

WHERE IS OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA?

OPPORTUNITY
INDEX
2018

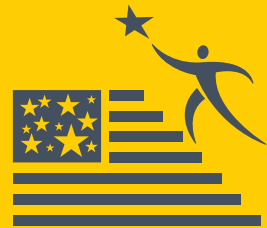


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Since 2011, the Opportunity Index has served as a tool to help youth and adult community members, researchers, policymakers, advocates, philanthropic and business leaders, and other change agents to understand the strengths and challenges related to building opportunity in the communities in which they live and serve. With the 2018 Opportunity Index, we continue to offer a comprehensive and detailed examination of conditions that affect opportunity, place by place, across the United States.

Although America has achieved what economists define as “full employment” that does not mean everyone is doing well. Income inequality remains significant. Economic division persists along racial and gender lines. Student debt and health care costs continue to rise. Not all communities are rising with the tide.

Creating opportunities for all individuals and families to thrive in their communities requires a complex set of strategies. These vary according to each community’s history, culture, needs, assets and demographics. Both historically and currently, opportunity in the United States is not distributed equally. Where a baby is born, grows into childhood, moves into adolescence, and seeks an adult role (which can include raising a family or starting a career) can greatly influence whether this journey is supported and fulfilling, or full of overwhelming obstacles, dangers and disappointments.

Just over a year ago following an organizational transition, the Opportunity Nation campaign found a new home at the Forum for Youth Investment. With over 23 years of leading the youth development field, the Forum recognized the strength that Opportunity Nation brought with its rich data and information, strong bipartisan support and engaged Coalition and broader network of change agents.

It was a natural fit to welcome Opportunity Nation into the Forum’s community. The Forum exists to change the odds that all children and youth are ready for college, work and life. The Opportunity Nation campaign envisions the United States as a nation where everyone – regardless of where they were born – has equal access to opportunity, economic mobility and success at all stages of life. Both are about creating environments where all people can thrive. We share a common belief that using data and storytelling about economic mobility and opportunity can galvanize action, secure bipartisan support, generate media attention, and raise the public consciousness around policies and practices that improve racial, social, gender, and economic equity.

With the 2018 Index, we once again partnered with Child Trends, who calculated the data and drafted the findings. Together, we increased reporting of disaggregated national data by race/ethnicity and gender to encourage discussion of ways to expand opportunities for populations that face systemic barriers to opportunity. In subsequent editions of the Opportunity Index, and as the data permit, we plan to expand our reporting of disaggregated data for additional indicators and geographic levels.

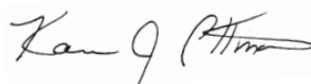
Once again, our collaboration with PwC US provided rich data that complements the Opportunity Index. While their findings are not factored into Opportunity Scores, their business-specific indicators improved our ability to assess where opportunity gaps exist and to think about skills and the future of work. Through this collaboration, we are able to share with counties how their opportunity scores compare not only with other counties in their state, but also with other counties across the country that have similar demographics. We are also able to share with counties a list of other counties that have similar opportunity profiles to their own: who their peers are in achieving a certain level of opportunity, and what they can do individually and collectively to reach higher still.

Together, we hope these new analyses inspire counties to reach out to and learn from each other, sharing lessons learned about creating opportunities for all their residents, including groups that have long-faced systematic roadblocks to opportunity – those whose family financial prospects might not automatically rise when the country economy improves; those whom might not be able to find jobs even when the country is at full employment. Every county, no matter what its demographics are, and no matter what its current levels of opportunity are, can improve. We hope that the Opportunity Index can help us all in our journey to become a land of opportunity for all our residents.

The Opportunity Index allows us to examine data and then use the power of our ideas, resources and networks to spur action that ultimately leads to solutions that will improve conditions in communities across the country. We want people to have the best information possible to make the case for improvements and investments that will change lives.

We encourage you to join us all in asking questions such as, “In our community, what dimensions of opportunity are strongest and which are weakest?” “What other change agents in our community could we partner with to make the case to our elected officials?” “Where are we making the greatest progress, and where are we slipping?” “How can we expand opportunity more fairly among our residents?” “What can we learn from the Opportunity Scores of other places that are similar to us?” There is a wealth of information in the Opportunity Index and this guide is just the starting point.

ONward,



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What’s your score? This book should be used as a supplement to the resources found at opportunityindex.org.

WHAT IS THE OPPORTUNITY INDEX?

Across our nation's states and counties, policymakers, philanthropic leaders, and community-based change agents need tools to understand the strengths and challenges related to building opportunity in the communities they serve. Since 2011, the Opportunity Index has provided insight into this critical issue, offering a comprehensive and detailed examination of conditions that affect opportunity, place by place, across the United States.

Because the Opportunity Index is multidimensional, it paints a broad picture of opportunity that goes beyond economics alone. The 2018 Index includes indicators within four dimensions of community well-being: economy, education, health, and community

The 2018 Opportunity Index was jointly created by Opportunity Nation and Child Trends. The overviews of the data and findings were drafted by Child Trends.



ECONOMY



EDUCATION



HEALTH



COMMUNITY

DIMENSIONS AND INDICATORS

ECONOMY



JOB, WAGES, POVERTY, INCOME INEQUALITY, ASSETS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, INTERNET ACCESS

EDUCATION



PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

HEALTH



BIRTH WEIGHT, HEALTH INSURANCE, DEATHS BY ALCOHOL/DRUG OR SUICIDE

COMMUNITY



VOLUNTEERISM, VOTER REGISTRATION, DISCONNECTED YOUTH, COMMUNITY SAFETY, PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, HEALTHY FOOD, INCARCERATION

At the national and state levels, the Opportunity Index is made up of 20 indicators combined to yield a score from 1 to 100 in each of the four dimensions; thus, the four dimensions are equally weighted. Each state and the District of Columbia is then assigned an overall Opportunity Score on a 100-point scale.

The county-level Opportunity Index is made up of 17 indicators, because data for three indicators in the Community dimension (volunteering, voter registration and incarceration) are not available at the county level.

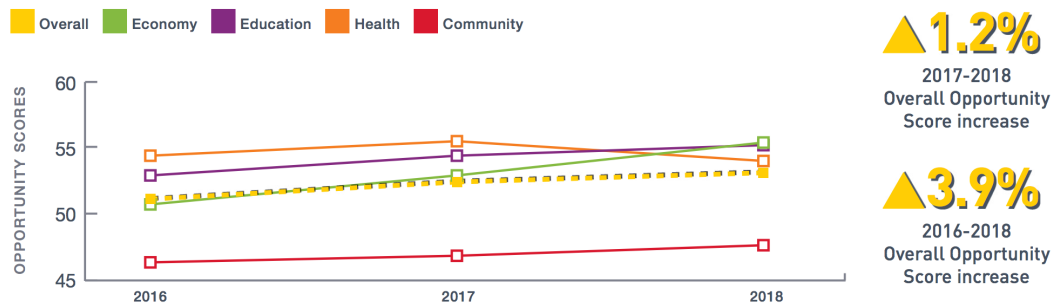
The dimensions and indicators of the Index reflect the evidence of what constitutes thriving communities: an economy that works for all; learning opportunities that build the skills and knowledge essential for success starting in early childhood; a preventive, wellness-oriented approach to health; and a commitment to embracing and promoting the contributions of all residents, while ensuring their health and safety.

For the first time since the Index's inception, we are sharing, for selected opportunity indicators at the national level, breakdowns of the data by race/ethnicity and gender in order to highlight the uneven distribution of opportunity in our nation.

****A note about scores and grades: each state has an overall Opportunity Score that summarizes performance across the four Index dimensions. To calculate these, a state's four dimension scores are averaged with equal weighting. Final Opportunity Scores are represented as values from 0 to 100; these values are used to rank all 50 states and Washington, DC. To calculate county Opportunity Scores, the four dimension scores are averaged and weighted equally. Counties are also assigned Opportunity Grades that correspond to their scores, based on each county's performance on the indicators that comprise the Opportunity Index.*

TRENDS AND KEY FINDINGS

Declining Health Scores limit the growth of overall Opportunity



NATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The overall Opportunity Score for the nation for 2018 is 53.1 out of a possible 100. This increase of 0.6 points (1.2 percent) in overall opportunity since 2017 is driven by improvements in the Economy, Education, and Community dimensions of the Index. The largest increase (4.6 percent) was in the Economy dimension, while the Education and Community dimensions saw growth of 1.5 and 1.8 percent, respectively. The Health dimension, however, declined from 55.5 in 2017 to 54.0 in 2018, a fall of 2.8 percent.

In a large majority (83.2 percent) of counties where changes could be calculated, opportunity increased from 2017 to 2018. In 2018, 18 counties received an Opportunity Grade of A, three more than in 2017, while the number of counties receiving an F decreased substantially, from 18 to seven.

Minnesota ranks highest on the 2018 Opportunity Index, with a score of 62.5. Vermont, which had held the highest-scoring position since the inception of the Index in 2011, fell to a close second place, with a score of 62.3.

New Mexico has had the lowest Opportunity Score since the 2015 Opportunity Index and remains in the bottom slot in 2018.

However, its score increased by nearly two points, to 42.8. Outpacing the United States as a whole, this growth was driven by the state's improvements in all four dimensions of opportunity.

At the national level, there are clear divides in the quality of opportunity associated with race/ethnicity. For example, the 59 counties with an A or A- Opportunity Grade, are, on average, 78 percent white and just 5 percent black.

In contrast, the counties receiving a D- or F Opportunity Grade are, on average, 55 percent white and 13 percent black.

Historically--and currently--many non-white ethnic groups have experienced systematic disadvantages in their access to opportunity. On six of the 12 indicators where data have been disaggregated, white residents have the most favorable outcomes; on six others, Asians fare best.

TRENDS AND KEY FINDINGS

CORRELATIONS

For states, high incarceration rates remain the indicator most associated with lower opportunity, followed closely by poverty and youth disconnection.

For counties, the percentage of the population with an associate degree or higher is most associated with opportunity (followed by the percentage of disconnected youth and the median household income); these were also the indicators most strongly correlated with overall opportunity in last year's Index.

The consistency of these findings reinforces the multifaceted nature of opportunity, as the indicators most closely associated with opportunity span both dimensions and generations.

STATE LEVEL CORRELATIONS

Dimension Score Correlations: All Dimensions and Overall Opportunity Score					
	Dimension Scores				Opportunity Score
	Economy	Education	Health	Community	
Economy	-	0.27	0.60	0.58	0.76
Education	0.27	-	0.33	0.61	0.67
Health	0.60	0.33	-	0.59	0.84
Community	0.58	0.61	0.59	-	0.88

COUNTY LEVEL CORRELATIONS

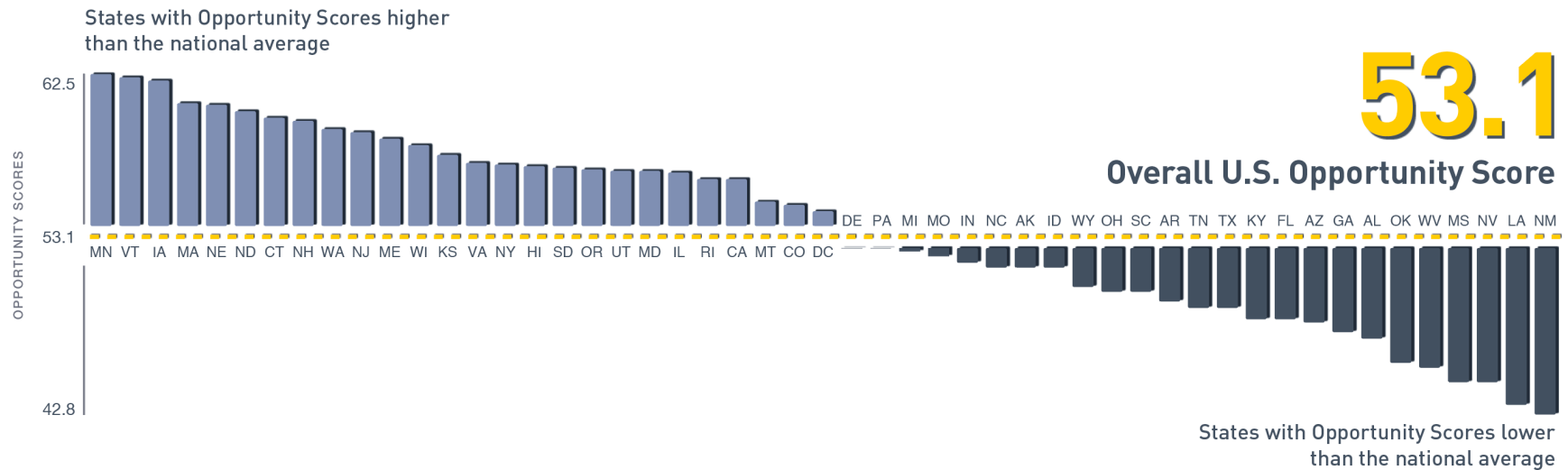
Dimension Score Correlations: All Dimensions and Overall Opportunity Score					
	Dimension Score				Opportunity Score
	Economy	Education	Health	Community	
Economy	-	0.50	0.56	0.41	0.77
Education	0.50	-	0.47	0.54	0.77
Health	0.56	0.47	-	0.49	0.82
Community	0.41	0.54	0.49	-	0.78

OVERALL OPPORTUNITY

UNITED STATES OPPORTUNITY SCORE: 53.1

Twenty-three states have scores below the U.S. average Opportunity Score of 53.1, while 27 states and the District of Columbia have scores above the U.S. average.

Ranking overall Opportunity from Minnesota to New Mexico



STATE RANKINGS

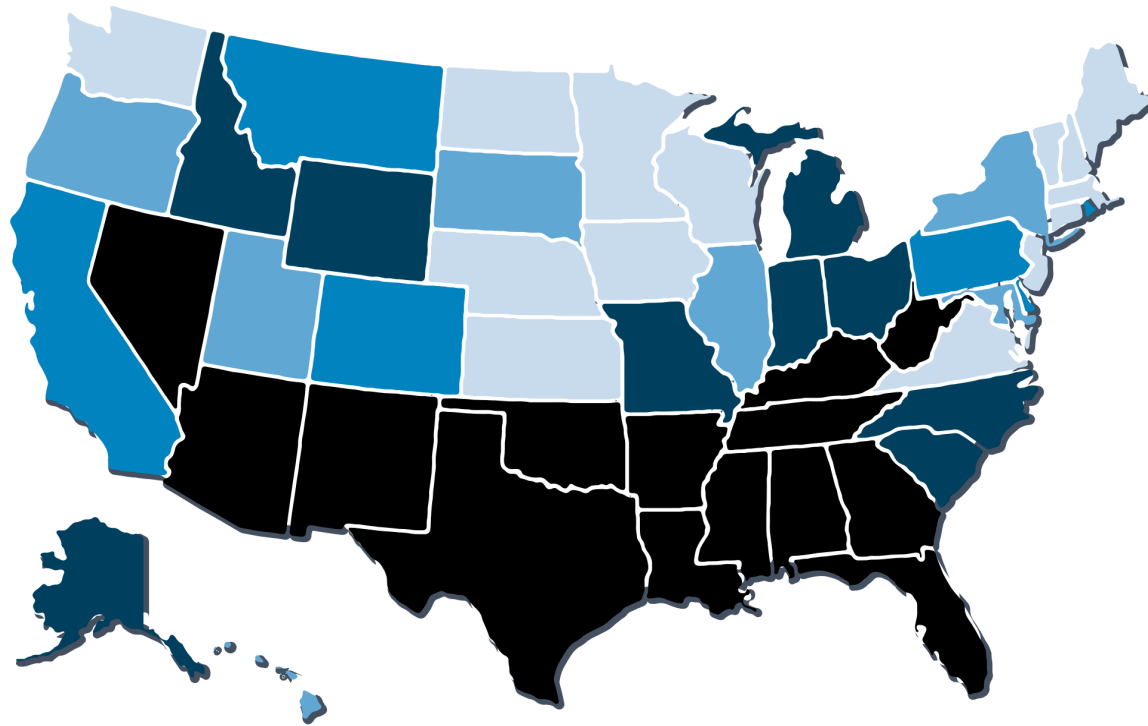
How Opportunity is distributed across America

Overall Opportunity Scores



Highest ← → Lowest

MN: 62.5	MD: 56.5	SC: 50.4
VT: 62.3	IL: 56.4	AR: 49.8
IA: 62.1	RI: 56.0	TN: 49.4
MA: 60.7	CA: 56.0	TX: 49.4
NE: 60.6	MT: 54.6	KY: 48.7
ND: 60.2	CO: 54.4	FL: 48.7
CT: 59.8	DC: 54.0	AZ: 48.5
NH: 59.6	DE: 53.1	GA: 47.9
WA: 59.1	PA: 53.1	AL: 47.5
NJ: 58.9	MI: 52.9	OK: 46.0
ME: 58.5	MO: 52.6	WV: 45.7
WI: 58.1	IN: 52.2	MS: 44.8
KS: 57.5	NC: 51.9	NV: 44.8
VA: 57.0	AK: 51.9	LA: 43.4
NY: 56.9	ID: 51.9	NM: 42.8
HI: 56.8	WY: 50.7	
SD: 56.7	OH: 50.4	
OR: 56.6		
UT: 56.5		



Similar to previous years, the states with the highest levels of opportunity tend to be clustered in the Northeast and Midwest.

Of the 10 highest-ranking states, four are in New England (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont) and four in the Midwest (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North Dakota); Washington State and New Jersey hold the ninth and tenth spots, respectively.

The lowest Opportunity Scores in 2018 have a geographic distribution similar to that in previous years, with high representation from states in the South (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi), the Southwest (Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oklahoma) and Appalachia (West Virginia) in the bottom 10 states.

COUNTIES SNAPSHOT

In 2018, 18 counties received an Opportunity Grade of A (three more than in 2017) and 41 received an A- (eight more than in 2017). Seven counties (about one-third of a percent, and 11 fewer counties than in 2017) received an F. From 2017 to 2018, Opportunity Grades improved in 643 counties, worsened in 59, and stayed the same in 1,293.¹

In 2018, and for the third straight year of the Opportunity Index, Williamson County, Tennessee, was the county with the highest level of opportunity. With a population of about 219,000, Williamson is a mostly-white (85 percent) county to the south of Nashville. From 2017 to 2018, Williamson County's data improved on a number of indicators: wages, affordable housing, broadband internet access, preschool enrollment, postsecondary education, unemployment, health insurance coverage, and youth disconnection.

Its unemployment rate of 2 percent is just over half that of the nation's; 63 percent of preschool-age children are enrolled in school; likewise, 63 percent of adults have a postsecondary degree; just 5.2 percent of those under age 65 lack health insurance; and 6.7 percent of youth ages 16 to 24 are not in school and not working, compared with a national average of 11.7 percent.

Most counties showed positive trends in the Economy and Education dimensions (78.0 and 65.0 percent of counties, respectively), while a plurality of counties had positive trends in the Health and Community dimensions (42.1 and 43.8 percent of counties, respectively).

Visit opportunityindex.org to learn more about your county's Opportunity Grade and to see how your peers are doing in achieving a certain level of opportunity, and what you can do individually and collectively to reach higher still.

Data supplied by PwC US has made it possible--for the first time since 2011-- for counties to see which other counties have similar opportunity profiles to their own.

[1] There are 1,995 counties with Opportunity Grades in both 2017 and 2018. The number of counties having both 2017 and 2018 scores on the individual indicators and each of the dimensions ranges from 579 to 3,141.

****A note on race/ethnicity: With the exception of Falls Church, Virginia (which is 9.9 percent Hispanic, 9.1 percent Asian, and 5.4 percent black), the highest-ranking county in each dimension is more than 90 percent white.*



ECONOMY DIMENSION

JOB | WAGES | POVERTY | INCOME INEQUALITY | ASSETS | AFFORDABLE HOUSING | INTERNET ACCESS

More than half of states saw a decreased poverty rate, lower unemployment rate, greater housing affordability, and more broadband internet access. At the same time, income inequality rose in one-third of states, and over half of states saw a reduction in access to banking. Twenty-two states had an increase in median household income, but an equal number had no change from 2017- 2018.



More than half of states showed **improvements** in the poverty rate, the unemployment rate, housing affordability, and broadband internet access.



Of the 42 counties with **unemployment rates** under 2%, 11 are in Colorado.

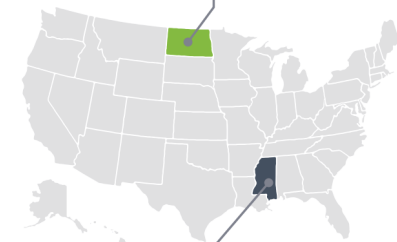


Income inequality grew by more than 1% in nearly a third of states from the 2017 to the 2018 Index.



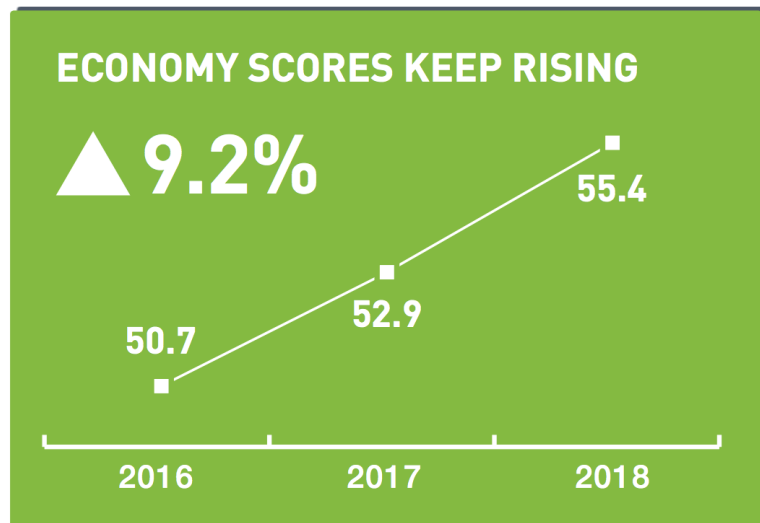
The **poverty rate** continues to decrease in the United States, maintaining a trend first evident in the 2014 Opportunity Index.

▲ 67.2
State with the highest Economy Score:
North Dakota



▼ 46.2
State with the lowest Economy Score:
Mississippi

WHY IS ECONOMY IMPORTANT?



A robust economy supports a high-skills and high-wage labor force. Opportunities to accumulate assets and access financial credit are important features of an economy that works for all residents and offers improved prospects for future generations. In general, economies with large disparities in income, wealth or access to good jobs are associated with greater problems—such as poorer overall health and well-being, weaker economic growth, violence and greater dependence on public assistance.

More than half of states saw improvements in the poverty rate, the unemployment rate, housing affordability, and broadband internet access, while income inequality rose in one-third of states.

Over one-half of all states saw a reduction in access to banking while twenty-two states had an increase in median household income, but an equal number had no change on this indicator.

North Dakota has been the highest-performing state in the Economy dimension since 2016, with a score of 67.2 out of 100. The state with the lowest Economy score is Mississippi with a 46.2. New Mexico, ranked last in 2017, showed the most improvement with an 11.5 percent increase since 2017. Most counties (78 percent) saw progress in this dimension as well.

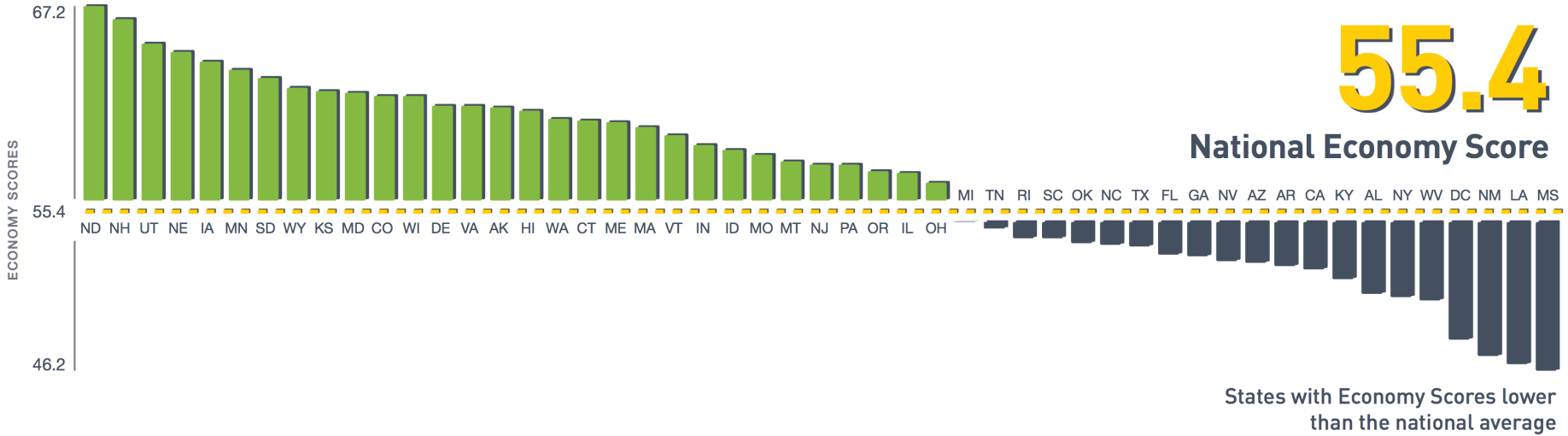
Thanks to PwC US, the 2018 Opportunity Index has been supplemented with business-specific data to provide further insight into how opportunity interacts with the evolving US economy. Want to learn more about the future of work in your community? Visit opportunityindex.org.



Economy

Ranking Economy Scores from North Dakota to Mississippi

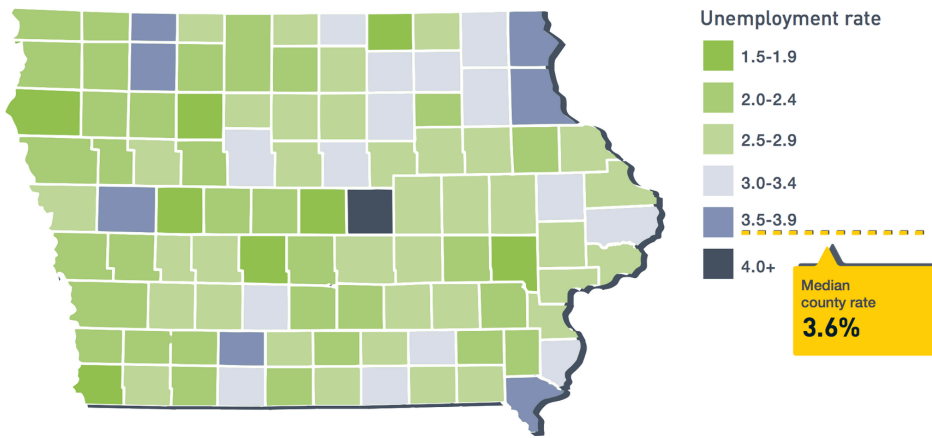
States with Economy Scores higher than the national average





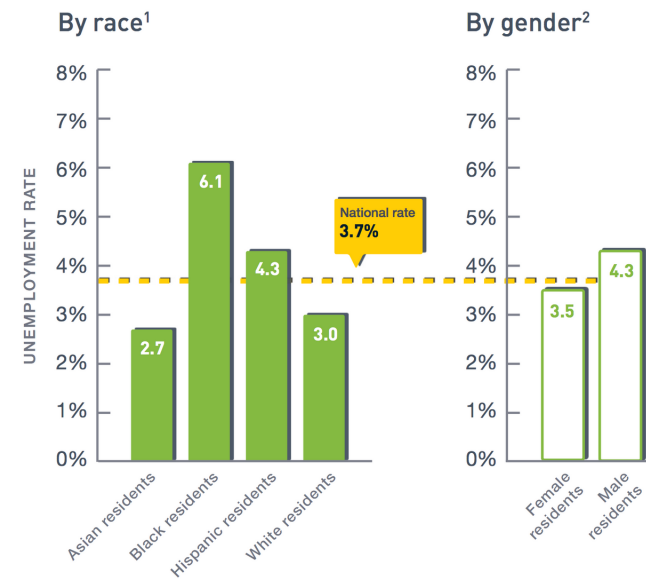
Economy

Iowa ranks 2nd in the US for low unemployment. Ninety three counties bested the rate for the median county.*



* The county median for a given indicator is the point value at which half of counties score higher and half score lower. It is important to note that the county median does not take into account population size, and the counties above or below the median may include unequal numbers of people.

US unemployment rates vary widely by race and gender.



¹ Data not collected for American Indian/Alaska Native residents, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents, Multiracial residents, and residents who identify as a race not listed here.

² While women have a lower reported rate of unemployment, the number is influenced by lower labor force participation among women.



EDUCATION DIMENSION

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT | HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION | POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Since 2011, the Education dimension increased from 46.4 to 55.2 out of 100—a 19 percent improvement. And since 2017, opportunity increased in this dimension by 1.5 percent. New Jersey had the highest score for the Education dimension, as they have since 2016, at 66.8 out of 100; Nevada, at 42.1, was the lowest performer, but has also shown the most improvement in this dimension since 2017.

In the county assessments, Falls Church City, Virginia (population 13,868), remains in the first-place slot in on the Education dimension. In this locality, seven of eight children ages 3 and 4 are enrolled in preschool, nearly all high schoolers (99.5 percent) graduate in four years, and 83 percent of adults have a postsecondary degree. Sixty-one counties, including 18 in Texas and 12 in Nebraska, had a 100 percent graduation rate in the 2018 Index.



For the second consecutive year, Falls Church City, VA, has the **highest score** in the Education dimension.



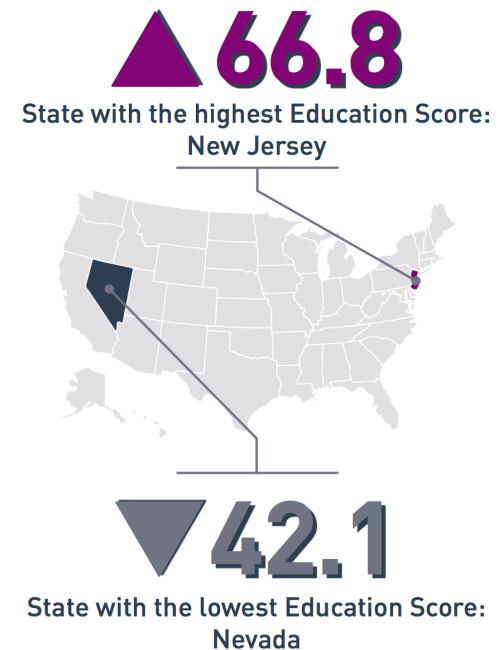
While almost half of states showed no overall change in **high school graduation rates**, nearly 56% of counties demonstrated positive change in high school graduation.



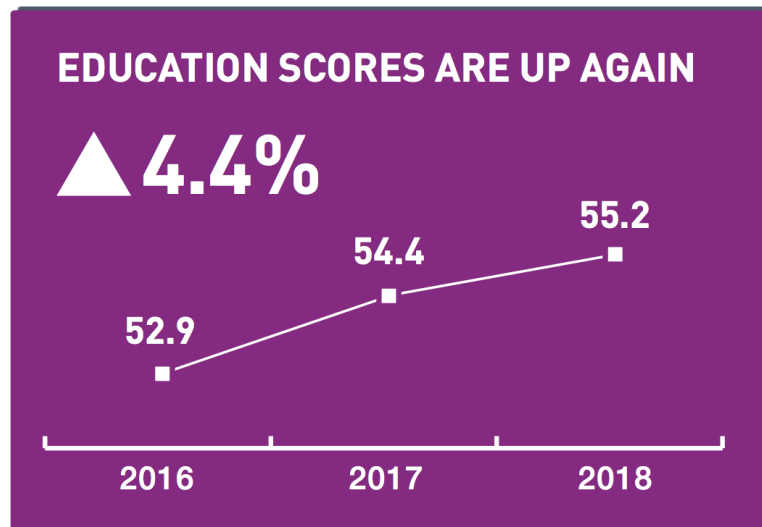
In 12 states and the District of Columbia, more than half of children ages 3 or 4 are **enrolled in preschool**. Six of these states are in the Northeast.



In nearly 2,000 counties, **postsecondary degree attainment** showed an increase from 2017.



WHY IS EDUCATION IMPORTANT?



Educational attainment, and the skills that accompany it, are associated with greater lifetime earnings and better health and life-satisfaction. The benefits of education begin in early childhood, when participation in a good-quality childcare or preschool program gives young children a head start on the kinds of social, emotional and learning skills they will need in school and beyond.

Encouragingly, adult educational attainment, measured by the percentage of adults with an associate degree or higher, has increased in every state since 2011.

At both state and county levels, communities where teens and young adults are least likely to work or attend school tend to be those where adult educational attainment is relatively low. This suggests that economic opportunity (or the lack thereof) has an intergenerational component, and that the education and employment struggles of young people often mirror those of their parents and neighbors.

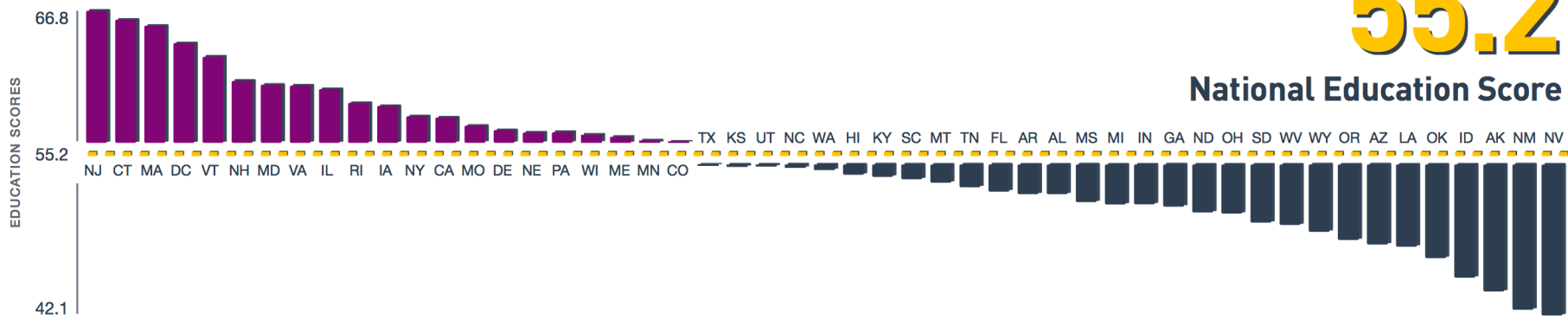
Opportunity increased since 2017 in the Education dimension by 1.5 percent. New Jersey had the highest score for the Education dimension, as it has since 2016, at 66.8 out of a possible 100; Nevada, at 42.1 was the lowest performer, but has also shown the most improvement in this dimension since 2017.



Education

Ranking Education Scores from New Jersey to Nevada

States with Education Scores higher than the national average



55.2

National Education Score

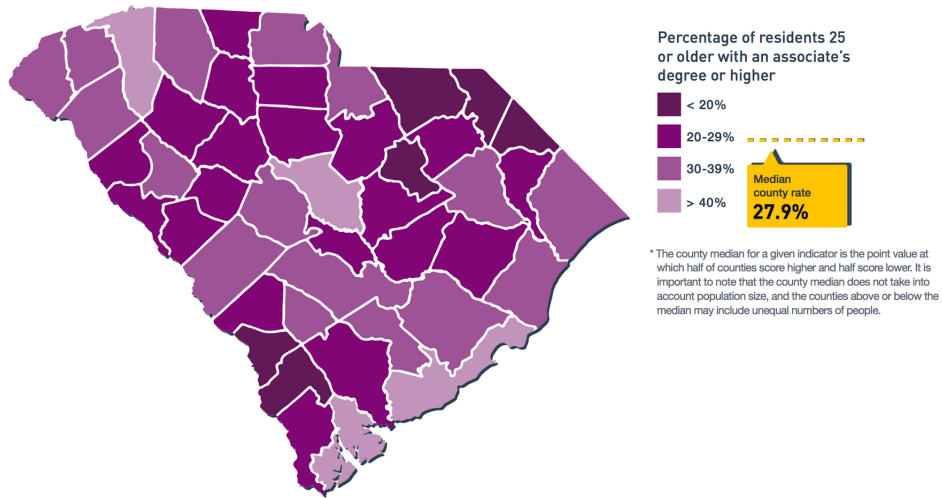
States with Education Scores lower than the national average



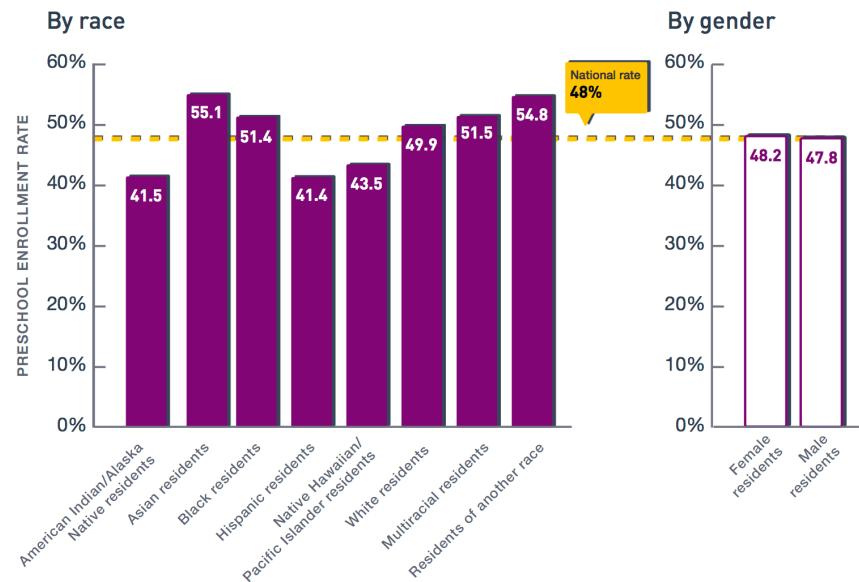
Education

South Carolina ranks 38th in the US for postsecondary education rate.

Twenty four counties have a smaller share of residents with a post-secondary degree than the median county.*



US preschool enrollment rates differ more by race than by gender.





HEALTH DIMENSION

BIRTH WEIGHT | HEALTH INSURANCE | DEATHS BY ALCOHOL/DRUGS OR SUICIDE

The overall Health score—which improved by 2.1 percent from 2016 to 2017—declined by 2.8 percent from 2017 to 2018. In fact, the Health score in 2018 was slightly lower overall in 2018 than in 2016. There were positive trends for health insurance coverage in all but three states and Washington, DC. However, rates of low birth weight increased in the majority of states, and 40 states and the District of Columbia saw higher rates of deaths due to drugs/alcohol or suicide, with DC seeing an increase of 82 percent from the 2017 Index to the 2018 Index.

Minnesota is the highest-performing state on this dimension, with a score of 70.1. West Virginia, at 35.8, is lowest, while Arkansas shows the most improvement from the 2017 to the 2018 Index.

Wright County, Minnesota (population 132,387), has the highest Health score with just 4.2 percent of adults under age 65 lacking health insurance, and a rate of deaths due to drugs/alcohol or suicide (16.2 per 100,000 people) half that of the United States as a whole.



Indicators at the state and national levels in the Health dimension had the most **mixed results** from the 2017 to 2018 Index, as deaths due to drugs and alcohol or suicide and rates of low birth weight increased in the majority of states.



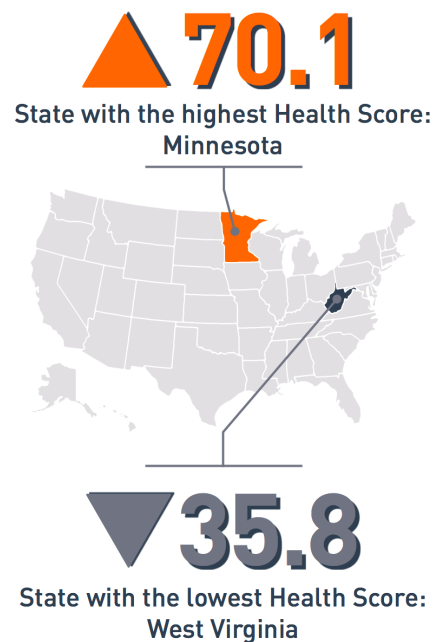
In counties that received an Opportunity Grade of F, **deaths due to drugs/alcohol or suicide** occur at more than double the rate of counties with a grade of A—on average 43.5 deaths versus 19.6 deaths per 100,000, respectively.



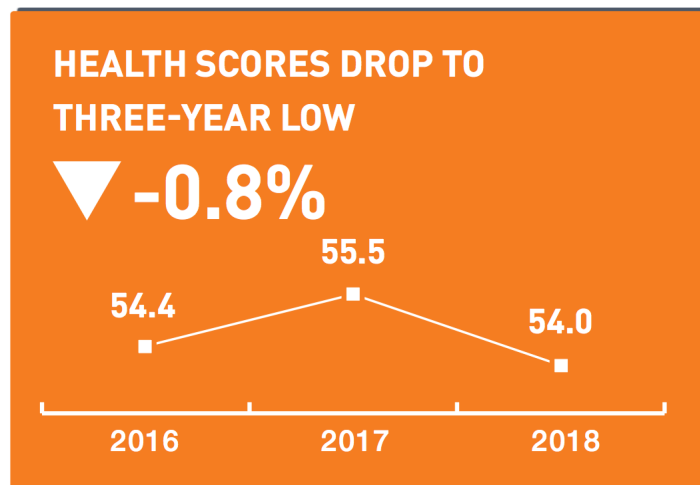
Children with black mothers are nearly twice as likely to have a **low birth weight** (13.9%) compared with children born to Hispanic or White mothers (7.4% and 7.0%, respectively).



There are 63 counties where more than a quarter of those under age 65 do not have **health insurance**. More than a third of these counties are in Texas.



WHY IS HEALTH IMPORTANT?



Neighborhood quality, household income, racial discrimination, education and other social supports can greatly influence health by affecting people's opportunities for physical activity, their social networks, access to care and overall well-being.

Physical and mental health, economic opportunity and overall well-being are closely intertwined and influences flow in both directions. People who are healthier are more productive and earn higher wages. Similarly, higher incomes are associated with greater access to high-quality care, healthy food, physical exercise and mental health care.

According to an analysis of more than 50 studies, social conditions contribute to nearly one-third of mortality in the United States and account for an even greater share of illness and injury.²

The Health dimension includes a critical early marker of developmental risk: low birth weight. Also included is health insurance coverage, which is linked both with access to care and better health outcomes.

Finally, deaths due to drug or alcohol poisoning or suicide are included. These "deaths of despair" may reflect a combination of personal and social ills: untreated substance use and mental health disorders, including depression and anxiety linked to job loss, discrimination or other wrenching circumstances.

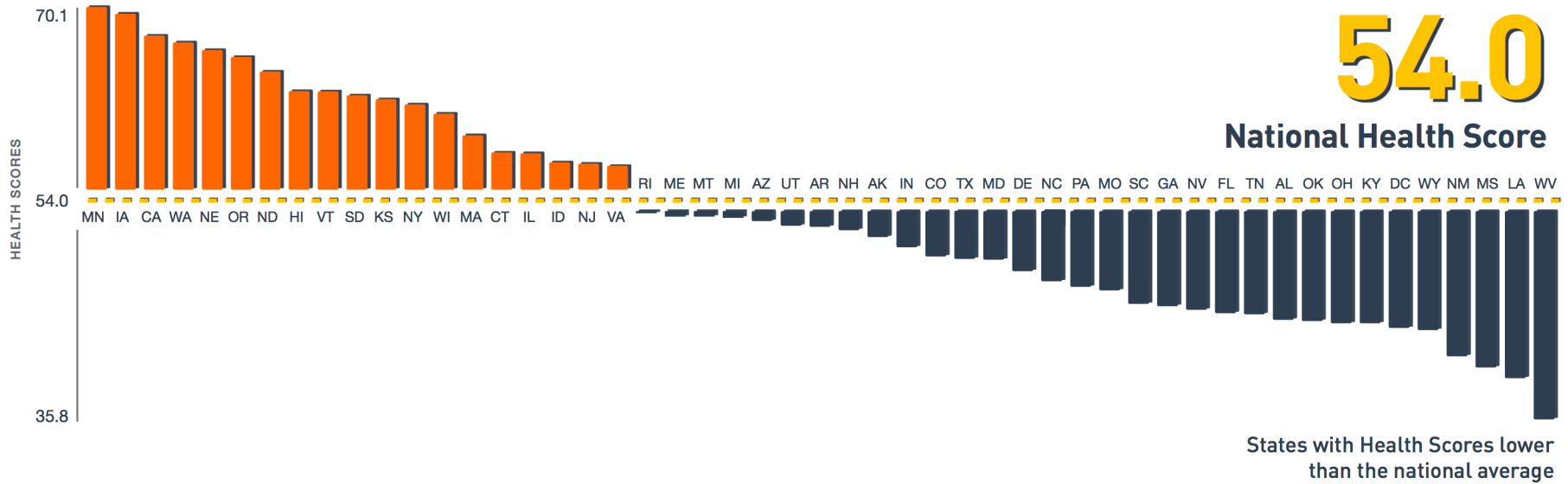
[2] Galea, S., Tracy, M., Hoggatt, K. J., DiMaggio, C., & Karpati, A. (2011). "Estimated deaths attributable to social factors in the United States." *American Journal of Public Health*, 101(8), 1456–1465



Health

Ranking Health Scores from Minnesota to West Virginia

States with Health Scores higher than the national average



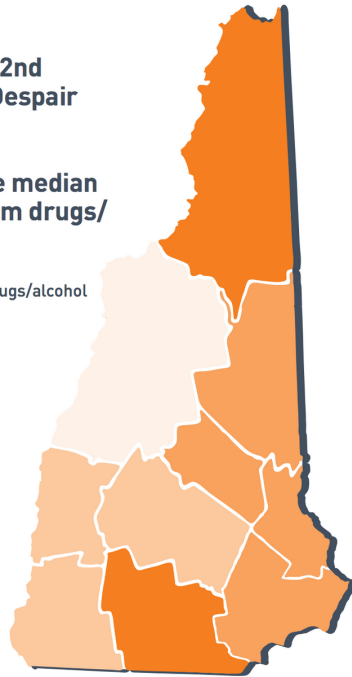


Health

New Hampshire has the 2nd worst rate of Deaths of Despair in the US.

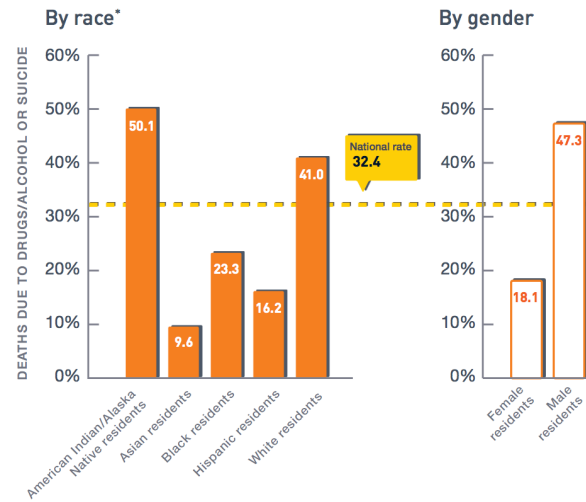
Nine counties exceed the median county rate of deaths from drugs/alcohol or suicide.*

Age-adjusted rate of deaths due to drugs/alcohol or suicide per 100,000 residents



* The county median for a given indicator is the point value at which half of counties score higher and half score lower. It is important to note that the county median does not take into account population size, and the counties above or below the median may include unequal numbers of people.

The US rates of deaths due to drugs/alcohol or suicide differ dramatically by race and gender.



* Data not collected for native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents, multiracial residents, and residents who identify as a race not listed here.



COMMUNITY DIMENSION

VOLUNTEERISM | VOTER REGISTRATION | DISCONNECTED YOUTH | COMMUNITY SAFETY | PRIMARY HEALTH CARE | HEALTHY FOOD | INCARCERATION

Opportunity increased since 2017 in the Community dimension by 1.8 percent. Maine performed best in this dimension with a score of 64.6. The state with the lowest score is Oklahoma, for the second year in a row, at 38.4.

Volunteering rose in every state except South Dakota (which already had a rate well over the national average). The percentage of young people ages 16 to 24 who are not in school and not working declined in more than half the states, as did the incarceration rate. For nearly two-thirds of states, access to primary health care was relatively unchanged. For the indicators of violent crime rate and access to healthy food, more states lost ground than did not.

In 2018, the number of grocery stores and produce vendors per 10,000 population increased in only four states, while 16 states saw no change. There was a negative trend in 30 states and Washington, DC. Twenty-eight states experienced lower incarceration rates than in 2017, while 10 states saw no change.

Boone County, Nebraska (population 5,358), fares best in the Community dimension; notably, its youth disconnection rate is less than 4.5 percent, and there are nearly 150 primary care doctors per 100,000 population. This is the second year in a row that a Nebraska county was top-ranked.



More than half of states showed **improvements** in incarceration rate, youth disconnection, and volunteering.



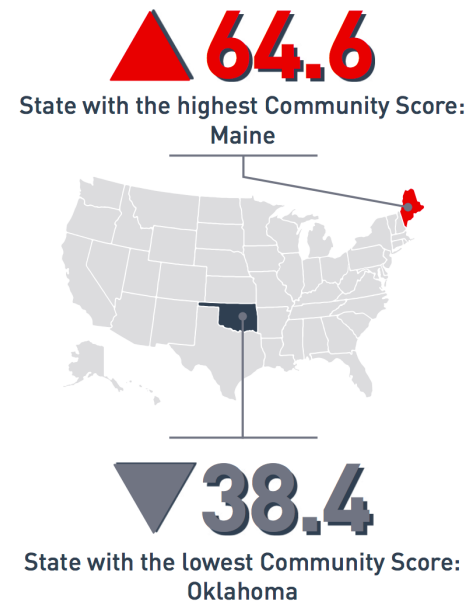
Youth disconnection continues to improve year to year, due to about three-fifths of states showing improvement on this indicator.



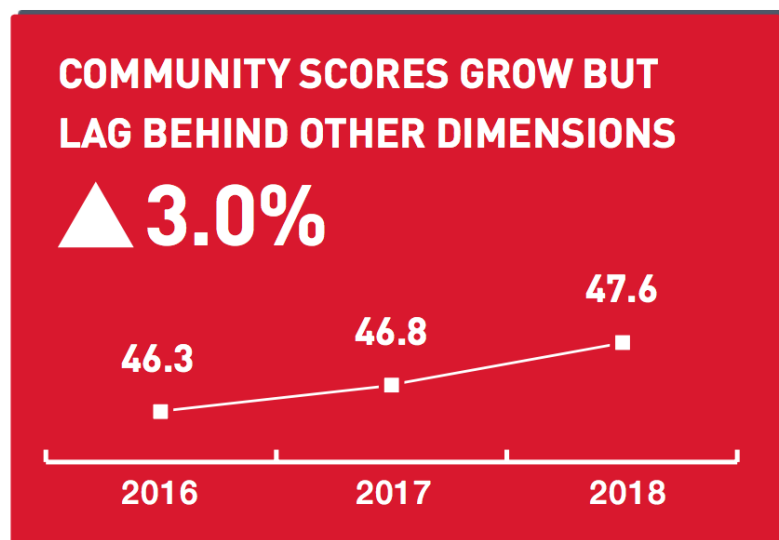
From the 2017 to 2018 Index, **volunteerism rates** rose in every state except in South Dakota, which already exceeded the national average rate of volunteerism.



There are 207 counties with fewer than one **primary care physician** per 100,000 residents.



WHY IS COMMUNITY IMPORTANT?



Thriving communities provide the infrastructure that supports the health, education, work life, recreation and civic participation of its residents, welcoming the assets that residents of diverse ages, race and ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds bring and taking care not to adopt practices that exclude anyone's contributions.

The Community dimension focuses on several distinct aspects of a vibrant community: access to primary health care and healthy foods; participation in community life and governance; safety; the incarceration rate, which is accompanied by negative effects on families and communities and youth who need to build human capital through employment or postsecondary education.

[3] There are 1,995 counties with Opportunity Grades in both 2017 and 2018. The number of counties having both 2017 and 2018 scores in the individual indicators and dimensions ranges from 579 to 3,141.

Our analysis finds an important correlation: across states, high incarceration rates (followed by youth disconnection) are most associated with lower opportunity.

The proportion of youth disconnected from employment and education declined in 30 states and remains below five million nationally.

Opportunity in the Community dimension increased since 2017 by 1.8 percent. Maine performed best in this dimension, with a score of 64.6. The state with the lowest score is Oklahoma, for the second consecutive year, at 38.4.

The state with the lowest score is Oklahoma, for the second year in a row, at 38.4. Overall, there are eight indicators on which more than half of all counties had a positive trend³:

- Jobs
- Poverty
- Affordable housing
- Broadband internet subscription
- High school graduation
- Postsecondary education
- Health insurance coverage
- Youth disconnection

On two indicators, more than half of counties had a negative trend, indicating increasing levels of undesirable outcomes.

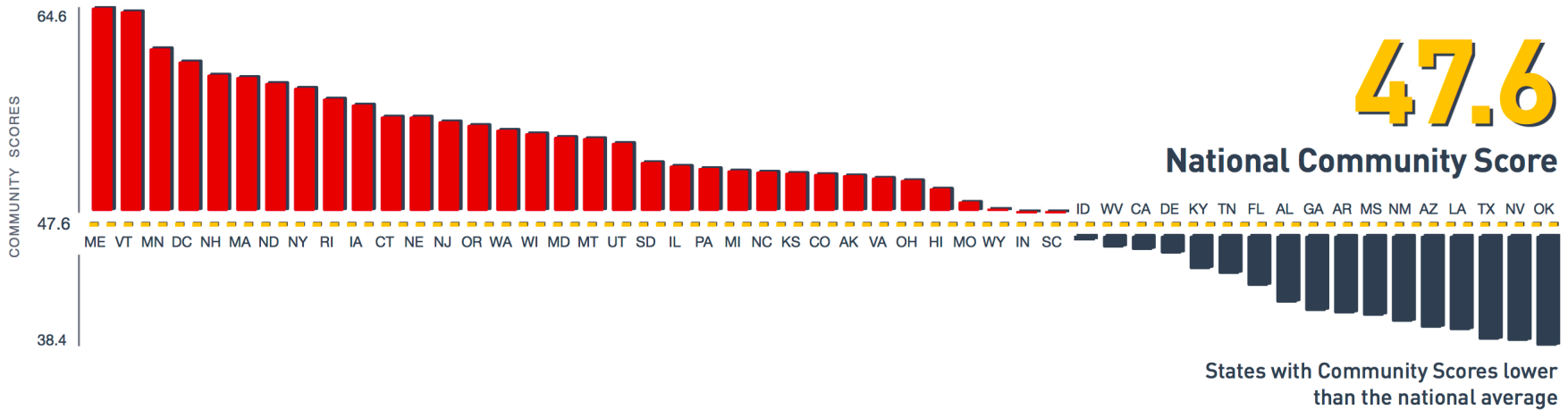
- Deaths related to drug/alcohol use or suicide
- Violent crime



Community

Ranking Community Scores from Maine to Oklahoma

States with Community Scores higher than the national average





Community

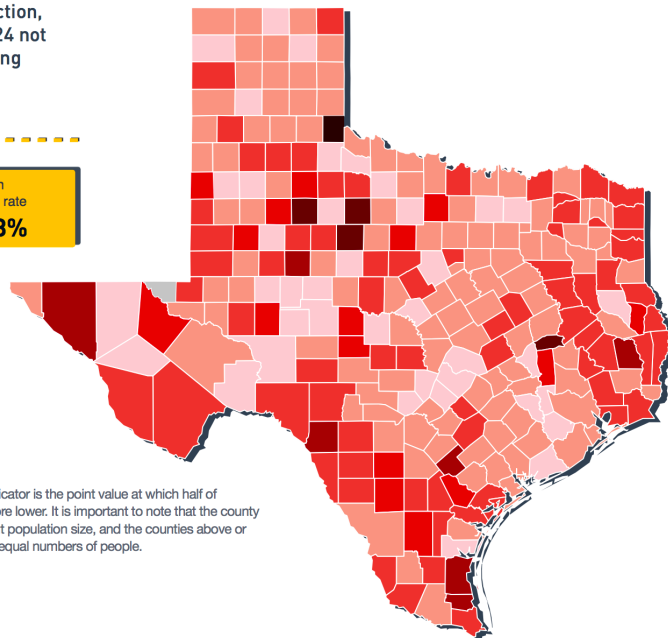
Texas has the 14th highest rate of youth disconnection in the US.

One hundred sixty counties surpass the median county rate of youth not in school and not working.*

Rate of youth disconnection, young people ages 16-24 not in school and not working

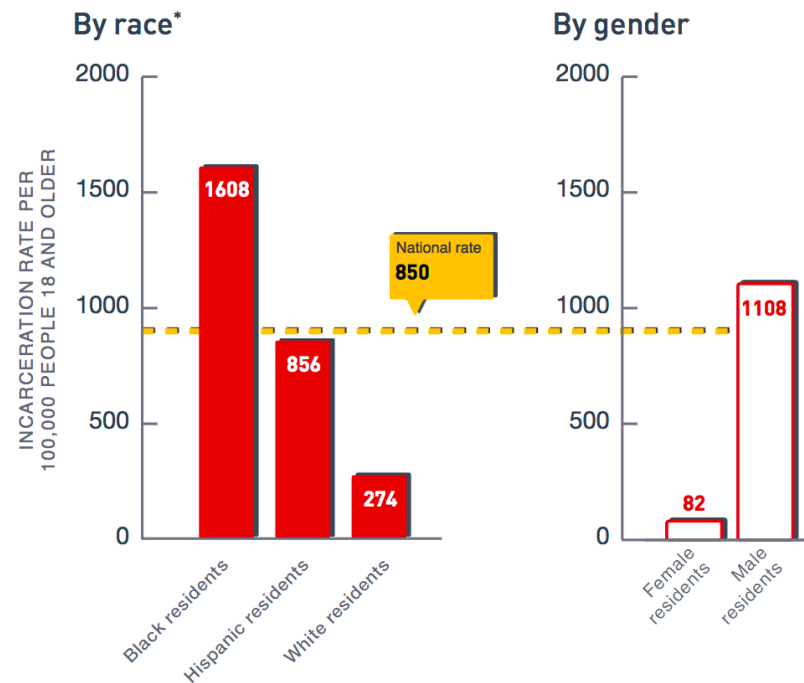
- 0-10%
- 11-19%
- 20-29%
- 30-39%
- 40-49%
- 50-59%
- > 60%

Median county rate
15.3%



* The county median for a given indicator is the point value at which half of counties score higher and half score lower. It is important to note that the county median does not take into account population size, and the counties above or below the median may include unequal numbers of people.

US incarceration varies greatly by race, and even more so by gender.



* Data not collected for American Indian/Alaska Native residents, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents, multiracial residents, and residents who identify as a race not listed here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Learn more about the analysis of the 2018 Opportunity Index, find your state's Opportunity Score and your county's Opportunity Grade online at opportunityindex.org.

LEARN MORE

- What dimensions of opportunity are strongest and which are weakest in my community?
- Where are we making the greatest progress, and where are we slipping?
- How can we expand opportunity more fairly in our community?
- What roles do gender and race play in access to opportunity?
- What can we learn from the Opportunity Scores of locales that are similar to ours?



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ABOUT OPPORTUNITY NATION

Opportunity Nation is a bipartisan, national campaign of the Forum for Youth Investment, comprised of more than 350 cross-sector organizations working together to expand economic mobility and close the opportunity gap in America. Opportunity Nation envisions the United States as a nation where everyone – regardless of where they were born – has equal access to opportunity, economic mobility, and success at all stages of life.

Through the efforts of the Coalition and findings from the Opportunity Index, Opportunity Nation works to combat inequality and ensure that people of all ages can thrive and succeed. They employ a data-driven, bipartisan, cross-sector approach to ensure America's young people have a strong foundation towards future success.



ABOUT PWC

PwC refers to the US member firm or one of its subsidiaries or affiliates, and may sometimes refer to the PwC network. Each member firm is a separate legal entity. Please see www.pwc.com/structure for further details. At PwC, their purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems.

PwC is a network of firms in 158 countries with over 250,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services. Find out more and tell PwC what matters to you by visiting www.pwc.com/us.

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

ABOUT THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

The Kresge Foundation was founded in 1924 to promote human progress. Today, Kresge fulfills that mission by building and strengthening pathways to opportunity for low-income people in America's cities, seeking to dismantle structural and systemic barriers to equality and justice. Using a full array of grant, loan, and other investment tools, Kresge invests more than \$160 million annually to foster economic and social change, collaborations and partnerships.

ABOUT CHILD TRENDS

Child Trends is the nation's leading research organization focused exclusively on improving the lives of children and youth, especially those who are most vulnerable. Child Trends works to ensure that all kids thrive by conducting independent research and partnering with practitioners and policymakers to apply that knowledge.

They believe that programs and policies that serve children are most effective when they are informed by data and evidence and grounded in deep knowledge of child and youth development. The Child Trends team includes over 200 staff with expertise in areas including psychology, sociology, social work, statistics, public health, public policy, education, and communications, who work with passion and rigor on behalf of all children in America. Learn more at childtrends.org



ABOUT ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is devoted to developing a brighter future for millions of children at risk of poor educational, economic, social and health outcomes. Their work focuses on strengthening families, building stronger communities and ensuring access to opportunity, because children need all three to succeed. The Annie E. Casey Foundation advances research and solutions to overcome the barriers to success, helps communities demonstrate what works, and influences decision makers to invest in strategies based on solid evidence.

As a private philanthropy based in Baltimore and working across the country, the Foundation makes grants that help federal agencies, states, counties, cities, and neighborhoods create more innovative, cost-effective responses to the issues that negatively affect children: poverty, unnecessary disconnection from family and communities with limited access to opportunity. Since 1948, these efforts have translated into more informed policies and practices and yielded positive results for larger numbers of kids and families.

For more information, and to learn how much opportunity is in YOUR community, please visit www.opportunityindex.org.
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