



# HEALTH

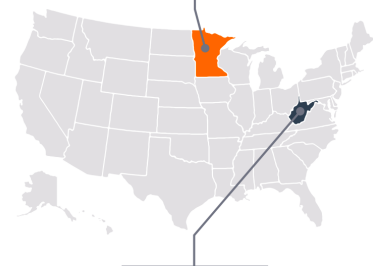
BIRTH WEIGHT | HEALTH INSURANCE | DEATHS BY  
ALCOHOL/DRUGS OR SUICIDE

The overall Health score—which improved by 2.1 percent from 2016 to 2017—declined by 2.8 percent from 2017 to 2018. In fact, the Health score in 2018 was slightly lower overall in 2018 than in 2016.

There were positive trends for health insurance coverage in all but three states and Washington, DC. However, rates of low birth weight increased in the majority of states, and 40 states and the District of Columbia saw higher rates of deaths due to drugs/alcohol or suicide, with DC seeing an increase of 82 percent from the 2017 Index to the 2018 Index.

▲ **70.1**

State with the highest Health Score:  
Minnesota



▼ **35.8**

State with the lowest Health Score:  
West Virginia



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



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



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



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