

## 2017 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>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>High school graduation</b>	While most states have now adopted a comparable method of tracking student progress over time the graduation rates we report from two states, California and Texas were not verified by the National Center for Education Statistics and do not use the same suppression criteria.
<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.