

2016 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:

Adult obesity	The model used to construct these estimates includes state-level effects that may overestimate differences in border counties.
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 overestimate differences in border counties.
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.
High school graduation	While most states have now adopted a comparable method of tracking student progress over time and calculating cohort graduation rates, three states have not yet adopted the shared definition: Kentucky, Idaho, and Oklahoma. The graduation rates we report in these three states are not comparable to each other or the rest of the country.
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.