

2019 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	This year, high school graduation data has been gathered from 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.
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.