

A Review of Tools Measuring Opportunity in the United States

Hannah Rackers, Sham Habteselasse,
Hannah Lantos, and Zakia Redd



Introduction

Researchers at universities, policy institutes, and other nonprofits have developed multiple tools that put data in the hands of policymakers and other decision makers to make access to opportunity more equitable in their communities. *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 include the educational, health-related, and community conditions and resources that impact one's ability to thrive.

Many of these tools are intended to compile and analyze timely and critical national, state, and county-level data. Additionally, they can demonstrate to communities how opportunity changes over time, and make data readily accessible to individuals and groups that influence the systems, services, and programs that regularly create or influence opportunity and well-being. Efforts to improve access to opportunity can occur simultaneously at many levels, which makes making measuring progress a difficult task. Small, local social service organizations, for example, may not have the capacity to regularly track changing environmental and social factors (e.g., healthy food access, incarceration rates, preschool enrollment, etc.). Opportunity-focused data tools can be used to track successes and challenges and to illuminate important contextual factors such as leverage points that can open opportunity to more people and improve outcomes.

Opportunity-focused data tools have existed since 1990, when the KIDS COUNT Data Center began producing an index on the well-being of children. In 2012, Opportunity Nation released the Opportunity Index, one of the first tools to provide population-level indicators that assessed opportunity at the county, state, and national levels for all ages. Also in 2012, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute developed the County Health Rankings tool to measure the health of communities.

In the intervening years, multiple other tools have also been developed. Each has entered the market with a unique focus and presentation of data, resulting in tools that may be similar in design but are geared toward different purposes. Many of these tools support a more thorough examination of which groups in the United States have access to the greatest opportunity and mobility. Potential users may explore which tool best suits the problems they are trying to solve or offers the data they want to monitor.

Opportunity is not equally distributed in the United States. Both covert and overt racism drive disparities for people of color. Given the current national conversation around racial equity, tools that disaggregate by race and ethnicity are called out explicitly in this review so that researchers and practitioners better know where to turn for that data. We hope this review helps identify data sources that can be useful as we advance a national conversation around racial equity and improving Opportunity in communities of color.

With funding from the Forum for Youth Investment, Opportunity Nation and Child Trends jointly maintain Opportunity Index, an online interactive data tool that presents measures of opportunity on the national, state, and county levels. This review will provide community leaders and changemakers with a clear picture of each tool's foci, features, and indicators.

Methodology

By conducting a systematic scan that included a review of websites and recommendations solicited from experts, our team identified 15 tools, including the Opportunity Index, that use population-level indicators to assess opportunity or well-being across various geographies. We developed a framework to assess the characteristics of these tools, including: 1) general information such as the tool's focus, how often the tool is updated, and whether it is free to use or requires payment; 2) main features (e.g., an interactive map or

other data visualization), whether data are available for download, and reports or other syntheses; 3) geographic level, time points, and age range focus; and 4) indicators included, use of composite scoring, ranking, and weighting.

Findings

Purpose and focus of tools

The data tools identified fell into three primary categories: tools focused on opportunity, tools focused on the economy, and tools focused on health. We derived these categories based on a combination of their stated purpose, their indicators, and how they frame any synthesis of the data. The six tools with an opportunity focus employ an inclusive set of indicators that span the economic, education, and health sectors, as well as indicators that reflect community or civic engagement. Another five tools focus primarily on economic measures such as unemployment or poverty. Finally, four tools focus on health status and outcomes, or indicate that they could inform population health and health care services planning.

Opportunity-focused tools

- **Opportunity Index:** This index and interactive data tool provides a composite measure comprised of indicators in four distinct dimensions of opportunity (economy, education, health, and community). It provides a snapshot of societal conditions that can be used to identify and improve access to opportunity, and presents these indicators at the county, state, and national levels.
- **Child Opportunity Index 2.0:** This index is a composite of education, health and environment, and social and economic measures at the census tract level. It captures neighborhood resources and conditions that matter for children's healthy development.
- **Community Opportunity Map:** This interactive data tool highlights the aspects of communities that are associated with safe children and strong families. The tool also provides indicators that reflect community factors correlated with child maltreatment and is based on a healthy community framework developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It presents data at the census tract level and higher, and for units defined by the user.
- **Opportunity Atlas:** This interactive data tool measures the average outcomes of children who grow up in each neighborhood in America and presents data at the metropolitan area, county, and census tract levels. To highlight the importance of neighborhood effects on children's opportunity for upward mobility, the tool focuses on the neighborhoods where people grew up rather than where they live as adults.
- **Kids Count Index:** This index provides a deeper look at how states perform across four distinct sectors impacting child welfare (economic well-being, education, health, and family and community). The platform also provides other related indicators reported at the state and national levels.
- **State of Babies:** These state reports measure progress across three policy areas (good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences) and toward greater access to health care, paid family leave, high-quality education, and more. The tool aims to help states identify problem areas they can address to support their infants and toddlers.

Economy-focused tools

- **National Equity Atlas:** This platform contains data on demographic change, racial and economic inclusion, and the potential economic gains that might be made under conditions of greater racial equity. It explicitly aims to inform criteria that could create a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient economy at the county, metropolitan area, state, and national levels.
- **Vitality Index:** This index provides a measure of a place’s economic and social well-being by combining median household income, poverty rate, unemployment rate, prime-age employment rate, life expectancy, and housing vacancy rate. It presents data at the county, state, and national levels.
- **Distressed Communities Index:** This index combines complementary economic indicators into a single holistic, comparative measure of community well-being at the county, state, and national levels. It focuses on the Great Recession and the subsequent recovery, as well as these periods’ differential effects on the health and economic trajectories of American communities.
- **U.S. Prosperity Index:** This index incorporates indicators relevant to prosperity and highlights strengths and weaknesses at the state level. It aims to support state decision makers’ actions to build open economies, inclusive societies, and empowered people, thereby delivering higher levels of prosperity for all Americans.
- **Metro Monitor:** This platform tracks the economic performance of the nation’s metropolitan areas along three dimensions: economic growth, prosperity, and inclusion. The tool is driven by the idea that economic development puts a metropolitan economy on a higher trajectory of growth by improving productivity and raising local standards of living.

Health-focused tools

- **Community Well-Being Index:** This index tracks key factors that advance well-being for individuals and populations at the county and state levels. It aims to provide a holistic view of health so that decision makers can understand the underlying root causes of poor health.
- **500 Cities Project:** This project reports health status and chronic disease measures for the 500 largest American cities.
- **County Health Rankings:** These rankings are based on a model of community health that emphasizes factors that influence how long and how well Americans live. The tool helps communities understand how healthy their residents are and which specific factors will impact their health in the future; rankings are available at the county and state levels.
- **Healthiest Communities:** These rankings measure health-related components of society with the goal of empowering citizens, health care leaders, and officials to make decisions about policies and practices to improve health outcomes. The rankings present data at the county level and are guided by a framework that heavily weights population health and equity.

Table 1. Tools assessed

	Platform	Organization	Primary Report	Technical Supplement
Opportunity	Opportunity Index	Forum for Youth Investment	LINK	LINK
	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	diversitydatakids.org	LINK	LINK
	Community Opportunity Map	Casey Family Programs	- ^a	LINK
	Opportunity Atlas	Opportunity Insights	LINK	LINK
	KIDS COUNT Index	AECF	LINK	- ^b

	Platform	Organization	Primary Report	Technical Supplement
	State of Babies	Think Babies and Child Trends	LINK	LINK
Economy	National Equity Atlas	Policy Link	- ^a	LINK
	Vitality Index	The Hamilton Project	LINK	LINK
	Distressed Communities Index	Economic Innovation Group	LINK	LINK
	U.S. Prosperity Index	Legatum Institute	LINK	LINK
	Metro Monitor	The Brookings Institution	- ^a	LINK
Health	Community Well-Being Index	Gallup-Sharecare	LINK^a	LINK^a
	500 Cities Project	CDC	- ^a	LINK
	County Health Rankings	RWJF	LINK	LINK
	Healthiest Communities	US News & World Report	- ^a	LINK

^a Other reports and synthesis available on website; ^b Methodology provided on specific indicator pages

Related tools not included

We also identified similar tools, such as [Policy Map](#) and [Social Explorer](#), that aggregate many sources of data and make them readily available to policymakers to use in research, planning, and analysis of geographic information. While these tools are powerful options that offer similar data, they were not included in our detailed review due to their lack of emphasis on a specific approach to opportunity or mobility. Additionally, both tools require a subscription for full access, so their data are less accessible for the general public.

Data visualization

Interactive data visualizations are key features of many of these tools, as noted in Table 2. Thirteen of the tools include interactive maps that display the geographic distribution of data at varying levels of granularity, from the census tract to the national level. This type of feature displays prominently on the landing pages of seven tools: the Opportunity Index, Community Opportunity Map, Opportunity Atlas, Vitality Index, U.S. Prosperity Index, Metro Monitor, and 500 Cities project. For the remaining six, static maps can be accessed under geography- or indicator-specific pages, or are incorporated into web reports or features.

Other visualizations commonly included in these tools allow users to compare data for their area of interest over time or to other places. Some presentations make it easier to understand the context, impact, or interpretation of the indicators included. For instance, the Child Opportunity Index 2.0 includes [a visualization](#) of opportunity and opportunity level for communities and the nation. This can help convey the proportion of children who experience varying levels of opportunity, which may be difficult to understand from one raw indicator alone. The National Equity Atlas presents [a breakdown of indicators by race/ethnicity](#) or other characteristics. The Prosperity Index presents a visual [comparison of rankings](#) overall and across dimensions. The Opportunity Atlas indicates, with pop-ups, when to be aware of small standard errors or sample sizes. These notes appear when toggling across indicators that the developers have identified as requiring special considerations for interpretation at certain geographic levels or for subgroups. This is helpful for understanding the limitations of data and increasing users' data literacy, as different data come with more certainty or clarity.

Table 2. Features and data characteristics of tools

Platform	Features			Geographic Level					Age	Time Points			Ranking or Scoring	
	Interactive map	Other visualization	Dataset available	Census tract	Metro	County	State	Nation	Ages of focus	Multiple time points?	Years	Time point detail	Rankings	Composite scoring
Opportunity Index	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	All Ages	✓	2011 -	Annual update, web map has annual data starting in 2016, dataset starting in 2011	✓	✓
Child Opportunity Index 2.0	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Ages	✓	2010, 2015	Data available for 2010 and 2015	✓	✓
Community Opportunity Map	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Ages					
Opportunity Atlas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			All Ages			Data based on those born in the geographic area from 1978 and 1983		
KIDS COUNT Index			✓				✓	✓	All Ages	✓	1990 -	Annual update, data available as early as 1990, new index and ranking began 2012	✓	✓
State of Babies							✓	✓	Children		2019			✓
National Equity Atlas	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	All Ages	✓	1980 -	Has data for 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2015		
Vitality Index	✓					✓	✓	✓	Adults	✓	2016, 2017	Paper compares 1980 to 2016, 2017 scores in interactive		✓
Distressed Communities Index	✓					✓	✓	✓	Adults	✓	2011, 2016	5-year aggregate estimates (2007-2011, 2012-2016)	✓	✓
U.S. Prosperity Index	✓						✓	✓	All Ages	✓	2009 -	Annual update starting in 2009	✓	✓
Metro Monitor	✓	✓			✓				Adults	✓	2008 -	Report produced regularly, current interactive data have 10-year or 1-year comparison for 2018	✓	
Community Well-Being Index			✓			✓	✓		Adults	✓	2013 - 2017		✓	✓
500 Cities Project	✓		✓	✓			✓		Adults	✓	2016, 2017	Interactive map with 2017 data, map books with 2016 data		
County Health Rankings	✓		✓			✓	✓		All Ages	✓	2010 -	Annual update, web maps start in 2011, reports and data start in 2010	✓	✓
Healthiest Communities	✓		✓			✓			All Ages	✓	2018, 2019	Annual update	✓	✓

Of note, the Opportunity Atlas also offers users the ability to upload and overlay their own dataset to its map platform. The ability to download a customized graphic or map is an excellent feature provided by the Child Opportunity Index 2.0, Community Opportunity Map, Opportunity Atlas, National Equity Atlas, Metro Monitor, and County Health Rankings.

Geographic level and time points

Tools provide data on indicators, rankings, or composite scoring, most commonly at the national, state, or county levels; geographic levels are indicated in Table 2. Five tools offer data at the metropolitan level and four offer data at the census tract level. The Child Opportunity Index and Community Opportunity Map provide data at all five levels. In contrast, Healthiest Communities provides data only at the county level and Metro Monitor provides data only for metropolitan areas. Notably, the Community Opportunity Map allows the user to define their own geographic areas of interest, which can be useful for individuals or service providers interested in a group of census tracts or counties that do not regularly fit into a predefined geographic unit. A majority of these tools offer data at multiple time points; however, only a few have consistently offered regular data updates over time. Table 2 identifies which tools are regularly updated. Kids Count, County Health Rankings, and the Opportunity Index have offered data most consistently on an annual basis since inception. The U.S. Prosperity Index, although newly developed in 2019, offers annual data back to 2009 using the same structure and methods.

Composite scoring and ranking

Ten tools rank geographic units, as indicated in Table 2, based on raw indicators or composite scoring. Ten tools include composite scoring for geographic units based on a set of indicators. Opportunity Index and County Health Rankings use their scoring to identify peer counties or county clusters that are highlighted for county comparisons. All but one of these tools use standardized indicators ($\text{indicator score} = \frac{\text{actual value} - \text{minimum value}}{\text{maximum value} - \text{minimum value}}$) to construct composite scores for dimensions and/or overall scores. The Vitality Index utilized American Community Survey (ACS) data published at the county level and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) to construct a single vitality measure based on the six outcome variables described previously. Because the Community Well-Being Index was constructed from survey responses rather than from publicly available population indicators, the creators weighted their analysis for selection probability, nonresponse, and double coverage of landline and cellphone users in the two sampling frames, and applied demographic weighting based on Current Population Survey and Nielsen Claritas weights. Datasets are available to download from 10 tools, although a few, like Healthiest Communities, only offer composite scores or a limited set of data.

Indicator similarities and differences

Depending on their focus and scope, the tools utilize a variable number of indicators, with the fewest being six indicators (Distressed Communities Index) and the most being over 200 (U.S. Prosperity Index). Table 3 provides an overview of the indicators and domains included within each platform. A full summary of indicators included by each tool can be found in the Appendix. A majority of tools included employment status, poverty rates, and high school graduation rates. Within the health and community dimensions, only health care coverage arose as a common indicator. Within the five tools that presented indicators disaggregated by gender, race, and age, a majority are in the economy (i.e., employment status and poverty rate), health (i.e., low birth weight and status of health care coverage), and education (i.e., high school graduation) dimensions. Often, these disaggregated data are only available at higher geographic levels (i.e., state or national). While disaggregated data are occasionally available at the county level, this is rare due to constraints imposed by sample sizes at smaller levels. Two subsets of tools (opportunity and economic) had more in common across tools than did the group of health tools.

In Child Trends' work with the Opportunity Index, we have been able to analyze those data that measure correlations between different variables. We have found that, for states, high incarceration rates are the indicator most associated with lower opportunity, followed closely by poverty and youth disconnection. For counties, the percentage of the population with an associate's degree or higher is most associated with opportunity, followed by youth disconnection and median household income. This may suggest that these indicators are especially important for consideration and use across tools. Since these indicators have the highest correlations with overall scores, they should be considered by both producers and consumers of other (i.e., non-Opportunity Index) tools when interacting with those tools.

Opportunity-focused tools

Nearly all opportunity-focused tools presented the following indicators: unemployment and poverty rates, median household income, high school graduation rates, higher educational attainment, low birth weight, and status of health care coverage. The following indicators were absent from all opportunity-focused tools aside from the Opportunity Index: 80/20 household income ratio, number of banking institutions, household spending, and internet subscription.

Economic-focused tools

Similar to the opportunity-focused tools, the majority of economic-focused tools presented median household income, poverty rate, and employment status rates. However, many overlooked indicators across other dimensions, such as health (e.g., low birth weight, health insurance coverage) and community indicators (e.g., disconnected youth, access to grocery stores).

Health-focused tools

No single health indicator is shared by a majority of the health-focused tools. Half of these tools included status of health insurance coverage as an indicator, but nothing else was reported as frequently. Across the other dimensions, the following indicators were commonly included in health-focused tools: poverty rate, status of employment, median household income, preschool enrollment, higher educational attainment, and household spending.

Underutilized Indicators

The following indicators, reflecting community resilience and opportunity, appeared less frequently in our review:

Education

- Academic proficiency scores (K-12)
- Early childhood education centers available

Health

- Presence of air/water toxins
- Chronic health conditions (e.g., obesity, asthma, diabetes)

Community

- Use of public assistance programs (e.g., SNAP or TANF)
- Incarceration rates

Economy

- Changes in income/wages, employment
- Job growth
- Number of small businesses

Table 3. Number of indicators and domains covered in tools

Tool	Number of Indicators		Dimensions Included Mapped to Opportunity Index					Demographics	
	# of domains	Total # of raw indicators	Economy	Education	Community	Health	Other	Presented	Indicators disaggregated
Opportunity Index	4	20	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Child Opportunity Index 2.0		29	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Community Opportunity Map	4	17	✓	✓				✓	
Opportunity Atlas		37	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
KIDS COUNT Index	4	40, but have more indicators available	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
State of Babies	3	40	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
National Equity Atlas	2	27	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Vitality Index		6	✓			✓			
Distressed Communities Index		7							
U.S. Prosperity Index	11	200+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ Government, Environment		
Metro Monitor	5	15	✓						
Community Well-Being Index	5	0, determined from surveys	✓		✓	✓	✓ Purpose, Social		
500 Cities Project	3	27				✓			
County Health Rankings	6	35	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Healthiest Communities	10	81	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Discussion

Each platform discussed in this brief shares compelling and timely data with the public, practitioners, community leaders, and policymakers. These tools generally include indicators that represent similar concepts, but there remains a wide variety in the specific indicators considered most important and how they are analyzed or presented. Even among tools with a similar focus, there was no consensus on which indicators are key to providing a snapshot of community status. This lack of consensus likely reflects the diverse conceptualization of opportunity and of which components of life most shape it.

Multiple tools with a similar focus may seem redundant; however, each tool employs a different conceptualization of opportunity, which makes certain tools more relevant for users working in different

sectors or with different populations. For example, a program manager working with Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting may look to State of Babies for its infant-focused metrics. For those users whose efforts focus on addressing health disparities, the presentation of disaggregated data on race, ethnicity, gender, or age (by the Opportunity Index, Opportunity Atlas, KIDS COUNT, National Equity Atlas, and County Health Rankings) provides a deeper understanding of what opportunity looks like within communities and for important, often more vulnerable, subsets of the population. Foundations looking to promote small business development or economic development may find the indicators of the Distressed Communities Index, U.S. Prosperity Index, or the Metro Monitor particularly pertinent.

The vast majority of indicators included in these tools come from publicly available data sources, but these data sources are not always user-friendly or easily accessible. Measuring opportunity can be a difficult task for private citizens, small organizations, community leaders, and other changemakers who may lack the funding, tools, or data analysis capacity to track successes and challenges or illuminate context. These tools help to bridge the gap and support users in interpreting and applying these data through high-quality data visualizations, customizable graphics, and the ability to download data or overlay user data. Users across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors can look to these data to jumpstart conversations in their community about opportunity, inform organization practices, or advocate for policy change that can help communities open doors for more people and improve outcomes across populations. The use of data to inform policies or initiatives must be combined with an understanding of the language and priorities of key stakeholders. Many small organizations and community leaders already do the latter well and can use these tools to add concrete discussions centered on data to their actions.

References

- Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2020). KIDS COUNT Data Center. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- The Brookings Institution. (2020). Metro Monitor 2020. <https://www.brookings.edu/interactives/metro-monitor-2020/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Casey Family Programs. (2020). Community Opportunity Map. <https://caseyfamily.caimaps.info/cailive?location=Seattle&tab=family&searchType=city> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). 500 Cities Project: Local data for better health. <https://www.cdc.gov/500cities/index.htm> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Diversity Data Kids. (2020). Child Opportunity Index (COI). <http://diversitydatakids.org/child-opportunity-index> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Economic Innovation Group. (2018). 2018 Distressed Communities Index. <https://eig.org/dci> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- The Hamilton Project. (2019). Exploring the Geography of Prosperity. https://www.hamiltonproject.org/charts/exploring_the_geography_of_prosperity . Accessed 13 April 2020
- The Legatum Institute. (2020). United States Prosperity Index 2019. <https://usprosperity.net/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Opportunity Insights. (2020). The Opportunity Atlas. <https://opportunityatlas.org/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Opportunity Nation. (2020). Opportunity Index. <https://opportunityindex.org/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- National Equity Atlas. (2020). The National Equity Atlas. <https://nationalequityatlas.org/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2020). County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Sharecare. (2020). Community Well-Being Index. <https://wellbeingindex.sharecare.com/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- Think Babies. (2020). State of Babies Yearbook 2019. <https://stateofbabies.org/> . Accessed 13 April 2020
- US News and World Report. (2020). Healthiest Communities Rankings 2019. <https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/rankings> . Accessed 13 April 2020

Appendix: Opportunity Tools Indicators

Notes: Tables present a summary of indicator topics across tools. Different tools may utilize different specific indicators to measure or represent these concepts. Additionally, because the Community Well-Being Index conducts a survey instead of using population health indicators collected by other sources, it is not included in this table.

Indicators	Opportunity Index	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	Community Opportunity Map	Opportunity Atlas	KIDS COUNT Index	State of Babies	National Equity Atlas	Vitality Index	Distressed Communities Index	U.S Prosperity Index	Metro Monitor	500 Cities Project	County Health Rankings	Healthiest Communities
Economy														
Employment														
Unemployment rate	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Underemployment rate										✓				
Employment rate		✓		✓						✓				
High-skill employment		✓												
Youth unemployment										✓				
Prime-age employment-to-population ratio								✓	✓					
Neighborhood disparity in employment rate											✓			
Racial disparity in employment rate											✓			
Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment					✓									
Income														
Income	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Minimum wage										✓				
Hours Worked Per Week				✓										
Single-headed households		✓		✓										
Spouse's Income				✓										
Income growth							✓							
Low income			✓							✓				
Working poor							✓							
Neighborhood poverty											✓		✓	
Income inequality	✓			✓			✓						✓	✓
Poverty	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Children in poverty			✓		✓								✓	
Standard of living											✓			
Racial disparity in earnings											✓			
Racial disparity in poverty											✓			✓
Neighborhood disparity in earnings											✓			
Neighborhood disparity in poverty											✓			✓

Indicators	Opportunity Index	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	Community Opportunity Map	Opportunity Atlas	KIDS COUNT Index	State of Babies	National Equity Atlas	Vitality Index	Distressed Communities Index	U.S Prosperity Index	Metro Monitor	500 Cities Project	County Health Rankings	Healthiest Communities
Government Benefits														
TANF benefits						✓								
State required paid sick days that cover care for child						✓								
State paid family leave program						✓								
Access and Infrastructure														
Banking institutions	✓									✓				
High risk loans										✓				
Housing cost burden	✓		✓		✓									✓
Median Rent				✓										
Public assistance rate		✓												
Availability of affordable housing										✓				
Housing burden													✓	
Homeownership		✓					✓							
Broadband internet service	✓									✓				
Households with a smartphone										✓				
Daily water usage										✓				
Electricity production and outages										✓				
Transportation infrastructure density										✓				
Transportation infrastructure condition										✓				
Bus transit route coverage										✓				
Commute duration		✓	✓	✓									✓	
Car access													✓	
Business														
Business Establishments							✓		✓					
Entrepreneurship							✓			✓				
Revenue							✓			✓				
Job growth				✓			✓				✓			
Productivity										✓	✓			
Occupational licensing										✓				
Regulation density										✓				
Assets under management										✓				
New foreign direct investment										✓				
Venture capital										✓				
Collective bargaining										✓				
Right-to-work										✓				
Employee health insurance cost										✓				
Workers compensation premium rate										✓				
Startup metrics										✓				

Indicators	Opportunity Index	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	Community Opportunity Map	Opportunity Atlas	KIDS COUNT Index	State of Babies	National Equity Atlas	Vitality Index	Distressed Communities Index	U.S Prosperity Index	Metro Monitor	500 Cities Project	County Health Rankings	Healthiest Communities
Government credit rating										✓				
State budget balance										✓				
State pension funding										✓				
State reserves capacity										✓				
Employee engagement										✓				
Export value										✓				
Corporate tax										✓				
Non-farm subsidies										✓				
Education														
Educational Attainment														
On-time high school graduation rate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓
Adults with HS diploma/GED			✓	✓						✓				
Adults without a GED			✓					✓						
College enrollment		✓								✓				
College graduation rate				✓						✓				
Adults with some college													✓	
Adults with an associate degree or higher	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓							✓
Adults with a bachelor's degree or higher			✓							✓				
University quality for enrolled students										✓				
Education levels and job requirements							✓							
Racial disparity in education attainment of bachelor's degree or higher														✓
Neighborhood disparity in education attainment of bachelor's degree or higher														✓
Educational Quality and Performance														
School poverty		✓					✓							
Teacher experience		✓												
Children by household head's educational attainment					✓									
Primary enrollment										✓				
Secondary enrollment										✓				
3rd grade math proficiency		✓												
3rd grade reading proficiency		✓												
4th grade reading achievement levels					✓					✓				
4th grade math achievement score										✓				
4th grade science achievement score										✓				
8th grade reading achievement levels					✓					✓				
8th grade math achievement score										✓				
8th grade science achievement score										✓				
Advanced Placement (AP) course enrollment		✓												

Indicators	Opportunity Index	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	Community Opportunity Map	Opportunity Atlas	KIDS COUNT Index	State of Babies	National Equity Atlas	Vitality Index	Distressed Communities Index	U.S Prosperity Index	Metro Monitor	500 Cities Project	County Health Rankings	Healthiest Communities
Early Childhood Education														
3- and 4-year-olds attending preschool	✓	✓			✓					✓				✓
ECE Centers		✓												
High-quality ECE centers		✓								✓				
Parents who report reading to their infants/toddlers every day						✓								
Parents who report singing or telling stories to their infants/toddlers every day						✓								
Infants/toddlers below 100 % of the FPL with access to Early Head Start						✓								
Average cost of center-based infant care						✓								
Average cost of center-based infant care						✓								
Income eligibility level for childcare subsidy						✓								
Infants/toddlers receiving a childcare subsidy						✓								
Health														
Maternal and Child Health														
Low birth weight	✓				✓	✓							✓	✓
Children who are uninsured						✓								
Breastfeeding						✓								
Maternal depression and screenings						✓								
Women receiving late/no prenatal care						✓								
Child preventive medical visits						✓				✓				
Child preventive dental visits						✓				✓				
Child Immunization						✓				✓				
Teen births				✓	✓					✓			✓	✓
Infant mortality rate						✓								
Under 5 death rate										✓				
Child and teen death rate					✓									
Maternal mortality										✓				
Medicaid coverage of child mental health screening and services						✓								
Child mental health access										✓				
Developmental screenings						✓								
Children with developmental delays						✓								
Children receiving the IDEA Part C services						✓								
Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women						✓								
Access to Healthcare and Preventative Services														
Population without health insurance	✓	✓	✓							✓		✓		✓
Children without health insurance			✓		✓									
Medicaid expansion						✓								
Avoided medical care due to cost										✓				
Dentists													✓	

Indicators	Opportunity Index	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	Community Opportunity Map	Opportunity Atlas	KIDS COUNT Index	State of Babies	National Equity Atlas	Vitality Index	Distressed Communities Index	U.S Prosperity Index	Metro Monitor	500 Cities Project	County Health Rankings	Healthiest Communities
Primary care providers	✓												✓	✓
Mental health providers													✓	
Colorectal cancer screening										✓		✓		
Cholesterol screening												✓		
HPV immunizations										✓		✓		
Pap smears										✓		✓		
Flu vaccinations													✓	
Mammography screening												✓	✓	
Adult primary care visits in past year										✓		✓		✓
Older adults who are up to date on preventive services												✓		
Adult dental visits in past year										✓		✓		
Dental health												✓		
Preventable hospital stays										✓			✓	
Hospital bed availability														✓
Hospital rating										✓				
Injury and Risk Behaviors														
Deaths rate attributed to alcohol or drug poisoning, or suicide	✓									✓			✓	✓
Adult smoking										✓		✓	✓	✓
Excessive drinking												✓	✓	
Teen alcohol or drug abuse in the past year					✓									
Illicit drug use disorder										✓				
Pain reliever use disorder										✓				
Alcohol use disorder										✓				
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths													✓	
Occupational fatalities										✓				
Traffic deaths										✓				
Chronic Conditions and Health Behaviors														
Asthma							✓					✓		
Arthritis												✓		
Cancer												✓		✓
Chronic kidney disease												✓		
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease												✓		
Heart disease												✓		✓
Heart attack										✓				
Diabetes							✓					✓		
High blood pressure												✓		
High cholesterol												✓		
Overweight and obese							✓			✓		✓	✓	

Indicators	Opportunity Index	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	Community Opportunity Map	Opportunity Atlas	KIDS COUNT Index	State of Babies	National Equity Atlas	Vitality Index	Distressed Communities Index	U.S Prosperity Index	Metro Monitor	500 Cities Project	County Health Rankings	Healthiest Communities
Sexually transmitted infections													✓	✓
Stroke												✓		
Sleeping less than 7 hours												✓		
Physical inactivity												✓	✓	✓
Fruit and vegetable consumption										✓				
Poor mental health days										✓		✓	✓	✓
Poor or fair health												✓	✓	✓
Poor physical health days										✓		✓	✓	✓
Premature death													✓	
Life expectancy								✓						✓
15-64 death rate										✓				
5-14 death rate										✓				
Life expectancy at 65										✓				
Depression														✓
Disability weighted prevalence from mental illness										✓				
Serious mental illness										✓				
Disability weighted prevalence of infectious diseases										✓				
Environmental Health Factors														
Access to exercise opportunities													✓	
Food security						✓				✓			✓	
Grocery stores and produce vendors	✓	✓											✓	✓
Extreme heat exposure		✓												
Hazardous waste dump sites		✓												
Industrial pollutants in air, water or soil		✓					✓			✓			✓	
Exposure to pesticides, pollution, toxics										✓				✓
Life years lost from air pollution										✓				
Clean and safe water										✓			✓	
Community														
Family and Community Connectedness														
Volunteering	✓									✓				
Registered to vote	✓													✓
Youth not in school and not working	✓													
Resident turnover			✓	✓	✓									
Census Response Rate				✓										
Friends and Social associations										✓			✓	
Non-religious membership organizations										✓				
Participation in school, neighborhood, and/or community										✓				
Religious organization participation										✓				

Indicators	Opportunity Index	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	Community Opportunity Map	Opportunity Atlas	KIDS COUNT Index	State of Babies	National Equity Atlas	Vitality Index	Distressed Communities Index	U.S Prosperity Index	Metro Monitor	500 Cities Project	County Health Rankings	Healthiest Communities
Confidence in corporations										✓				
Confidence in the media										✓				
Trust in federal government										✓				
Trust in people										✓				
Divorce										✓				
Children in single-parent families					✓					✓				
Family resilience						✓								
Adverse childhood experiences						✓								
Child in foster care who achieve permanency						✓								
Evidence-based home visiting						✓								
Crime														
Unsafe neighborhoods						✓								
Violent crime rate	✓									✓			✓	✓
Incarcerations	✓			✓						✓				
Youth incarceration										✓				
Death row population										✓				
Trafficking										✓				
Burglary or theft										✓				
Terrorism and mass shootings										✓				
Neighborhood Characteristics														
Access to green space		✓												
Walkability		✓												
Housing vacancy rate		✓	✓					✓	✓					
Households with overcrowding						✓				✓				
Housing instability						✓								
Homelessness										✓				
Severe housing problems													✓	
Children living in areas of concentrated poverty					✓					✓				
Government Impact on Community and Activities														
Fatal police shootings of unarmed civilians										✓				
Free speech in public places										✓				
Invasive cell phone surveillance										✓				
Press suppression										✓				
Discrimination														
Hate group concentration										✓				
LGBT non-discrimination law support										✓				
Same sex marriage support										✓				
Use of ethnic slurs										✓				

Indicators	Opportunity Index	Child Opportunity Index 2.0	Community Opportunity Map	Opportunity Atlas	KIDS COUNT Index	State of Babies	National Equity Atlas	Vitality Index	Distressed Communities Index	U.S Prosperity Index	Metro Monitor	500 Cities Project	County Health Rankings	Healthiest Communities
Affirmative action in public services banned										✓				
Employment anti-discrimination law										✓				
Government discrimination based on sex prohibited										✓				
LGBT non-discrimination laws										✓				
LGBT relationships & parenthood recognition										✓				
Religious freedom restoration act enacted										✓				
Other														
Other														
Corruption										✓				
Government accountability										✓				
Emissions										✓				
Rural parks and wildlife areas										✓				
Tree cover										✓				
Wetlands and deepwater habitats										✓				
Freshwater withdrawals										✓				
Good quality bodies of water										✓				
Protected areas										✓				