep</b>	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
<b>High school graduation</b>	Since the 2019 Rankings, high school graduation data has been gathered from some state-specific data sources. While many changes have been instituted to ensure that graduation rates are comparable between states, we do not recommend comparing these estimates across state lines. Cohort and graduate definitions, and suppression criteria vary from state to state.
<b>Juvenile Arrests</b>	Juvenile arrests are not comparable across states due to different reporting practices, arrest rules and laws, as well as different juvenile age limits. Additionally, some states report calendar year estimates while other states use fiscal year estimates.
<b>Violent crime</b>	Violent crime rates are dependent on the reporting practices of both residents and law enforcement offices in states and jurisdictions. These practices can vary by both state and jurisdiction, so caution should always be observed when comparing crime rates.
<b>Traffic Volume</b>	States collect and report these data differently. Traffic counts are performed by state Departments of Transportation, so this measure is not comparable across states.