

2021 Data Comparability Across States

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

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| Diabetes prevalence | The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may limit comparability of estimates across counties in different states. |
| Adult obesity | The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may limit comparability of estimates across counties in different states. |
| Food environment index | The food insecurity models include state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties. |
| Physical inactivity | The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may limit comparability of estimates across counties in different states. |
| Sexually transmitted infections | Chlamydia screening patterns may vary between states and health care systems. Differences in rates may reflect differences in these screening patterns, rather than differences in the underlying rates of disease. |
| Juvenile Arrests | Juvenile arrests are not comparable across states due to different reporting practices, arrest rules and laws, as well as different juvenile age limits. Additionally, some states report calendar year estimates while other states use fiscal year estimates. |
| Violent crime | Violent crime rates are dependent on the reporting practices of both residents and law enforcement offices in states and jurisdictions. These practices can vary by both state and jurisdiction, so caution should always be observed when comparing crime rates. |
| Traffic Volume | States collect and report these data differently. Traffic counts are performed by state Departments of Transportation, so this measure is not comparable across states. |