



State Level Performance on Key Goals

February 7, 2022

The 50 states of the United States are diverse, providing extensive data on how policy decisions lead to outcomes that directly affect people's lives. This paper compares the states on their performance on our key goals as a starting point for understanding how policy decisions affect outcomes.

We recognize that policies alone don't determine how states perform on the goals. History, geography, natural resources, and other factors all play a role. And there are other criteria and metrics that could be applied in evaluating performance by state. So it is important to keep this analysis in context – a comparison of outcomes in seven specific areas, based on metrics that we believe best capture current performance.

The Center for Policy Progress works to understand how policy decisions affect these outcomes, and then to support the policies that have been shown to produce better results.

The Appendices in this paper show the metrics we have identified to measure performance by state, and their sources. Immediately following this introduction is a table summarizing the scores in each goal area, and a combined score for each state.

**Note that for the fifth goal area, Secure Borders, we have not identified a relevant metric to measure state-level performance, so that goal is not included in this analysis.*

We invite comments and questions on this methodology and its implications, at info@centerforpolicyprogress.org.

CPP State Comparison - Summary

Appendix:			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State	Rank	Average Ranking	A strong economy in which people are able to participate	A healthy and sustainable environment	Access to quality Health care	Access to quality Education	Secure Right to Vote	Safe Communities	World Class Infrastructure
Alabama	45	39.3	45	37	33	49	39	44	28
Alaska	45	39.3	18	46	44	41	36	50	40
Arizona	39	35.3	32	41	41	39	30	41	23
Arkansas	48	40.1	46	30	31	42	42	47	43
California	32	28.6	19	35	22	44	10	39	31
Colorado	14	17.7	11	23	25	13	7	30	15
Connecticut	10	17	8	28	11	3	20	3	46
Delaware	31	28.3	9	45	15	35	33	36	25
Florida	34	31.7	40	18	47	28	40	29	20
Georgia	35	32.8	37	25	48	33	49	25	11
Hawaii	7	16	5	1	3	47	6	17	33
Idaho	17	18.6	27	12	39	14	18	10	10
Illinois	25	24.3	21	43	21	22	4	33	26
Indiana	36	33	35	48	29	19	41	27	32
Iowa	11	17.1	15	20	6	23	24	13	19
Kansas	26	25.3	26	16	32	24	38	34	7
Kentucky	27	26.6	44	29	14	31	43	7	18
Louisiana	50	41.4	48	49	30	43	27	46	47
Maine	19	19.3	33	14	26	10	14	1	37
Maryland	20	19.4	1	11	12	29	5	40	38
Massachusetts	4	12.7	6	4	1	1	11	24	42
Michigan	28	27	30	32	9	32	13	38	35
Minnesota	2	8.7	4	10	5	6	15	12	9
Mississippi	45	39.3	50	22	46	48	47	14	48
Missouri	37	33.6	36	21	35	25	48	43	27
Montana	23	22.4	29	24	27	11	21	32	13
Nebraska	15	18	23	6	28	20	22	21	6
Nevada	38	34.7	34	50	43	45	28	42	1
New Hampshire	6	14.6	2	2	13	4	45	2	34
New Jersey	12	17.6	3	33	23	2	16	5	41
New Mexico	49	41.3	47	31	36	50	31	49	45
New York	22	20.4	24	5	7	34	17	26	30
North Carolina	33	30.6	42	27	42	30	23	28	22
North Dakota	5	13.1	20	8	19	17	8	16	4
Ohio	30	27.7	38	44	16	15	34	18	29
Oklahoma	41	36.7	41	34	49	38	37	37	21
Oregon	12	17.6	17	42	20	26	1	15	2
Pennsylvania	29	27.4	25	38	10	21	32	22	44
Rhode Island	21	19.7	16	7	2	36	19	9	49
South Carolina	44	39.1	43	26	40	40	44	45	36
South Dakota	24	23	28	3	38	18	29	31	14
Tennessee	40	36.1	39	39	37	27	46	48	17
Texas	43	37	31	40	50	37	50	35	16
Utah	9	16.4	7	47	34	8	3	11	5
Vermont	1	8	13	9	4	5	9	4	12
Virginia	16	18.3	12	19	24	16	12	6	39
Washington	3	11.3	10	15	17	12	2	20	3
West Virginia	41	36.7	49	36	18	46	35	23	50
Wisconsin	8	16.3	14	17	8	7	25	19	24
Wyoming	18	18.7	22	13	45	9	26	8	8

Appendix 1 - Economy

State	Median HH Income	Rank on Median Income	% in Poverty	Rank on Poverty	Average of Rankings	Rank on Economy
Alabama	\$50,536	45	14.7%	45	45.0	45
Alaska	\$77,640	6	11.8%	32	19.0	18
Arizona	\$58,945	29	12.1%	33	31.0	32
Arkansas	\$47,597	48	15.0%	46	47.0	46
California	\$75,235	8	11.4%	30	19.0	19
Colorado	\$72,331	11	9.1%	11	11.0	11
Connecticut	\$78,444	5	9.7%	14	9.5	8
Delaware	\$68,287	15	7.6%	4	9.5	9
Florida	\$55,660	37	12.8%	40	38.5	40
Georgia	\$58,700	30	13.3%	41	35.5	37
Hawaii	\$81,275	3	9.4%	13	8.0	5
Idaho	\$55,785	36	10.0%	18	27.0	27
Illinois	\$65,886	17	10.4%	22	19.5	21
Indiana	\$56,303	35	11.1%	29	32.0	35
Iowa	\$60,523	26	8.7%	7	16.5	15
Kansas	\$59,597	28	10.4%	23	25.5	26
Kentucky	\$50,589	44	14.2%	43	43.5	44
Louisiana	\$49,469	47	19.1%	49	48.0	48
Maine	\$57,918	32	11.5%	31	31.5	33
Maryland	\$84,805	1	7.5%	3	2.0	1
Massachusetts	\$81,215	4	9.2%	12	8.0	6
Michigan	\$57,144	33	10.7%	27	30.0	30
Minnesota	\$71,306	13	7.4%	2	7.5	4
Mississippi	\$45,081	50	19.1%	50	50.0	50
Missouri	\$55,461	38	11.0%	28	33.0	36
Montana	\$54,970	39	10.1%	19	29.0	29
Nebraska	\$61,439	25	10.3%	21	23.0	23
Nevada	\$60,365	27	12.2%	36	31.5	34
New Hampshire	\$76,768	7	5.6%	1	4.0	2
New Jersey	\$82,545	2	8.2%	6	4.0	3
New Mexico	\$49,754	46	17.2%	48	47.0	47
New York	\$68,486	14	12.1%	34	24.0	24
North Carolina	\$54,602	40	13.6%	42	41.0	42
North Dakota	\$64,894	18	10.1%	20	19.0	20
Ohio	\$56,602	34	12.4%	37	35.5	38
Oklahoma	\$52,919	43	12.4%	38	40.5	41
Oregon	\$62,818	20	9.8%	16	18.0	17
Pennsylvania	\$61,744	24	10.5%	24	24.0	25
Rhode Island	\$67,167	16	9.8%	17	16.5	16
South Carolina	\$53,199	42	14.4%	44	43.0	43
South Dakota	\$58,275	31	10.6%	26	28.5	28
Tennessee	\$53,320	41	12.1%	35	38.0	39
Texas	\$61,874	22	12.6%	39	30.5	31
Utah	\$71,621	12	7.6%	5	8.5	7
Vermont	\$61,973	21	9.0%	10	15.5	13
Virginia	\$74,222	9	9.7%	15	12.0	12
Washington	\$73,775	10	8.8%	9	9.5	10
West Virginia	\$46,711	49	15.6%	47	48.0	49
Wisconsin	\$61,747	23	8.7%	8	15.5	14
Wyoming	\$64,049	19	10.5%	25	22.0	22

Sources

Median Income - 2021 - <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/median-household-income-by-state>

Poverty Rate - Census Department, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-people.html>, Table 19

Poverty rate is the average of 2017, 2018, and 2019

Appendix 2 - Environment

State	Rank on Air and Water Quality	Rank on Pollution	Overall Rank
Alabama	33	41	37
Alaska	50	29	46
Arizona	49	21	41
Arkansas	20	36	30
California	47	6	35
Colorado	41	9	23
Connecticut	30	30	28
Delaware	29	47	45
Florida	5	27	18
Georgia	32	26	25
Hawaii	1	13	1
Idaho	27	10	12
Illinois	44	42	43
Indiana	38	48	48
Iowa	18	25	20
Kansas	9	23	16
Kentucky	22	35	29
Louisiana	19	50	49
Maine	31	8	14
Maryland	16	16	11
Massachusetts	2	17	4
Michigan	35	34	32
Minnesota	14	14	10
Mississippi	13	28	22
Missouri	26	24	21
Montana	39	15	24
Nebraska	6	12	6
Nevada	46	49	50
New Hampshire	10	2	2
New Jersey	25	38	33
New Mexico	48	4	31
New York	7	11	5
North Carolina	24	31	27
North Dakota	3	19	8
Ohio	34	45	44
Oklahoma	45	22	34
Oregon	21	44	42
Pennsylvania	40	39	38
Rhode Island	8	7	7
South Carolina	12	33	26
South Dakota	11	3	3
Tennessee	23	43	39
Texas	42	40	40
Utah	43	46	47
Vermont	28	1	9
Virginia	4	32	19
Washington	17	18	15
West Virginia	37	37	36
Wisconsin	15	20	17
Wyoming	36	5	13

Source: US News and World Report Natural Environment ratings

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/natural-environment>

The overall rating reflects air and water quality and pollution levels.

Appendix 3 - Access to Healthcare

State	% Uninsured, 2019	Rank
Alabama	9.7%	33
Alaska	12.2%	44
Arizona	11.3%	41
Arkansas	9.1%	31
California	7.7%	22
Colorado	8.0%	25
Connecticut	5.9%	11
Delaware	6.6%	15
Florida	13.2%	47
Georgia	13.4%	48
Hawaii	4.2%	3
Idaho	10.8%	39
Illinois	7.4%	21
Indiana	8.7%	29
Iowa	5.0%	6
Kansas	9.2%	32
Kentucky	6.4%	14
Louisiana	8.9%	30
Maine	8.0%	26
Maryland	6.0%	12
Massachusetts	3.0%	1
Michigan	5.8%	9
Minnesota	4.9%	5
Mississippi	13.0%	46
Missouri	10.0%	35
Montana	8.3%	27
Nebraska	8.3%	28
Nevada	11.4%	43
New Hampshire	6.3%	13
New Jersey	7.9%	23
New Mexico	10.0%	36
New York	5.2%	7
North Carolina	11.3%	42
North Dakota	6.9%	19
Ohio	6.6%	16
Oklahoma	14.3%	49
Oregon	7.2%	20
Pennsylvania	5.8%	10
Rhode Island	4.1%	2
South Carolina	10.8%	40
South Dakota	10.2%	38
Tennessee	10.1%	37
Texas	18.4%	50
Utah	9.7%	34
Vermont	4.5%	4
Virginia	7.9%	24
Washington	6.6%	17
West Virginia	6.7%	18
Wisconsin	5.7%	8
Wyoming	12.3%	45

Source: Census Department, Appendix Table 3,
<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-271.html>

Appendix 4 - Education

State	Grade - National Assessment of Educational Performance 2019					Rank				
	Math	Reading	Science	Writing	Total	Math	Reading	Science	Writing	Total
Alabama	269	253	141	148	811	49	48	49	41	49
Alaska	274	252	153	154	833	43	49	29	23	41
Arizona	280	259	148	148	835	27	37	44	41	39
Arkansas	274	259	148	151	832	43	37	44	37	42
California	276	259	143	148	826	38	37	47	41	44
Colorado	285	267	153	161	866	16	6	29	5	13
Connecticut	286	270	155	172	883	9	2	25	2	3
Delaware	277	260	149	158	844	37	36	42	10	35
Florida	279	263	153	158	853	34	22	29	10	28
Georgia	279	262	152	153	846	34	30	34	32	33
Hawaii	275	258	144	144	821	42	41	46	47	47
Idaho	286	266	160	154	866	9	10	8	23	14
Illinois	283	265	150	160	858	22	13	38	7	22
Indiana	286	266	156	155	863	9	10	20	21	19
Iowa	282	262	159	155	858	23	30	14	21	23
Kansas	282	263	155	156	856	23	22	25	17	24
Kentucky	278	263	157	151	849	36	22	17	37	31
Louisiana	272	257	153	147	829	47	44	29	45	43
Maine	282	265	160	161	868	23	13	8	5	10
Maryland	280	264	155	154	853	27	17	25	23	29
Massachusetts	294	273	162	167	896	1	1	4	3	1
Michigan	280	263	155	151	849	27	22	25	37	32
Minnesota	291	264	162	156	873	3	17	4	17	6
Mississippi	274	256	140	142	812	43	45	50	50	48
Missouri	281	263	159	153	856	26	22	14	32	25
Montana	284	265	161	157	867	20	13	6	15	11
Nebraska	285	264	160	154	863	16	17	8	23	20
Nevada	274	258	149	143	824	43	41	42	48	45
New Hampshire	287	268	165	160	880	5	4	2	7	4
New Jersey	292	270	156	175	893	2	2	20	1	2
New Mexico	269	252	143	143	807	49	49	47	48	50
New York	280	262	150	154	846	27	30	38	23	34
North Carolina	284	263	150	153	850	20	22	38	32	30
North Dakota	286	263	161	154	864	9	22	6	23	17
Ohio	286	267	157	156	866	9	6	17	17	15
Oklahoma	276	258	151	153	838	38	41	35	32	38
Oregon	280	264	156	154	854	27	17	20	23	26
Pennsylvania	285	264	153	159	861	16	17	29	9	21
Rhode Island	276	262	151	154	843	38	30	35	23	36
South Carolina	276	259	151	148	834	38	37	35	41	40
South Dakota	287	263	160	154	864	5	22	8	23	18
Tennessee	280	262	156	156	854	27	30	20	17	27
Texas	280	256	156	151	843	27	45	20	37	37
Utah	285	267	166	152	870	16	6	1	36	8
Vermont	287	268	163	162	880	5	4	3	4	5
Virginia	287	262	160	157	866	5	30	8	15	16
Washington	286	266	157	158	867	9	10	17	10	12
West Virginia	272	256	150	146	824	47	45	38	46	46
Wisconsin	289	267	159	158	873	4	6	14	10	7
Wyoming	286	265	160	158	869	9	13	8	10	9

Source: Combined results for Math, Reading, Science and Writing from the National Assessment of Educational Performance 2019 scores

Appendix 5 - Voting Rights

State	Ease of Voting Rank
Alabama	39
Alaska	36
Arizona	30
Arkansas	42
California	10
Colorado	7
Connecticut	20
Delaware	33
Florida	40
Georgia	49
Hawaii	6
Idaho	18
Illinois	4
Indiana	41
Iowa	24
Kansas	38
Kentucky	43
Louisiana	27
Maine	14
Maryland	5
Massachusetts	11
Michigan	13
Minnesota	15
Mississippi	47
Missouri	48
Montana	21
Nebraska	22
Nevada	28
New Hampshire	45
New Jersey	16
New Mexico	31
New York	17
North Carolina	23
North Dakota	8
Ohio	34
Oklahoma	37
Oregon	1
Pennsylvania	32
Rhode Island	19
South Carolina	44
South Dakota	29
Tennessee	46
Texas	50
Utah	3
Vermont	9
Virginia	12
Washington	2
West Virginia	35
Wisconsin	25
Wyoming	26

Source - Northern Illinois University, October 2020

<https://newsroom.niu.edu/2020/10/13/how-hard-is-it-to-vote-in-your-state/>

(uses an assemblage of dozens of current election laws to rank each state according to the time and effort it takes to vote in U.S. presidential elections).

Appendix 6 - Safe Communities

	Violent Crimes per 100,000 people	Rank
Alabama	510.8	44
Alaska	867.1	50
Arizona	455.3	41
Arkansas	584.6	47
California	441.2	39
Colorado	381.0	30
Connecticut	183.6	3
Delaware	422.6	36
Florida	378.4	29
Georgia	340.7	25
Hawaii	285.5	17
Idaho	223.8	10
Illinois	406.9	33
Indiana	370.8	27
Iowa	266.6	13
Kansas	410.8	34
Kentucky	217.1	7
Louisiana	549.3	46
Maine	115.2	1
Maryland	454.1	40
Massachusetts	327.6	24
Michigan	437.4	38
Minnesota	236.4	12
Mississippi	277.9	14
Missouri	495.0	43
Montana	404.9	32
Nebraska	300.9	21
Nevada	493.8	42
New Hampshire	152.5	2
New Jersey	206.9	5
New Mexico	832.2	49
New York	358.6	26
North Carolina	371.8	28
North Dakota	284.6	16
Ohio	293.2	18
Oklahoma	431.8	37
Oregon	284.4	15
Pennsylvania	306.4	22
Rhode Island	221.1	9
South Carolina	511.3	45
South Dakota	399.0	31
Tennessee	595.2	48
Texas	418.9	35
Utah	235.6	11
Vermont	202.2	4
Virginia	208.0	6
Washington	293.9	20
West Virginia	316.6	23
Wisconsin	293.2	19
Wyoming	217.4	8

Source: FBI, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-4>

Appendix 7 - Infrastructure

State	Energy	Internet Access	Transportation	Overall Infrastructure Rank
Alabama	16	41	23	28
Alaska	47	32	13	40
Arizona	14	34	22	23
Arkansas	35	47	32	43
California	39	6	45	31
Colorado	17	13	21	15
Connecticut	48	30	43	46
Delaware	31	33	10	25
Florida	23	19	19	20
Georgia	26	5	17	11
Hawaii	49	2	40	33
Idaho	5	28	15	10
Illinois	20	24	31	26
Indiana	36	22	33	32
Iowa	6	38	27	19
Kansas	13	9	5	7
Kentucky	34	17	14	18
Louisiana	41	46	48	47
Maine	11	45	37	37
Maryland	30	29	44	38
Massachusetts	46	31	39	42
Michigan	43	18	36	35
Minnesota	12	15	9	9
Mississippi	28	21	35	27
Missouri	42	48	42	48
Montana	4	44	8	13
Nebraska	8	14	12	6
Nevada	9	1	7	1
New Hampshire	44	4	41	34
New Jersey	40	23	46	41
New Mexico	18	50	34	45
New York	29	25	30	30
North Carolina	27	11	29	22
North Dakota	7	10	4	4
Ohio	37	26	20	29
Oklahoma	10	35	16	21
Oregon	1	20	3	2
Pennsylvania	33	43	47	44
Rhode Island	45	37	50	49
South Carolina	24	36	38	36
South Dakota	3	39	26	14
Tennessee	32	16	11	17
Texas	25	8	25	16
Utah	22	3	6	5
Vermont	15	42	1	12
Virginia	38	40	28	39
Washington	2	7	24	3
West Virginia	50	49	49	50
Wisconsin	21	27	18	24
Wyoming	19	12	2	8

Source: US News and World Report Infrastructure Rating, 2021 - <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/infrastructure>