



Appendix: County Health Profiles

October 2025

Notes About Our Methodology

Rankings

- For all measures, a rank of 1 is the highest value of the metric among the 95 counties and 95 is the lowest. Due to data availability, only 91 counties are ranked for overdose deaths, 89 counties for suicide deaths, and 79 counties for low birthweight births.
- When counties have the same value, they share the same ranking, which affects subsequent rankings. For example, 100% of individuals in 32 counties live in a rural area. All 32 counties are ranked as 1, and the county with the next highest rural concentration (99.9%) is ranked 33.

Measure Selection Criteria

- To be included, all measures had to be available at the county level and supported by the literature on the drivers of health.

Timeliness of Data

- We used the most recent county-level data available at the time of publication for each metric. However, the year of the most recent data varies by each source.
- To provide context for the county-level data, the state- and national-level data shown represent the same year(s) as the county data. In some cases, the comparable state- and national-level data may not represent the most recent available data. For example, some of the economic measures use 5-year estimates that represent an average over 2019-2023. These are the most recent estimates available across all counties; however, 1-year estimates that represent 2024 are available at the state and national levels but are not shown here because they would not be comparable to the county-level data.
- National-level data comparable to state- and county-level data were not available for all metrics shown.

About Each Measure

Quick Facts

2024 Population: total estimated population on July 1, 2014

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Estimates of the Resident Population (1) (2)

Years of Data: 2024

Percent Rural: percent of population living in a rural area

Data Source: Decennial Census via Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) County Health Rankings (3) and U.S. Census Bureau (4)

Years of Data: 2020

Notes: Based on the Census Bureau's definition, rural includes all populations not within a designated urban area, which is defined as a densely settled core of census blocks that meet minimum housing unit density and/or population density requirements. (5)

Age <18: percent of total 2024 mid-year population estimate under the age of 18

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Estimates of the Resident Population (1) (2)

Years of Data: 2024

Age 65+: percent of total 2024 mid-year population estimate ages 65 and older

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Estimates of the Resident Population (1) (2)

Years of Data: 2024

Race/Ethnicity: percent of total 2019 mid-year population estimate represented by individuals who are white, black, and Hispanic (of any race)

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Estimates of the Resident Population (1) (2)

Years of Data: 2024

The Drivers of Health

Research shows there are non-genetic, non-medical factors that influence our health. We call these influencing factors the drivers of health, but they are often referred to as the social determinants of health. (6) (7) (8) They include:

- **Economic stability** — Reliable income and resources to meet basic living expenses and financial needs.
- **Neighborhood and built environment** — The physical characteristics and infrastructure of a community that influence safety, housing, transportation, and the environment.
- **Education access and quality** — The availability of and quality of educational opportunities that support learning and skill development across all life stages.
- **Social and community context** — The relationships, social networks, and community structures that shape individual and collective well-being.
- **Clinical care access and quality** — The availability and quality of medical services that support prevention, treatment, and overall health.
- **Health behaviors** — The personal actions and lifestyle choices that affect physical and mental health outcomes.

County Health Outcomes

Fair/Poor Health: percent of adults who rate their health as "fair" or "poor" (age-adjusted rate)

Data Source: U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) via the 2025 RWJF County Health Rankings (3)

Years of Data: 2022

Adult Diabetes: percent of adults ages 20+ who have ever been diagnosed with diabetes (age-adjusted rate)

Data Source: CDC's U.S. Diabetes Surveillance System (9)

Years of Data: 2023

Notes: The county rates reflect prevalence among adults ages 20+ while the state and national rates are among those ages 18+.

Suicide Deaths: number of deaths due to suicide per 100,000 population

Data Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WONDER Database (10)

Years of Data: 2019-2023

Low Birthweight Births: percent of live births in which the baby weighed less than 2,500 grams (or 5 pounds, 8 ounces)

Data Source: Tennessee Department of Health (11) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (12)

Years of Data: 2022

Economic Stability

Poverty Rate: percent of the population living in households with incomes below the poverty level

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (13) and the American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (14)

Years of Data: 2023

% ALICE: percent of households with incomes below the ALICE (i.e. asset-limited, income-constrained, employed) threshold, which is an estimate of the local costs of housing, child and health care, transportation, and technology

Data Source: United Way United for ALICE (15)

Years of Data: 2023

Unemployment Rate: percent of population that does not have a job, are available for work, and have actively looked for a work in the prior 4 weeks (annual rate)

Data Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment (16)

Years of Data: 2024

Housing and Transportation Costs: average area housing and transportation costs as a percent of area median income

Data Source: The Center for Neighborhood Technology's Housing and Transportation (H+T[®]) Affordability Index (17)

Years of Data: 2023

Note: A threshold of 45% is considered affordable. The metric is not provided at the national level, and the state-level value represents the median of all 95 counties.

Food Insecurity: percent of individuals who live in a food-insecure household (i.e., lack the money and other essential resources to access enough food)

Data Source: Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap (18)

Years of Data: 2023

Median Household Income: median income of all households

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (13) and the American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (14)

Years of Data: 2023

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Long Commutes: percent of workers age 16+ traveling 60 minutes or more to work

Data Source: The Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (14)

Years of Data: 2019-2023

Days of Extreme Heat: number of days in the year the temperature exceeded 90 degrees

Data Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (19)

Years of Data: 2019-2023

Note: The metric is not available at the national level, and the state-level value represents the median of all 95 counties.

Health Behaviors

Smoking: percent of adults who currently smoke

Data Sources: CDC's BRFSS via RWJF's 2025 County Health Rankings (3)

Years of Data: 2022

Notes: The national rate is a crude rate that was obtained directly from CDC's BRFSS data tool. (20)

Physical Inactivity: percent of adults age 20+ reporting no leisure-time physical activity (age-adjusted rate)

Data Source: CDC'S BRFSS via RWJF's 2025 County Health Rankings (3)

Years of Data: 2022

Notes: The national rate is a crude rate that was obtained directly from CDC's BRFSS data tool. (20)

Excessive Drinking: percent of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking

Data Source: CDC'S BRFSS via RWJF's 2025 County Health Rankings (3)

Years of Data: 2022

Notes: Binge drinking is defined as >4 drinks for women or >5 drinks for men on a single occasion in the past 30 days. Heavy drinking is defined as an average of >1 drink for women or >2 drinks for men per day. A comparable metric is not available at the national level.

Drug Overdose Deaths: total drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population

Data Source: CDC WONDER Database (10)

Years of Data: 2019-2023

Education Access and Quality

Associate's Degree or Higher: percent of population ages 25+ with at least an associate's degree

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (14)

Years of Data: 2019-2023 5-year estimates

3rd Grade Reading Achievement: percent of 3rd graders who met or exceeded expectations on the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the TCAP

Data Source: Tennessee Department of Education Assessment Data File (21)

Years of Data: 2025

Notes: Comparable national data are not available. County-level amounts were constructed by combining the data for all school districts within each county.

Clinical Care

Uninsured Rate (Ages <65): percent of population under 65 without health insurance

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (22) and the American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (14)

Years of Data: 2023

First Trimester Prenatal Care: percent of live births in which the mother initiated prenatal care in the first trimester

Data Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) Data Warehouse (23)

Years of Data: 2020-2022

Note: Comparable national data are unavailable for this measure.

Mental Health Providers: number of mental health providers per 100,000 population

Data Source: U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) via RWJF's 2025 County Health Rankings (3)

Years of Data: 2024

Notes: Includes psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists, and advanced practice nurses specializing in mental health care. A national rate was obtained from America's Health Rankings. (24)

Social and Community Context

Nov 2024 Voter Turnout: percent of registered voters who cast a ballot in the November 2024 general election

Data Source: Tennessee Secretary of State (25)

Years of Data: 2024

Notes: Comparable national data could not be identified for the measure. Most national data sources measure voter turnout as a percent of the voting-eligible population—estimates for which were not readily available at the county-level. Meanwhile, national data sources that included the number of registered voters reported numbers for Tennessee that conflicted with the Secretary of State's data.

Violent Crime Rate: number of violent crimes committed per 1,000 population

Data Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's TIBRS Online Reports System (26)

Years of Data: 2022

Note: A comparable national rate for TBI's definition of "violent crime" was not reliably available.

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