THE 2019 Opportunity Index

Child TRENDS

OPPORTUNITY NATION

the forum FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT

Introduction

Opportunity refers to the sets of circumstances that make it possible for an individual to achieve their full potential. A holistic view of Opportunity cannot be limited to economic circumstances and must also include the educational, health-related, and community conditions and resources that impact one's ability to thrive. Creating circumstances for all individuals and families to thrive in their communities requires a complex set of strategies that vary according to each community's history, culture, needs, assets, and demographic makeup.

Historically, Opportunity in the United States has not been equally distributed. Disparities across the various dimensions of Opportunity stem from both overt and covert racism embedded in systems that shape Opportunity from their inception. As racial justice issues have become more prominent in recent months, it is particularly important to call out ongoing systemic racism that continues to prevent people of color from accessing Opportunity that is readily available to white people. For example, while racial discrimination in lending has been illegal since 1968, investigations have found that Black and Latinx individuals are still more likely to be denied mortgage loans and are more often directed to loan products that may be less viable in the long term.[1] These practices perpetuate disparity in Opportunity through generations because they limit the ability of people of color to purchase homes (or finance other large expenditures). As of 2016, on average, non-Hispanic white families had a net worth of $143,600 while Black families had a net worth of $12,920.[2] This is just one example of how discriminatory practices create disparate access to Opportunity. Discriminatory practices exist across all dimensions of Opportunity and contribute continuously to disparities. Populations of color face higher maternal[3] and infant[4] mortality, differential disciplinary action by race in educations settings begins as early as kindergarten,[5] and neighborhoods comprised predominantly of people of color are less likely to have access to healthy food options than white neighborhoods.[6] In this report, we explore racial and ethnic disparities in Index indicators at a national level.

As we now experience massive disruptions to our economy and way of life due to COVID-19, these inequities will likely be exacerbated without concerted efforts to support particularly distressed communities. With the nation looking to reopen and establish a new way of living with COVID-19, people will continue to raise families and start careers with a new set of obstacles, dangers, and disappointments looming. The resilience of economic, education, and health systems in one's community can greatly influence both individual-level opportunities and the support that one receives along the way.

Community members, policymakers, philanthropic leaders, and other change agents need tools to understand the strengths and challenges related to building Opportunity in the communities where they live and serve. Since 2011, the Opportunity Index has provided insight into this critical question, offering a comprehensive and detailed examination of conditions that affect Opportunity at the county, state, and national levels across the United States. The Opportunity Index is a composite measure made up of indicators in four distinct dimensions of Opportunity: Economy, Education, Health, and Community. This

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[1] Glantz, A & Martinez, E. (2018). *For people of color, banks are shutting the door to homeownership.* Emeryville, CA: Center for Investigative Reporting; Reid, C.K., Bocian, D., Li, W., & Quercia, R.G. (2017). Revisiting the subprime crisis: The dual mortgage market and mortgage defaults by race and ethnicity, Journal of Urban Affairs, 39:4, 469-487.

[2] Survey of Income and Program Participation. (2016). *Wealth, Asset Ownership, & Debt of Households Detailed Tables: 2016.* Washington, DC: US Census Bureau.

[3] United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Racial and Ethnic Disparities Continue in Pregnancy-Related Deaths. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/p0905-racial-ethnic-disparities-pregnancy-deaths.html

[4] United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Infant Mortality Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2016. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/infantmortality.htm

[5] Owens, J & McLanahan, S. (2019). Unpacking the Drivers of Racial Disparities in School Suspension and Expulsion. *Social Forces*, 98 (4): 1548-1577.

[6] Brooks, K. (2014). Research Shows Food Deserts More Abundant in Minority Neighborhoods. *Johns Hopkins Magazine.* Spring. Retrieved from: https://hub.jhu.edu/magazine/2014/spring/racial-food-deserts/

report shares the latest Index scores for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, ranking them from 1 to 51, with 1 indicating the state with the greatest Opportunity. The report also presents overall levels of Opportunity for nearly 2,000 counties (representing 95 percent of the U.S. population). To highlight the uneven distribution of Opportunity in our nation, we also share, for those indicators with available data, breakdowns of the data by gender and race/ethnicity.

The Index was first launched in 2011; Child Trends led a structural change in 2017 that affected a number of the Index's indicators and dimensions. Because of this change, composite Opportunity and Dimension Scores from 2011 to 2015 should not be compared with those from 2016 and forward.

Methodology and Data

Opportunity is multidimensional, and a narrow focus on just one or two aspects may misrepresent communities' actual experiences or drive disparities. For instance, gentrification represents how positive change for some groups in a specific dimension may be accompanied by negative changes for other groups. Alternatively, a community may see positive improvements in the economic domain but still be struggling to engage people along the indicators in the Community domain. Identifying the patterns for communities across the United States is one way to use the tool.

This requires thoughtful strategies to improve and balance Opportunity both across dimensions of Opportunity and across sub-segments of the population. As a result, by using 20 total indicators, the Opportunity Index constructs a holistic Opportunity score as well as a score for the four important dimensions of Opportunity: Economy, Education, Health, and Community. These indicators and their values for the U.S. as a whole are displayed in Table 1. Because it takes time for agencies to validate and prepare data for public release, the indicators comprising the Index are subject to data lags of varying length. The lag represents the time between the year the data were collected and the Index year. Indicators comprising the 2019 Index were collected primarily between 2017 and 2019 (see the technical supplement for details).

Table 1. The Opportunity Index: Dimensions, Indicators, and 2019 National Values

Dimension	Indicator	Description	National Value
Economy	**Jobs**[1]	Unemployment rate (percentage of the population ages 16 and older who are not working but available for and seeking work)	3.30%
	Wages	Median household income (in 2010 dollars)	$53,699
	Poverty[1]	Percentage of the population below the federal poverty level (the amount of pretax cash income considered adequate for an individual or family to meet basic needs)	13.40%
	Income inequality[1]	80/20 ratio (ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile)	4.92
	Access to banking services	Number of banking institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions) per 10,000 residents	3.66
	Affordable housing	Percentage of households spending less than 30 percent of their income on housing-related costs	68.26%
	Broadband internet subscription	Percentage of households with subscriptions to broadband internet service	83.80%
Education	**Preschool enrollment**	Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds attending preschool	48.00%
	High school graduation	On-time high school graduation rate (percentage of freshmen who graduate in four years)	84.82%
	Postsecondary education	Percentage of adults ages 25 and older with an associate's degree or higher	40.46%
Health	**Low birth weight**[1]	Percentage of infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds	8.27%
	Health insurance coverage[1]	Percentage of the population (under age 65) without health insurance coverage	8.70%
	Deaths related to alcohol/drug use and suicide[1]	Deaths attributed to alcohol or drug poisoning, or suicide (age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population)	34.90

Dimension	Indicator	Description	National Value
Community	**Volunteering**	Percentage of adults (ages 18 and older) who reported they volunteered during the previous year (national and state-level only)	27.52%
	Voter registration	Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who are registered to vote (national and state-level only)	62.75%
	Youth disconnection[1]	Percentage of youth (ages 16–24) not in school and not working	11.45%
	Violent crime[1]	Incidents of violent crime reported to law enforcement agencies (per 100,000 population)	382.90
	Access to primary health care	Number of primary care physicians (per 100,000 population)	75.47
	Access to healthy food	Number of grocery stores and produce vendors (per 10,000 population)	2.08
	Incarceration[1]	Number of people incarcerated in jail or prison (per 100,000 population 18 and older) (national and state-level only)	863.00

[1] These indicators are reversed scored when standardizing data so that higher values represent better outcomes.

National trends can be helpful benchmarks for comparison or reflections of large systems, but they are less useful for understanding the dynamics of Opportunity that operate in smaller geographies and what policy levers might be needed to address issues. State-level Opportunity Scores start to reflect the range of Opportunity across the nation and may suggest to policymakers "peer states" whose experience may offer useful insights. At the county level, Opportunity Grades and Dimension Scores provide the most community-specific data to inform local planning and action.

The Opportunity Index uses official statistics from a number of government sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Department of Justice, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Vital Statistics System, as well as data compiled by reputable nonprofit organizations. Because Opportunity Index data are derived from sources that were not designed to address questions of causality, we caution against using the Opportunity Index to draw any cause-and-effect inferences.

At the national and state levels, 20 indicators were combined into four dimensions of Opportunity to yield a score from 0 to 100 in each dimension. Those four dimensions were then averaged (equally weighted) to create the overall Opportunity Score. At the county level, the Opportunity Index includes only 17 indicators because data for three indicators in the Community dimension (volunteering, voter registration, and incarceration) are not available at the county level. As a result, and for ease of interpretation, counties are awarded "Opportunity Grades" (A+ to F) rather than scores for their overall performance. See the Technical Supplement for full details on construction of the Index and complete sources for every indicator.

Table 2. County Opportunity Grade assignments based on standardized scores

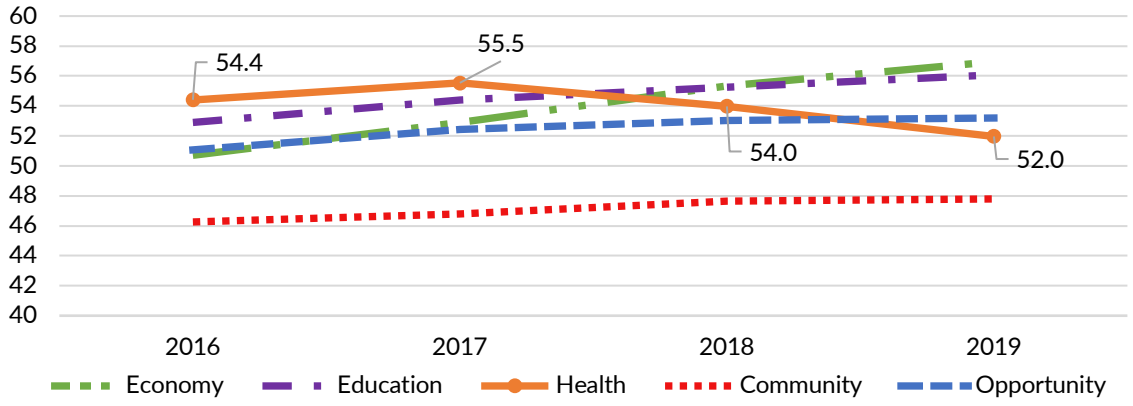
Opportunity Grade	Minimum Standardized Score (rounded)	Maximum Standardized Score (rounded)
A+	80.0	100.0
A	67.5	79.9
A-	64.0	67.4
B+	60.5	63.9
B	57.1	60.4
B-	53.6	57.0
C+	50.1	53.5
C	46.6	50.0
C-	43.1	46.5
D+	39.6	43.0
D	36.2	39.7
D-	32.7	36.1
F	0.0	32.6

National Findings

For the nation, the 2019 Opportunity Score stands at 53.2 out of 100. This increase of 0.15 points (0.3 percent) in overall Opportunity since 2018 indicates minimal change over the prior year but is driven by improvements in the Economy and Education dimensions as well as declines in the Health dimension. The largest increase (2.9 percent) was in Economy while Education saw growth of 1.5 percent. The Community dimension was largely unchanged (0.3 percent increase), and the Health dimension declined by 3.7 percent. While the changes between 2018 and 2019 are small, it is notable that since 2016, the national score has risen 2.1 points (4.2 percent) as displayed in Figure 1. Despite these overall gains, the Health score has fallen for the second year in a row to 52.0 (2.4 points lower than the 2016 Health score of 54.4). As the nation faces a pandemic, investment in health is more important than ever. For the overall Index to grow, these declines needed to be offset by the other dimensions. Strong growth in the Economic dimension and smaller but steady growth in the Education and Community dimensions compensated for declines in the Health dimension. As discussed in this and previous reports, because of the significant changes in the composition of the Opportunity Index made for the 2016/17 update, we caution readers against comparing this year's Opportunity Score with scores for years before 2016.

For the second year in a row, the national Health score has decreased. As the nation faces a pandemic, investment in health is more important than ever.

Figure 1. National Opportunity and Dimension Scores, 2016-2019 Index



Note: Data labels have been added to health dimension since it is the only domain to see declines.
The y-axis is modified to show changes in score in more detail.

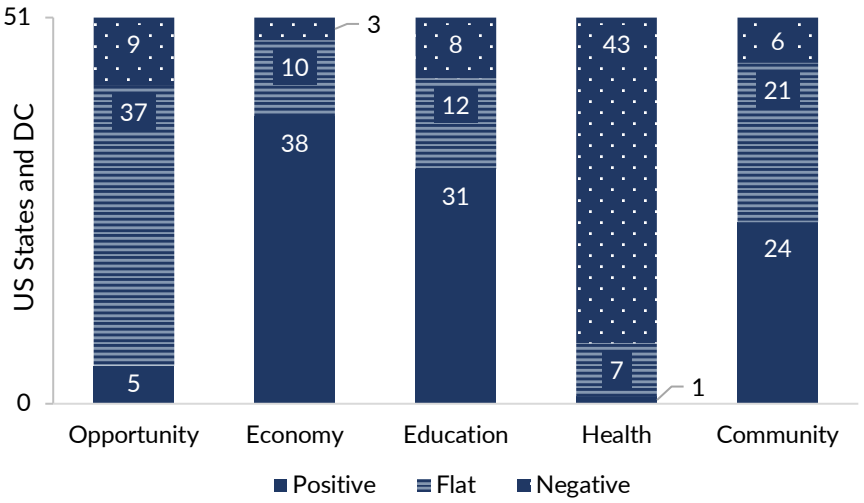
State Findings

From 2018 to 2019, Opportunity scores increased in 26 states and the District of Columbia while they decreased in 24 states. As displayed in Figure 2, for 37 states, increases or decreases were less than 1, so these states were considered to have flat scores. Relative to their 2016 scores, 42 states improved while 8 states and the District of Columbia declined. In 2019, 25 states have scores below the U.S. Opportunity Score of 53.2, while 25 states and the District of Columbia have scores above the average.

This year's state Opportunity scores were strongly correlated with each state's performance in the Community (0.86), Health (0.83), and Economy (0.76) dimensions. The indicators most strongly correlated with state Opportunity scores were youth disconnection (0.88), poverty (0.82), incarceration (0.80), and

post-secondary education (0.75). State Opportunity scores correlated weakly with income inequality (.25) and housing affordability (.22).

Figure 2. How many US states are trending up, down or flat on each dimension from 2018 to 2019 Index?



Note: Changes of less than 1 percent are considered flat. Changes greater than 1 percent are considered either positive or negative trend.

From when the Opportunity Index first launched in 2011 through 2017, Vermont was ranked number one in overall Opportunity. However, in 2018, Minnesota moved to the fore. In 2019, Minnesota continued to rank number one with an Opportunity score of 63.1. Interestingly, Minnesota does not rank first on any specific indicator or domain which suggests that the state may have a more evenly distributed performance across dimensions than other states. Minnesota scores above the national average in all domains and performs better than the nation as a whole on nearly all indicators. For the fifth consecutive year, New Mexico had the lowest Opportunity score at 42.4. New Mexico performs below the nation on nearly all indicators. The indicator values for these two states are highlighted in Table 3.

Table 3. Performance on indicators for Minnesota (highest Opportunity) and New Mexico (lowest Opportunity)

Dimension	Indicator	New Mexico	Compared to Nation	Minnesota	Compared to Nation
Economy	**Jobs**	4.40%	-	3.00%	+
	Wages	$41,602	-	$60,865	+
	Poverty	19.70%	-	9.50%	+
	Income inequality	5.2	-	4.2	+
	Access to banking services	3.1	-	3.9	+
	Affordable housing	70.10%	+	74.20%	+
	Broadband internet subscription	77.00%	-	86.40%	+
Education	**Preschool enrollment**	43.40%	-	47.70%	-
	High school graduation	72.40%	-	82.10%	-

Dimension	Indicator	New Mexico	Compared to Nation	Minnesota	Compared to Nation
	Postsecondary education	35.50%	-	47.30%	+
Health	**Low birth weight**	9.50%	-	6.70%	+
	Health insurance coverage	9.10%	-	4.40%	+
	Deaths related to alcohol/drug use and suicide	48	-	26.9	+
Community	**Volunteering**	24.60%	-	40.70%	+
	Voter registration	58.70%	-	71.90%	+
	Youth disconnection	16.50%	-	6.20%	+
	Violent crime	783.5	-	238.3	+
	Access to primary health care	74.5	-	89.6	+
	Access to healthy food	1.3	-	1.8	-
	Incarceration	930	-	380	+

Note: Minus indicates worse than national performance, and plus indicates better than national performance.

From both 2016 to 2019 and 2018 to 2019, Nevada showed the greatest overall improvement (4.1 and 1.4 points, respectively) and rose in rankings to 47th (from 49th) driven by improvements in the Education and Economy dimensions. As illustrated by these examples, state rankings are relatively static. Like previous years, the states with the highest levels of Opportunity tended to be clustered in the Northeast and Midwest and the West Coast, and those with the lowest tended to be in the South and Southwest. Figure 3 (next page) shows this clustering by region.

Figure 3. Opportunity scores across states in the United States

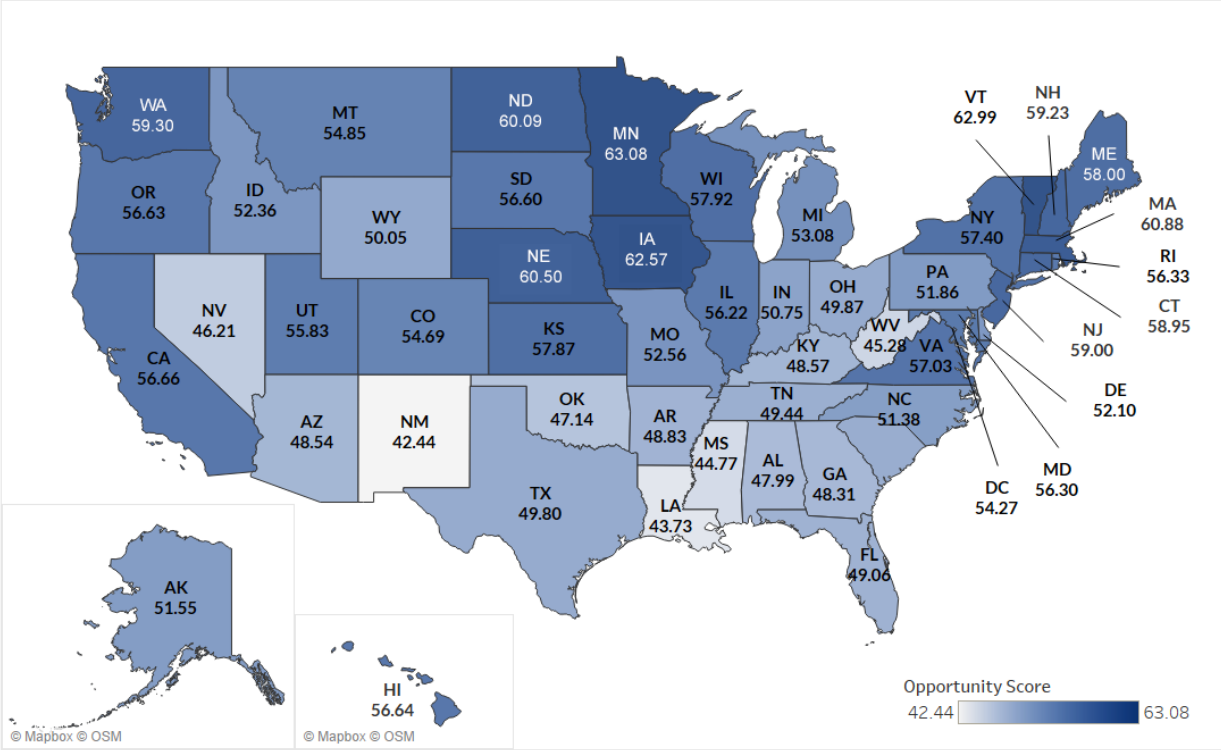


Table 4 presents the complete state rankings and overall Opportunity and dimension scores. States with high Opportunity scores tend to have high overall performance. Some states have substantial variability in performance across dimensions, which is reflected by middling performance in overall score. Appendix Table 1 contains the median county score and interquartile range of county scores for each state.

Table 4. 2019 Opportunity Index State Rankings and Domain Scores

Overall Rank	State	Opportunity Score	Economy Score	Education Score	Health Score	Community Score
	United States	53.20	56.95	56.07	51.96	47.79
1	Minnesota	63.08	65.02	56.99	67.97	62.33
2	Vermont	62.99	60.26	64.82	60.86	66.01
3	Iowa	62.57	65.42	58.54	69.29	57.02
4	Massachusetts	60.88	59.88	65.66	59.05	58.93
5	Nebraska	60.50	66.73	56.90	62.84	55.51
6	North Dakota	60.09	66.88	51.29	63.20	58.98
7	Washington	59.30	61.35	55.55	64.46	55.85
8	New Hampshire	59.23	66.11	60.68	50.50	59.64
9	New Jersey	59.00	59.47	67.88	52.87	55.76
10	Connecticut	58.95	60.92	66.77	53.16	54.94
11	Maine	58.00	61.75	55.90	48.40	65.96
12	Wisconsin	57.92	62.60	56.75	58.13	54.21
13	Kansas	57.87	63.45	57.80	58.99	51.24
14	New York	57.40	51.86	58.87	60.40	58.45
15	Virginia	57.03	62.59	60.39	54.01	51.11

Overall Rank	State	Opportunity Score	Economy Score	Education Score	Health Score	Community Score
16	California	56.66	54.08	58.43	67.20	46.92
17	Hawaii	56.64	60.81	55.45	60.39	49.91
18	Oregon	56.63	57.20	50.69	63.28	55.35
19	South Dakota	56.60	63.35	50.28	60.30	52.49
20	Rhode Island	56.33	56.98	54.79	55.95	57.58
21	Maryland	56.30	63.25	61.76	46.17	54.01
22	Illinois	56.22	57.82	60.63	54.92	51.53
23	Utah	55.83	65.87	50.89	52.09	54.48
24	Montana	54.85	59.50	53.36	50.96	55.59
25	Colorado	54.69	62.95	55.95	49.07	50.77
26	District of Columbia	54.27	50.75	65.20	39.13	62.01
27	Michigan	53.08	57.52	52.54	50.33	51.95
28	Missouri	52.56	59.31	56.58	46.55	47.81
29	Idaho	52.36	60.50	47.03	55.65	46.24
30	Delaware	52.10	59.15	57.50	44.45	47.30
31	Pennsylvania	51.86	57.67	56.28	42.25	51.23
32	Alaska	51.55	59.06	45.77	48.41	52.98
33	North Carolina	51.38	55.67	55.42	43.53	50.88
34	Indiana	50.75	59.43	49.73	46.64	47.20
35	Wyoming	50.05	62.45	45.65	43.43	48.68
36	Ohio	49.87	57.50	51.66	39.27	51.04
37	Texas	49.80	55.38	56.05	48.25	39.51
38	South Carolina	49.59	54.88	54.02	42.48	46.97
39	Tennessee	49.44	56.35	54.17	42.97	44.26
40	Florida	49.06	54.39	54.92	43.39	43.56
41	Arkansas	48.83	54.20	51.98	48.42	40.71
42	Kentucky	48.57	53.28	52.89	42.78	45.32
43	Arizona	48.54	54.75	47.02	51.17	41.22
44	Georgia	48.31	54.94	53.56	43.58	41.17
45	Alabama	47.99	52.88	54.58	42.97	41.52
46	Oklahoma	47.14	55.57	49.48	44.29	39.24
47	Nevada	46.21	55.17	47.40	42.97	39.30
48	West Virginia	45.28	49.86	49.11	35.28	46.88
49	Mississippi	44.77	48.20	52.56	38.61	39.71
50	Louisiana	43.73	46.68	49.20	39.24	39.78
51	New Mexico	42.44	47.62	43.13	38.92	40.09

Note: Lighter shading in the table indicates lower scores. State scores have been rounded to one decimal place. While values may appear tied, the rankings reflect the original (not rounded) values. There were no ties in the unrounded values.

State Performance on Specific Indicators

Opportunity and dimension scores (i.e. Economy, Education, Health, and Community) reflect general performance on the Index, but some states excel or fall behind on specific indicators. In the 2019 Index, 14 states and the District of Columbia have the top spot on at least one of the 20 indicators, while 13 states and the District of Columbia hold the lowest position on at least one indicator. The District of Columbia was top ranked on five indicators (median income, preschool enrollment, postsecondary completion, primary health care, and incarceration), but ranked last on two indicators (income inequality, and violent crime). This less evenly distributed performance across multiple indicators places the District of Columbia right near the middle of the pack at the 27th spot overall. North Dakota and Utah both hold the top spots in three indicators. North Dakota has the lowest youth disconnection, and its high performance in access to banking services (as the only state with a public bank[7]) and affordable housing contribute to its status as the state with the highest Economy score. In contrast, North Dakota ranks lowest in preschool enrollment. Utah performs best in income inequality, high school graduation and volunteering. West Virginia holds the lowest spot on four indicators (median household income, post-secondary education, alcohol or drug related deaths, and youth disconnection) while Mississippi does on three (percentage of the population living below the federal poverty level, percentage of infants who weigh less than 5.5 lbs at birth, and primary care physicians per 100,000 population). Their low performance on these indicators places West Virginia and Mississippi near the bottom in the 48th and 49th spots respectively. These findings for both high and low performers paired with findings from Opportunity scores suggests that performance can be variable across dimensions and indicators and that the states with higher overall Opportunity are the ones that excel consistently across all dimensions.

Performance can be variable across dimensions and indicators. The states with higher overall Opportunity are the states that excel consistently across all dimensions.

From 2018 to 2019, progress on individual indicators in each dimension was inconsistent as seen in the figures below. Table 5 summarizes the 2019 top- and bottom-ranked states on the overall Index, for each dimension and each indicator, as well as the state showing the greatest improvement (as measured by percentage change) since 2018.

Table 5. 2019 Top, Bottom and Most-Improved States by Opportunity Index Indicator

	Top	Bottom	Most Improved
Opportunity Score	**MN**	**NM**	**NV**
Economy Score	**ND**	**LA**	**DC**
Unemployment rate (percentage of the population ages 16 and older who are unemployed and seeking work)[1]	HI	AK	OK
Median household income (2010 dollars)	DC	WV	DC
Percentage of the population below the federal poverty level (the amount of pretax cash income considered adequate for an individual or family to meet basic needs)[1]	NH	MS	ME
80/20 ratio (ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile)[1]	UT	DC	DC
Number of banking institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions and credit unions) per 10,000 residents	ND	NV	RI
Percentage of households spending less than 30 percent of their income on housing-related costs	ND	CA	NV
Percentage of households with subscriptions to broadband internet service	WA	AR	AL

[7] Mitchell, S. (2015.). Measuring the impact of the Bank of North Dakota. https://ilsr.org/charts-bank-north-dakota/. Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Accessed 20 May 2020

	Top	Bottom	Most Improved
Education Score	**NJ**	**NM**	**NV**
Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds attending preschool	DC	ND	ID
On-time high school graduation rate (percentage of freshmen who graduate in four years)	NJ	NM	NV
Percentage of adults ages 25 and older with an associate's degree or higher	DC	WV	ME
Health Score	**IA**	**WV**	**RI**
Percentage of infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds[1]	AK	MS	RI
Percentage of the population under age 65 without health insurance coverage[1]	MA	TX	LA
Deaths attributed to alcohol or drug poisoning, or suicide (age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population)[1]	CA	WV	OK
Community Score	**VT**	**OK**	**AK**
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who reported volunteer activity during the previous year	UT	FL	*See note*[2]
Percentage of the population ages 18 and older who are registered to vote	ME	HI	UT
Percentage of youth ages 16–24 not in school and not working[1]	MN	WV	AK
Incidents of violent crime reported to law enforcement agencies (per 100,000 population)[1]	ME	DC	HI
Number of primary care physicians (per 100,000 population)	DC	MS	MT
Number of grocery stores and produce vendors (per 10,000 population)	NY	NV	SD
Number of people incarcerated in jail or prison (per 100,000 population ages 18 and older) [1]	DC	OK	*See note*[2]

[1] These indicators are reversed scored when standardizing scores so that higher values indicate better outcomes;
[2] Most improved is not included for these indicators because updated data is not available. See technical supplement for details.

County Findings

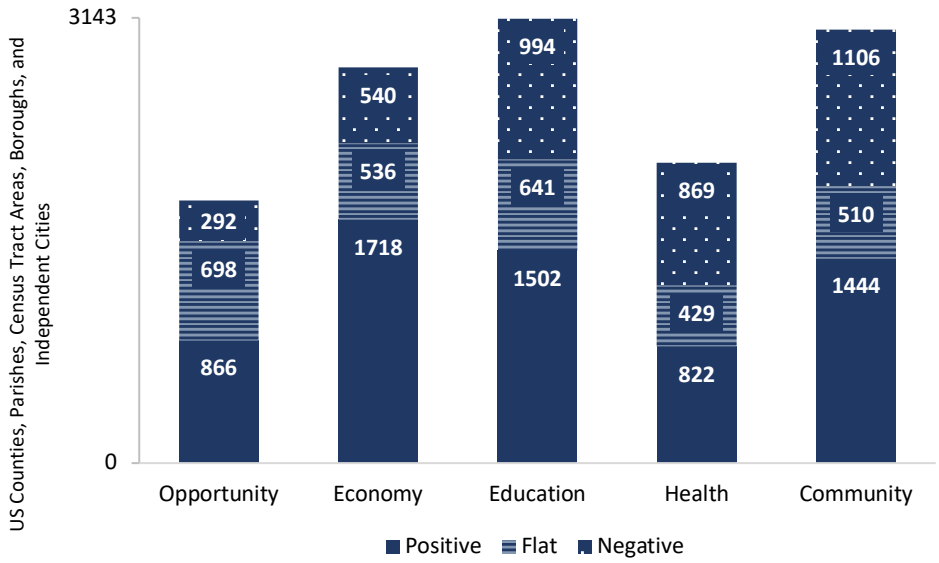
Due to their smaller size, county level indicators are more susceptible to changes and more quickly reflect these changes in the data.

For the 2019 Opportunity Index, we were able to calculate Opportunity Grades for 1,896 counties or county equivalents, which cover nearly 313 million residents (95 percent of the nation's population). In comparison to last year's index, progress has slowed at the county level reflected by fewer counties achieving substantial changes in scores. From 2018 to 2019, Opportunity Grades improved in just 355 counties compared to 643 counties from 2017 to 2018.[8] Though, among counties with substantial changes from 2018 to 2019, just 12 (compared to 15 last year) had *declines* of 5 percent or more in their Opportunity scores. The counties with substantial declines typically had small populations (median population of about 21,000) and were primarily white (74 percent on average). Meanwhile, just 87 counties (compared to 310 last year) saw *increases* of at least 5 percent in their Opportunity Grades from 2018 to 2019 compared to 310 from 2017 to 2018. These counties are distributed across twenty-six states. The median population size in these counties was about 26,000, and the population was 79 percent white on average. Due to their smaller populations, counties in both of these categories may be more susceptible to swings in their indicators and scores. At the county level, change from 2018 to 2019 varied substantially by dimension as shown in Figure 4. Most counties showed positive trends in the Economy dimension (61.5 percent of counties). Only a plurality of counties had positive trends in the Education and Community dimensions (47.9 and 47.2 percent of counties, respectively), and in the Health dimension a plurality of counties had negative

[8] There are 1,856 counties with Opportunity Grades in both 2018 and 2019. The number of counties having both 2018 and 2019 scores in the individual indicators and dimensions ranges from 510 to 3,141.

trends (41.0 percent of counties). While counties that score high tend to continue to score high, due to their smaller size, county level indicators are more susceptible to changes and more quickly reflect these changes in the data.

Figure 4. How many US counties are trending up, down or flat on each dimension?

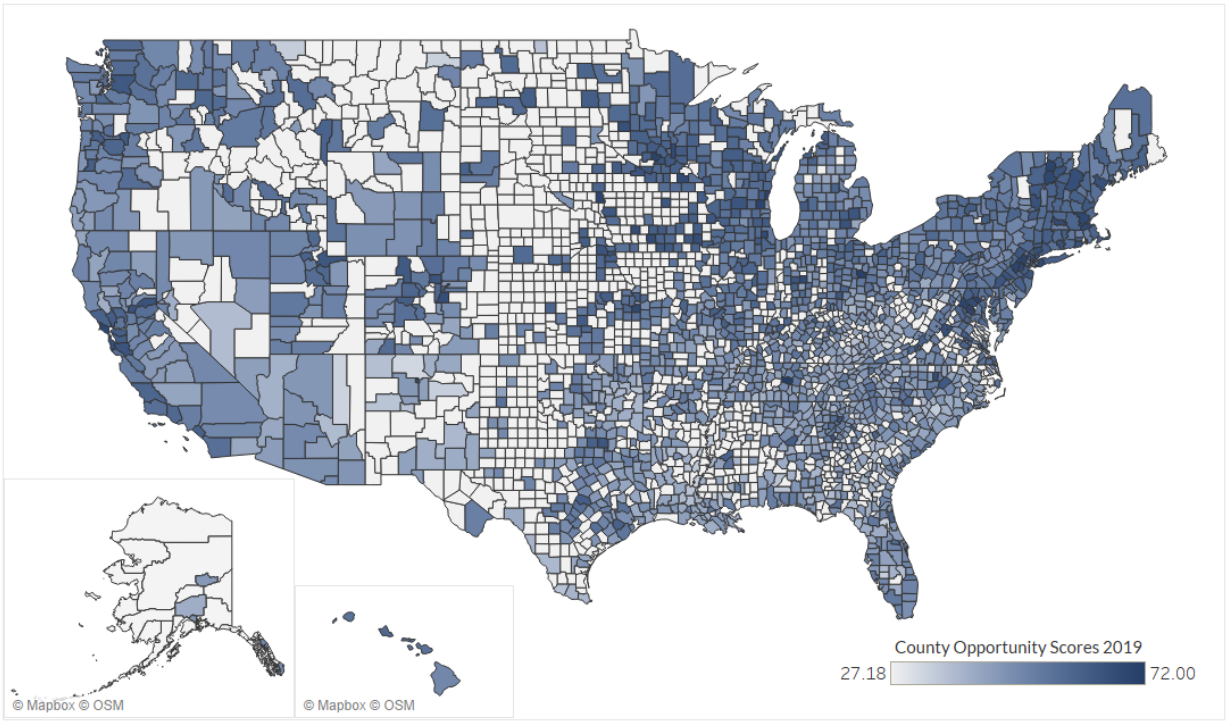


Note: Changes of less than 1 percent are considered flat. Changes greater than 1 percent are considered either positive or negative trend.

In 2019, and for the fourth straight year, Williamson County, Tennessee, had the highest level of Opportunity. With a growing population of about 226,000, Williamson is a mostly white (85 percent) county to the south of Nashville. From 2018 to 2019, the county improved on median income, access to banking institutions, affordable housing, post-secondary education, unemployment, poverty, birthweight, and youth disconnection. However, the county saw negative trends in deaths due to drugs, alcohol and suicide; health insurance; access to grocery stores; and preschool enrollment.

Scores for counties across the nation can be seen in Figure 5. While Opportunity increased for the nation between 2018 and 2019, four counties distributed across three states (Arizona, New Mexico, and West Virginia) received an Opportunity Grade of F. These counties had received either a D- or F in 2018. Changes in these counties bucked national trends. On average, scores in Health improved (2.6 points on average), but Economy, Education, and Community scores declined (1.2, 0.7, and 1.2 points respectively, on average). Manistee County, Michigan, moving from a D plus to a C grade, improved most in overall Opportunity driven by improvements in Education.

Figure 5. Opportunity scores across counties in the United States



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At the county level, Opportunity scores were strongly correlated with performance on all dimensions: Health (0.81), Education (0.78), Community (0.77), and Economy (0.77) dimensions. The indicators most strongly correlated with state Opportunity scores were post-secondary education (0.78), median income (0.78), youth disconnection (0.76), and poverty rate (0.75). County Opportunity scores correlated most weakly with access to healthy food (0.06) and housing affordability (-0.05).[9]

County Performance on Specific Indicators

The highest Economy score belongs to Steele County, North Dakota. In eastern North Dakota, Steele County has a population of just over 1,900 with a poverty rate of under 2 percent, median income over $58,000 annually, poverty rate below 4.0 percent; more than 90 percent of its residents spend less than 30 percent of their income on housing costs.

In the Education dimension, the Washington, DC, suburb of Falls Church City, Virginia (population 14,583), remains in the first-place slot for the third year in a row. In Falls Church, 87.6 percent of children ages 3 and 4 are enrolled in preschool, nearly all high schoolers (98.5 percent) graduate in four years, and 82.4 percent of adults have a postsecondary degree.

[9] Note: a negative correlation means that as the number of people who report spending more than 30% of their income on rent increases, Opportunity scores decrease.

In the Health dimension, Benton County, Iowa (population 25,642), has the highest score with just 3.5 percent of adults under age 65 lacking health insurance, and a rate of deaths due to drugs, alcohol or suicide (17.0 per 100,000) half that of the United States as a whole.

In the Community dimension, Cook County, Minnesota (population 5,398), ranks highest despite being the northernmost county on the shores of Lake Superior. Notably, its youth disconnection rate is 2.4 percent, and there are over 185 primary care doctors per 100,000 population.

Trends in dimension scores and specific indicators at the county level are summarized in Table 6. In cases where multiple counties have the same value, the number of counties is listed.

Table 6. 2019 Top, Bottom and Most-Improved States by Opportunity Index Indicator

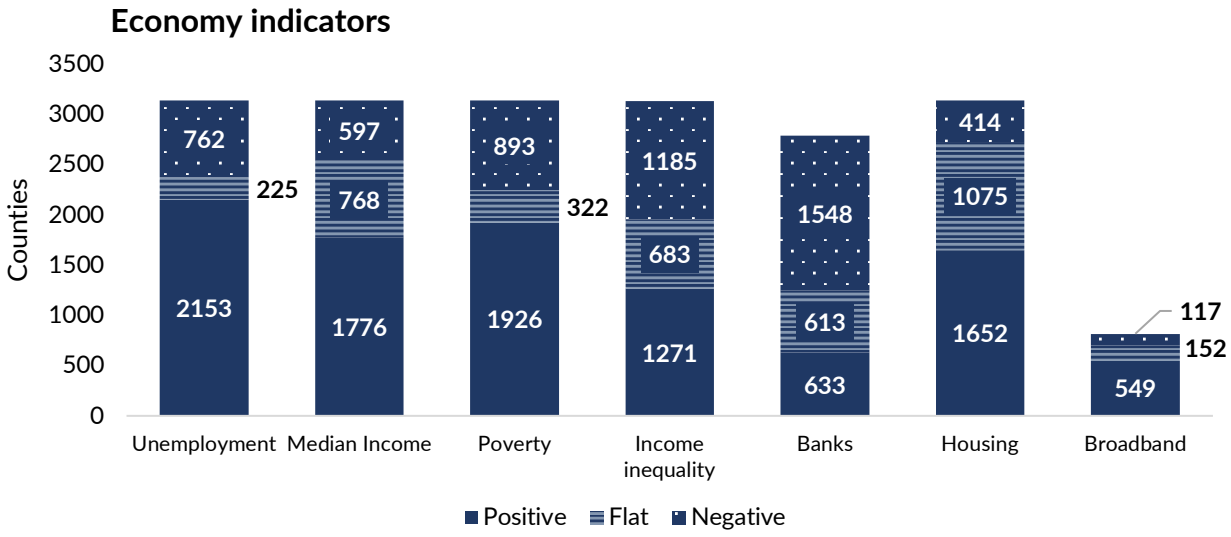
	Top	Bottom	Most Improved
Opportunity Score	**25 counties received an A, including four in VA and three in MN and NJ**	**Four counties received an F, including two NM and one each in AZ and WV**	**Manistee County, MI**
Economy Score	**Steele County, ND**	**Luna County, NM**	**Wilcox County, AL**
Unemployment rate (percentage of the population ages 16 and older who are unemployed and seeking work)[1]	Five counties including two in IA	Kusilvak Census Area, AK	Pettis County, MO
Median household income (2010 dollars)	Loudoun County, VA	McCreary County, KY	Loving County, TX
Percentage of the population below the federal poverty level (the amount of pretax cash income considered adequate for an individual or family to meet basic needs)[1]	Morgan County, UT	Todd County, SD	Wheeler County, NE
80/20 ratio (ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile)[1]	Skagway Municipality, AK	Eureka County, NV	Loving County, TX
Number of banking institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions and credit unions) per 10,000 residents	Jones County, SD	Apache County, AZ	Archer County, TX
Percentage of households spending less than 30 percent of their income on housing-related costs	Kenedy County, TX	Bronx County, NY	Loving County, TX
Percentage of households with subscriptions to broadband internet service	Douglas County, CO and Stafford County, VA	Apache County, AZ	Rockingham County, NC
Education Score	**Falls Church City, VA**	**Clay County, GA**	**Clark County, ID**
Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds attending preschool	Ten counties in CO, GA, MS, NE, NV, TX, and UT with 100% enrollment	24 counties, including seven in TX and five in MT, with 0% enrollment	East Carroll Parish, LA
On-time high school graduation rate (percentage of freshmen who graduate in four years)	66 counties, including 20 in TX with 100% graduation	Wheeler County, OR	Clearwater County, ID
Percentage of adults ages 25 and older with an associate's degree or higher	Falls Church City, VA	Kusilvak Census Area, AK	Craig County, VA

	Top	Bottom	Most Improved
Health Score	**Benton County, IA**	**Five counties, including two each in AK and SD**	**Stone County, MS**
Percentage of infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds[1]	Imperial County, CA	Hinds County, MS	Woodbury County, IA
Percentage of the population under age 65 without health insurance coverage[1]	Norfolk County, MA	Aleutians East Borough, AK	Dukes County, MA
Deaths attributed to alcohol or drug poisoning, or suicide (age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population)[1]	Hidalgo County and Maverick County, TX	Kusilvak Census Area, AK	Macon County, MO
Community Score	**Cook County, MN**	**Kenedy County, TX**	**Turner County, GA**
Incidents of violent crime reported to law enforcement agencies (per 100,000 population)[1]	40 counties, including eight in TX and six each in NE and SD, with no violent crime reported	St. Louis City, MO	See footnote[2]
Number of primary care physicians (per 100,000 population)	Montour County, PA	218 counties with 0 primary care physicians	Clark County, KS
Number of grocery stores and produce vendors (per 10,000 population)	Lake and Peninsula Borough, AK	Coryell County, TX	Buffalo County, WI
Percentage of youth ages 16–24 not in school and not working[1]	23 counties, including seven in NE, with 0% youth disconnection	East Carroll Parish, LA	Nine counties, including three in KS

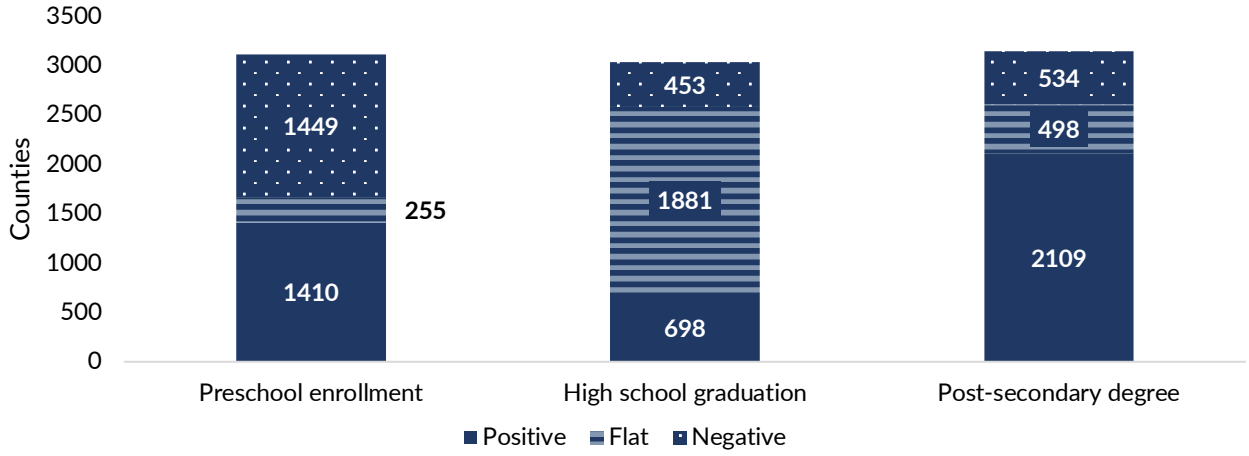
[1] These indicators are reversed scored when standardizing scores so that higher values indicate better outcomes;
[2] This indicator does not have updated data for 2019, so most improved not included. See technical supplement for details.

A plurality of counties saw improvements in unemployment, median income, poverty, access to broadband, post-secondary education, people lacking health insurance, and youth disconnection. In contrast, a multitude of counties saw deterioration in access to banking institutions, low birthweight, deaths related to drugs and alcohol, access to primary care, and access to healthy food. The charts in Figure 6 explore growth trends (positive, flat or negative) for county level indicators.

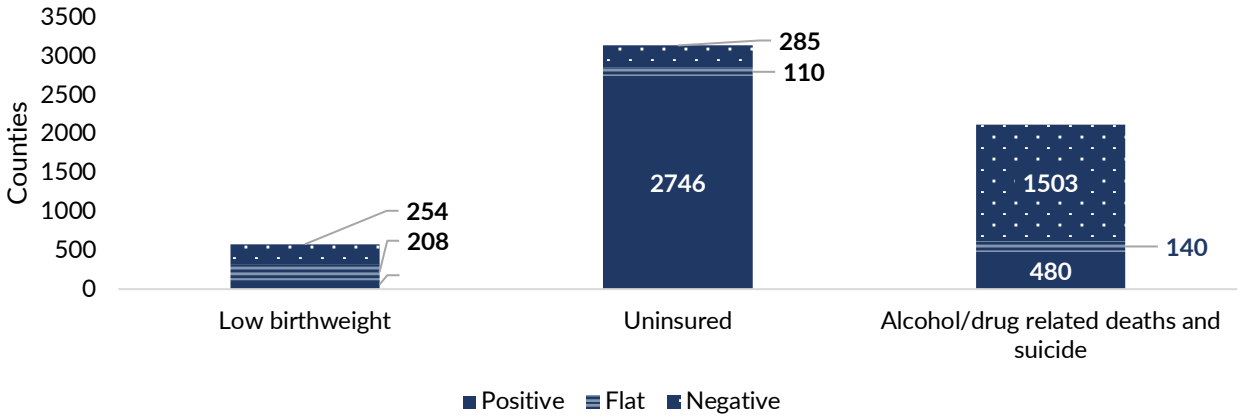
Figure 6. County trends on indicators by dimension, 2018 to 2019 Index



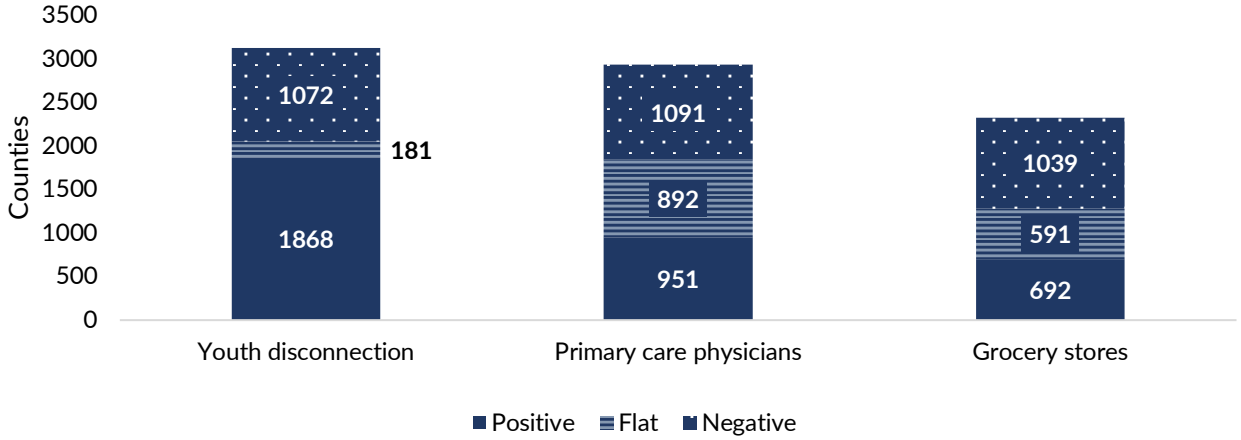
Education indicators



Health indicators



Community indicators



Note: Changes of less than 1 percent are considered flat. Changes of more than 1 percent are considered positive or negaive trend.

Equity and Disparity in Opportunity

While Opportunity varies geographically across the United States, it is often not equitably distributed between and within communities. One's race, ethnicity, gender, and other demographic variables play a role in determining access to Opportunity. At the county level, the data show some clear divides that may be associated with race/ethnicity. For example, the 65 counties with an "A" or "A-" Opportunity Grade, are, on average, 76 percent white, 5 percent black, and 8 percent Hispanic. In contrast, the 25 counties receiving a "D-" or "F" Opportunity Grade are, on average, 53 percent white, 19 percent black, and 11 percent Hispanic. Numerous policies, institutional structures and practices, and individual acts of bias have created a systematic disadvantage in access to Opportunity for people of color. To examine equity and disparity in Opportunity we use disaggregated data for race, ethnicity, and gender for indicators at the national level. Indeed, descriptive differences in Index indicators by race and ethnic origin reveal stark contrasts across multiple dimensions.

In our 2018 report, we highlighted a combination of national level disaggregated indicators available for those included in the Index. This year we have included updated disaggregated data for 12 of our 20 indicators is available in Table . Broadly speaking, on seven of the 12 indicators where we have disaggregated data, Asian residents have the most favorable outcomes; on the five others, white residents fare best. American Indian and Alaska Native populations experience the highest rates of poverty, deaths due to drug/alcohol use or suicide, and youth disconnection, as well as the lowest rates of on-time high school graduation. The table, shown on page 16, presents the latest available indicator data disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender.

The largest disparities emerge in the Health and Community dimensions. In a continuing trend from the 2018 Index, white individuals and American Indians/Alaska Natives are more likely to die from drug or alcohol related causes or suicide with rates of 42.7 and 52.2 out of 100,000 deaths respectively. That is roughly 1.5 times as likely as Black individuals, about 2.5 times as likely as Hispanic individuals, and more than four times as likely as Asian individuals. However, the rates for American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals and white individuals have decreased since the previous year's data, while rates for Black (27.3 to 28.6) and Asian individuals (9.9 to 10.8) have slightly increased. This is the only indicator for which white individuals are on the negative side of the disparity. These 'deaths of despair' are likely driven by social and economic factors, such as a lack of economic Opportunity, and for white people, Opportunity relative to their counterparts in previous generations.[10] Under 10 percent of Asian and white residents lack health insurance. In comparison, about 19 percent of American Indians or Alaska Natives, 10 percent of Black residents, and nearly 18 percent of Hispanic residents do not have health insurance.[11] While these gaps have narrowed,[12] they have not closed. Although health insurance coverage is an indicator in the health dimension, it is also related to economic factors since a large proportion of those insured receive coverage through their employer, which also indicates that in communities with lower health insurance rates, members are less likely to have jobs with benefits.

In the Community dimension, 274 of every 100,000 white adults are incarcerated, in contrast to 856 Hispanic people and 1,608 Black people. This is the largest Opportunity gap for Black and Hispanic people compared with white people for Index indicators. This is the same data included in the 2018 Index because new data for total incarcerations rates (including both those in local jails and those state prisons) was not available. These disparities reflect enduring structural racism that affects many stages of the criminal

[10] Stein, E. M., Gennuso, K. P., Ugboaja, D. C., & Remington, P. L. (2017). The epidemic of despair among White Americans: Trends in the leading causes of premature death, 1999–2015. *American Journal of Public Health*, *107*(10), 1541-1547.
[11] These statistics include adults over the age of 65 unlike the main Index indicator. Large gaps in coverage persist for seniors (for example, Hispanic seniors were about 10 times more likely than white seniors to lack health insurance), so we considered this population important to include.
[12] Artiga, S., & Orgera, K. (2019). *Changes in health coverage by race and ethnicity since implementation of the ACA, 2013-2017*. San Francisco, CA: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

justice system—from arrest to charging and sentencing.[13] Incarceration is both an outcome of disadvantage and a major barrier to Opportunity following release. Another substantial gap in the Community dimension is in youth disconnection. Under ten percent of white and Asian youth are not in school or working. While there has been a decline in disconnection over time for Black and Hispanic youth, 17 percent of Black youth, 13 percent of Hispanic youth, and 18 percent of American Indian/Alaskan Native youth fall into this category. While youth disconnection is within our Community dimension, it has strong ties to Economic and Education dimensions since it is connected to education attainment, training, and the availability of well-paying jobs.[14]

Gender disparities are generally less pronounced than those associated with race or ethnicity. Women fare better in 8 of the 10 indicators for which gender-disaggregated data are available. Women are less likely to be unemployed (though also less likely to be in the labor force), be uninsured, die from drug or alcohol related causes or suicide, be disconnected as youth, or be incarcerated. Women are more likely to be below the poverty line, have postsecondary education, volunteer, and be registered to vote; additionally, girls are more likely to be enrolled in preschool. As noted in the 2018 Index report, the greatest gender gap occurs in incarceration rates. Men are more than 13 times as likely as women to be incarcerated (rates of 1,108 and 82 per 100,000, respectively). However, the gap has been closing over recent decades, with the rate for women growing twice as fast, since 1980, as the rate for men.[15] Men are nearly 3 times as likely to die from drug or alcohol use or suicide as women. Suicide rates for both men and women have increased since 2000;[16] although women attempt suicide more frequently, men are much less likely to survive attempts.[17] Research on recent increases in drug-overdose deaths indicates the gender gap can be explained in part by differences in drug choice; in particular, heroin and synthetic drugs are more often involved in the deaths of young men.[18] Notably, this data does not represent trans and nonbinary people who often experience disadvantage.[19]

We recognize that this brief look at gender and race/ethnicity just scratches the surface of a larger discussion of the social determinants of Opportunity.[20] Other demographic variables associated with disparities are not collected as frequently or as consistently across the country as the three we present here, but that does not mean that those variables are unimportant. Many groups in our society, including people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ+ community, face exclusions from Opportunity that operate on personal and institutional levels. We did not examine outcomes related to the intersection of multiple types of privilege or disadvantage (e.g. race/ethnicity and gender). We also did not investigate these interactions within communities at the state or county level. Even in communities with high levels of Opportunity, there are groups for which Opportunity remains inaccessible. These complex interactions merit a more detailed, focused investigation outside the scope of this report.

Even in communities with high levels of Opportunity, there are groups for which this Opportunity remains inaccessible.

[13] Ulmer, J., Painter-Davis, N., & Tinik, L. (2016). Disproportional imprisonment of Black and Hispanic males: Sentencing discretion, processing outcomes, and policy structures. *Justice Quarterly*, *33*(4), 642-681; Weaver, V. M., Papachristos, a., & Zanger-Tishler, M. (2019). The great decoupling: The disconnection between criminal offending and experience of arrest across two cohorts. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, *5*(1), 89-123.
[14] Loprest, P., Spaulding, S., & Nightingale, D. S. (2019). Disconnected young adults: Increasing engagement and oOpportunity. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, *5*(5), 221-243.
[15] The Sentencing Project. (2018). *Incarcerated Women and Girls, 1980-2016*. Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project.
[16] Hedegaard, H., Curtin, S. C., & Warner, M. (2018). *Suicide rates in the United States continue to increase* (NCHS Data Brief, Number 309).
[17] Freeman, A., Mergl, R., Kohls, E., Székely, A., Gusmao, R., Arensman, E., ... & Rummel-Kluge, C. (2017). A cross-national study on gender differences in suicide intent. *BMC psychiatry*, *17*(1).
[18] Jalal, H., Buchanich, J. M., Roberts, M. S., Balmert, L. C., Zhang, K., & Burke, D. S. (2018). Changing dynamics of the drug overdose epidemic in the United States from 1979 through 2016. *Science*, *361*(6408).
[19] James SE, Herman JL, Rankin S, Keisling M, Mottet L, Anafi M. The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality, 2016
[20] For example, household wealth, access to social capital, and exposure to childhood trauma are among the many factors influencing pathways to Opportunity. Sacks, V., & Murphey, D. (2018). *The prevalence of adverse childhood experiences, nationally, by state, and by race or ethnicity*. Bethesda, MD: Child Trends; Darity Jr., W., Hamilton, D., Paul, M., Aja, A., Price, A., Moore, A., & Chiopris, C. (2018). *What we get wrong about closing the racial wealth gap*. Durham, NC: The Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity; PayScale. (2019). *The atate of the gender pay gap 2019*. Seattle, WA: PayScale, Inc.

Table 7. 2019 Indicators by race/ethnicity and gender and the national level

DIMENSION	INDICATOR	RACE/ETHNICITY[1]								GENDER	
		AI/AN	Asian	Black	Hispanic	NH/PI	White	Another race	Multiracial	Female	Male
Economy	Unemployment rate (percentage of the population ages 16 and older who are unemployed and seeking work)[2]	*See note 2*	2.1%	6.2%	3.7%	*See note 2*	2.9%	*See note 2*	*See note 2*	2.8%	3.2%
	Percentage of the population below the federal poverty level (the amount of pretax cash income considered adequate for an individual or family to meet basic needs)[2]	23.7%	10.8%	22.5%	18.8%	16.7%	10.9%	20.1%	15.9%	14.3 %	11.9%
Education	Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds attending preschool	*See note 2*	50.9%	54.5%	47.9%	*See note 2*	58.2%	*See note 2*	*See note 2*	54.4%	53.6%
	On-time high school graduation rate (percentage of freshmen who graduate in four years)	68.4%	91.0%	79.3%	81.1%	*See note 2*	88.3%	*See note 2*	82.1%	*See note 2*	*See note 2*
	Percentage of adults ages 25 and older with an associate's degree or higher	*See note 2*	63.1%	35.5%	26.4%	*See note 2*	49.8%	*See note 2*	*See note 2*	46.4%	43.8%
Health	Percentage of infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds[2]	8.0%	8.6%	14.1%	7.5%	9.0%	6.9%	*See note 2*	9.0%	7.6%	9.0%
	Percentage of the population without health insurance coverage[2]	19.1%	6.3%	10.1%	17.9%	10.6%	8.0%	20.1%	7.8%	7.9%	9.9%
	Deaths attributed to alcohol or drug poisoning, or suicide (age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population)[2]	52.2	10.8	28.6	17.9	*See note 2*	42.7	*See note 2*	*See note 2*	18.5	51.1
Community	Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who reported volunteer activity during the previous year	21.2%	19.6%	22.8%	17.0%	29.8%	31.7%	*See note 2*	28.2%	30.8%	24.0%
	Percentage of youth ages 16–24 not in school and not working[2]	18.3%	6.3%	16.6%	12.8%	13.8%	10.0%	13.2%	11.2%	10.8%	11.5%
	Percentage of the population ages 18 and older who are registered to vote	*See note 2*	38.3%	62.8%	38.6%	*See note 2*	65.0%	*See note 2*	*See note 2*	64.5%	60.9%
	Rate of people incarcerated in jail or prison (per 100,000 population ages 18 and older)[2]	*See note 2*	*See note 2*	1608	856	*See note 2*	274	*See note 2*	*See note 2*	82	1108

[1] For most indicators, racial/ethnic groups besides Hispanic do not include Hispanic persons; however, this varies by data source. For on-time high school graduation, Asian includes Hispanic and Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native and multiracial include Hispanic. For lack of health insurance, races besides white also include Hispanic persons. For voter registration, Black and Asian include Hispanic persons. Finally, for deaths due to drugs/alcohol or suicide, Asian includes Pacific Islander.
[2] Data on this group were unavailable from the source.
[3] Shaded cells indicate that this is the group with best value within the indicator.

COVID-19 and Disparities

Preliminary data already suggest that that COVID-19 related shifts will exacerbate inequities in many areas including, but not limited to, unemployment, poverty, high school graduation, educational attainment, youth disconnection, and health insurance coverage. Disruptions in traditional delivery of education and interruptions or shifts to virtual learning will most significantly affect those without broadband access or parents able to assist with learning. Furthermore, there remains significant uncertainty for those transitioning from high school to post-secondary education or the workforce.

Unemployment data (released on a monthly basis) in the table below already show substantial increases (with the largest increases in Hispanic and Asian populations) that will likely persist in coming months. With 57 percent of the population under 65 covered by employer-sponsored health plans[21] and 14 states that have not adopted Medicaid expansion,[22] unemployment means a loss of health insurance for many Americans.

Table 8. Unemployment rates by race/ethnicity

	April 2019	April 2020
Black	6.2 %	16.4 %
Asian	2.1 %	14.3 %
Hispanic	3.7 %	18.5 %
White	2.9 %	13.8 %

We anticipate that COVID-19 will produce large shifts in the indicators that we use to measure Opportunity. Some of these will be apparent in our 2020 indicators. However, many population level indicators are released on a lag due to the significant time required for collection and analysis, and many indicators in the 2019 index refer to data primarily collected between 2017 and 2019 (see the technical supplement for more information). For those lagged indicators, the effects of COVID-19 on the ground in 2020 will not appear in the indicators until 2021. In the coming months, we plan to release a series of pieces that take a deeper dive into the impacts of COVID-19 on Opportunity in the United States.

Conclusion

Since its inception, the Opportunity Index has taken a holistic approach to examining progress toward Opportunity in our nation's communities. Data for the 2019 Opportunity Index show continued economic progress for the nation, as well as improvements in the Economy, Education, and Community dimensions of Opportunity. However, a closer look reveals that these gains do not extend to all populations or locations. Place-related disparities, and disparities across race/ethnicity and gender, indicate that much progress must still be made if we are to achieve truly inclusive Opportunity in our communities. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the gains seen in 2019 will dissipate in 2020. Additionally, the nation (and 43 states) lost ground in the Health dimension from 2018 to 2019. The picture of Opportunity across the United States will likely look very different in the coming years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated social and economic costs.

[21] Kaiser Family Foundation (2020). *Employer-sponsored coverage rates for the nonelderly by age.* https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/rate-by-age-2

[22] Kaiser Family Foundation (2020). *Status of state action on the Medicaid expansion decision.* https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/

This report is intended to serve as a resource for conversations at national, state, and local levels; to help those living and working in their communities better understand community strengths and needs at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis; and to promote a more equitable distribution of Opportunity that includes all of our residents during the recovery. While effectively coping and promoting Opportunity requires much more than data, we hope this report offers a touchstone for communities' efforts toward promoting Opportunity. Incorporating the experiential realities that lie behind the statistics will be an essential task for communities. Thus, communities should consider interviews, focus groups, community forums, and personal stories as vital components of a comprehensive fact-finding that motivates planning an Opportunity-for-all strategy.

Acknowledgements

The 2019 Opportunity Index was jointly created by the Forum for Youth Investment's Opportunity Nation campaign and Child Trends. At Child Trends, Hannah Rackers, Hannah Lantos, and Salomon Villatoro prepared this report; Hannah Rackers conducted analyses; Zakia Redd and David Murphey served as senior advisors; Akiva Liberman provided senior review; and Samantha Anderson, Sham Habteselasse and Salomon Villatoro collected data and provided invaluable research assistance.

We thank the following Forum for Youth Investment staff members and consultants for their contributions: Michelle Massie, Director, Opportunity Nation and Strategic Initiatives; Delbria Walton, Senior Policy Associate at Forum for Youth Investment; and Thaddeus Ferber, Executive Vice President at Forum for Youth Investment.

For more information, please visit http://www.Opportunityindex.org and http://www.childtrends.org.

Appendix Table 1. Median and interquartile range for scores within each state

		Opportunity Score		Economy Score		Education Score		Health Score		Community Score	
Rank	State	Median	IQR	Median	IQR	Median	IQR	Median	IQR	Median	IQR
1	Minnesota	57.96	(56.68-60.76)	64.46	(59.83-67.72)	54.42	(50.75-58.79)	68.53	(64.14-72.42)	53.04	(46.63-57.36)
2	Vermont	59.92	(58.07-63.24)	60.37	(57.32-63.05)	60.41	(54.06-65.26)	62.63	(59.33-65.16)	60.15	(54.28-65.91)
3	Iowa	59.96	(57.05-62.51)	67.17	(63.67-71.25)	59.69	(55.59-62.05)	67.54	(64.51-72.62)	49.94	(45.10-55.54)
4	Massachusetts	59.23	(56.45-64.15)	60.30	(57.96-66.12)	64.28	(59.34-72.61)	59.90	(58.01-67.41)	56.01	(49.89-60.47)
5	Nebraska	58.83	(57.16-61.37)	70.35	(64.86-73.11)	56.56	(51.14-61.74)	63.11	(60.73-66.31)	55.13	(48.60-63.02)
6	North Dakota	57.71	(55.49-60.58)	71.61	(67.76-76.56)	40.53	(33.07-47.83)	66.75	(33.53-67.31)	54.69	(45.09-61.20)
7	Washington	53.34	(50.08-57.00)	56.11	(51.42-60.49)	49.96	(43.44-55.36)	59.91	(56.46-64.18)	45.33	(42.23-52.17)
8	New Hampshire	57.50	(55.34-60.57)	63.96	(62.93-65.99)	63.08	(59.88-64.51)	53.03	(49.66-58.52)	50.83	(48.32-56.80)
9	New Jersey	57.17	(53.93-63.68)	58.80	(52.79-65.98)	65.42	(62.02-69.97)	55.66	(49.08-59.72)	51.66	(49.70-55.68)
10	Connecticut	59.75	(56.69-61.87)	62.24	(59.67-66.60)	64.50	(62.32-70.63)	59.19	(55.48-63.68)	51.77	(45.54-53.79)
11	Maine	56.31	(52.71-58.65)	57.31	(53.59-61.61)	51.73	(47.52-54.64)	52.98	(50.48-57.98)	55.69	(51.27-64.20)
12	Wisconsin	57.29	(53.26-59.58)	62.94	(60.05-65.71)	55.77	(51.97-58.35)	61.41	(56.24-65.07)	47.27	(43.71-53.58)
13	Kansas	54.31	(51.94-57.00)	67.67	(61.34-72.62)	55.32	(49.26-59.87)	57.77	(54.60-62.05)	48.49	(41.76-55.84)
14	New York	54.78	(51.55-57.97)	56.93	(53.96-59.94)	55.27	(50.79-59.66)	60.71	(58.40-64.07)	47.32	(41.22-53.68)
15	Virginia	52.30	(49.25-58.47)	59.52	(51.81-65.25)	56.18	(50.88-61.02)	50.06	(45.29-57.51)	43.11	(38.72-51.39)
16	California	50.93	(48.37-57.00)	51.12	(45.99-59.33)	50.56	(45.83-57.52)	61.33	(55.37-66.02)	44.61	(39.67-52.72)
17	Hawaii	55.94	(53.04-57.17)	60.82	(54.87-61.31)	53.32	(50.72-56.12)	59.94	(58.76-62.14)	49.67	(46.80-50.12)
18	Oregon	49.87	(46.85-54.35)	53.66	(51.70-56.22)	42.66	(38.41-48.79)	58.61	(55.93-63.69)	46.74	(39.46-49.34)
19	South Dakota	55.95	(52.82-59.73)	66.45	(60.15-73.80)	53.83	(47.27-58.86)	59.58	(37.69-65.80)	52.54	(46.11-61.80)
20	Rhode Island	60.30	(59.83-65.03)	62.98	(62.76-63.06)	64.77	(63.67-72.54)	60.84	(59.67-61.83)	54.00	(51.78-57.81)
21	Maryland	55.23	(49.22-58.37)	63.51	(56.96-69.47)	59.18	(52.21-63.06)	51.01	(46.86-57.63)	45.28	(39.80-49.54)
22	Illinois	54.00	(52.16-57.85)	60.79	(56.03-64.46)	57.49	(53.14-60.80)	56.20	(52.82-62.29)	42.45	(38.87-46.99)
23	Utah	51.69	(49.50-57.00)	63.84	(60.43-66.38)	54.40	(49.47-60.52)	46.19	(36.14-52.20)	42.13	(39.34-48.82)
24	Montana	52.19	(45.91-56.44)	57.40	(50.76-62.82)	52.20	(45.79-58.60)	47.82	(37.79-51.29)	48.67	(42.03-53.99)
25	Colorado	52.05	(48.35-57.31)	61.63	(56.56-66.45)	53.83	(48.99-61.71)	44.52	(37.41-48.13)	48.68	(42.06-58.27)
27	Michigan	50.41	(48.33-54.26)	56.54	(52.73-60.39)	51.71	(48.43-56.45)	51.80	(47.38-56.72)	42.18	(36.94-50.28)
28	Missouri	48.91	(45.25-52.39)	57.72	(52.07-61.60)	52.67	(48.06-56.73)	46.05	(41.61-50.94)	41.35	(36.14-46.85)
29	Idaho	49.82	(48.13-55.08)	58.69	(54.00-62.67)	46.04	(41.34-52.43)	49.88	(46.03-54.56)	43.82	(40.54-50.79)
30	Delaware	52.01	(50.34-55.38)	60.80	(58.47-62.58)	55.71	(53.04-61.25)	51.20	(47.62-51.58)	42.62	(39.55-46.51)
31	Pennsylvania	51.72	(49.53-55.05)	59.27	(57.06-62.84)	52.26	(48.65-57.14)	50.71	(46.62-54.58)	45.54	(40.71-49.58)
32	Alaska	53.19	(51.98-56.09)	64.00	(58.57-65.46)	45.73	(40.14-56.22)	28.00	(10.67-51.71)	50.61	(40.59-63.67)
33	North Carolina	45.93	(42.93-50.38)	51.35	(47.25-55.22)	49.15	(45.14-55.36)	45.25	(38.70-48.92)	38.65	(35.04-45.78)
34	Indiana	50.85	(48.96-54.44)	61.36	(55.99-64.67)	51.96	(48.00-55.53)	50.20	(44.75-56.17)	39.82	(35.01-45.98)
35	Wyoming	48.72	(46.61-52.40)	63.43	(61.63-67.31)	52.87	(47.13-57.21)	43.76	(35.81-48.48)	48.37	(42.41-55.53)
36	Ohio	51.24	(47.92-55.39)	57.98	(53.64-63.34)	54.56	(50.25-57.97)	48.61	(41.80-55.00)	43.46	(38.17-46.59)
37	Texas	48.04	(44.86-51.33)	56.22	(51.95-60.23)	52.45	(48.03-56.32)	46.00	(42.32-50.77)	36.72	(30.62-43.00)
38	South Carolina	45.85	(42.20-48.23)	48.36	(44.11-53.64)	50.84	(46.98-53.91)	46.13	(43.02-49.46)	36.33	(30.98-43.28)
39	Tennessee	45.41	(42.95-48.85)	53.42	(49.46-57.05)	50.81	(46.82-53.43)	42.55	(37.25-47.50)	35.15	(30.26-39.76)
40	Florida	47.06	(41.42-51.08)	53.62	(50.04-57.64)	49.33	(40.76-55.67)	46.27	(41.27-49.39)	38.17	(27.52-43.48)

		Opportunity Score		Economy Score		Education Score		Health Score		Community Score	
Rank	State	Median	IQR	Median	IQR	Median	IQR	Median	IQR	Median	IQR
41	Arkansas	47.24	(45.09-49.27)	51.63	(46.86-55.50)	52.73	(50.13-56.48)	48.38	(42.98-52.56)	36.56	(31.55-41.92)
42	Kentucky	45.88	(43.53-50.27)	50.27	(45.57-55.55)	52.11	(48.03-57.10)	45.01	(38.40-50.06)	40.56	(35.44-45.20)
43	Arizona	45.09	(40.18-47.08)	48.96	(44.45-50.94)	45.05	(41.75-51.57)	45.23	(37.56-53.82)	34.53	(29.76-41.96)
44	Georgia	45.33	(41.93-48.84)	48.18	(42.98-54.44)	50.81	(46.63-56.28)	41.97	(37.69-46.86)	35.88	(28.35-42.12)
45	Alabama	44.58	(42.46-48.34)	50.04	(46.68-54.29)	50.29	(46.08-54.49)	45.25	(41.58-49.23)	35.44	(30.41-40.43)
46	Oklahoma	44.66	(40.97-48.15)	57.01	(50.31-62.88)	46.69	(42.18-51.57)	38.51	(31.84-45.95)	36.02	(32.04-41.31)
47	Nevada	45.05	(42.29-49.54)	55.16	(53.40-63.33)	45.96	(43.97-54.11)	36.97	(32.58-44.03)	38.32	(30.86-43.28)
48	West Virginia	44.64	(40.31-47.46)	52.27	(47.33-56.33)	47.38	(43.89-51.99)	40.28	(33.50-46.39)	36.88	(32.20-44.15)
49	Mississippi	43.35	(40.59-46.73)	43.07	(39.17-48.91)	48.31	(44.87-54.02)	47.89	(38.28-55.00)	32.19	(25.60-38.62)
50	Louisiana	41.88	(38.46-44.65)	47.98	(40.83-53.01)	47.04	(43.78-52.02)	39.19	(35.34-44.35)	34.26	(26.81-37.91)
51	New Mexico	41.22	(36.63-43.82)	46.74	(37.44-52.71)	43.29	(38.63-47.77)	37.33	(31.70-41.56)	36.23	(29.16-43.92)

Note: DC holds the 26th rank but is excluded in the above table because it does not have counties.