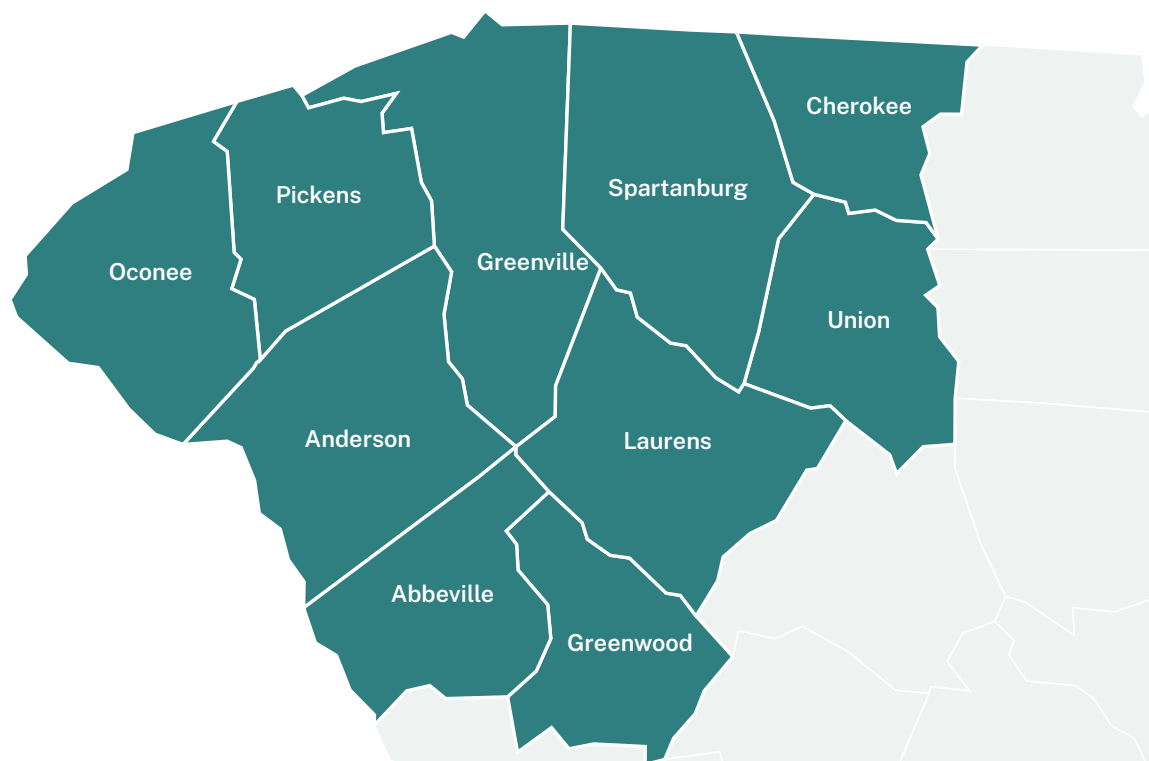


Secondary data profile

Community Health Data Profile

Upstate South Carolina, ten-county region

County health indicators for Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg and Union counties, compared with South Carolina and the United States.



Data source. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2024 Annual Data Release, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Original sources and data years are listed in the appendix.

About this sample. Prepared by Brad Leake as a portfolio example of a community health needs assessment secondary data chapter. It is not affiliated with any hospital or health system.

About this profile

This profile is a sample of the secondary data chapter that sits inside a hospital community health needs assessment. It pulls together 35 county-level indicators for ten counties in the Upstate region of South Carolina and compares each county with the state and the nation.

The goal is to give a planning committee one place to see where the region’s health and living conditions differ from the rest of South Carolina, so the committee can choose which needs to look at more closely through community surveys, focus groups and conversations with local partners.

Each domain page has charts that rank the ten counties, a short set of findings written in plain language, and a table with every indicator in that domain. The last pages bring the results together into a county comparison grid and a summary of priority needs.

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Counties in the region

County	Population, 2022	Rural share, 2020
Greenville	547,950	11.9%
Spartanburg	345,831	29.5%
Anderson	209,581	41.7%
Pickens	133,462	37.6%
Oconee	80,180	63.8%
Greenwood	69,267	39.7%
Laurens	67,965	64.0%
Cherokee	56,121	66.1%
Union	26,752	64.3%
Abbeville	24,356	79.0%
Region total	1,561,465	

How to read the charts

Bars are colored by how each county compares with South Carolina. Blue bars are better than the state, orange bars are worse, and gray bars are within 5% of the state value. The two dark lines on each chart mark the South Carolina and United States values. Counties are ordered with the least favorable value at the top.

Executive summary

The ten counties in this profile had a combined population of 1,561,465 residents in 2022, ranging from 547,950 in Greenville County to 24,356 in Abbeville County. Of the 29 indicators that can be rated as better or worse, the region compares poorly with the state on most measures of length of life, chronic disease, mental health and access to care, and the gaps are largest in the smaller and more rural counties.

Premature death

Premature death is higher than the national rate in all ten counties. Union County lost 15,926 years of life before age 75 per 100,000 residents, which is about twice the national rate of 7,972, and Cherokee and Laurens counties also had rates above 13,000.

Chronic disease

Adult obesity reaches 43.2% in Laurens County and 41.1% in Union County, compared with 36.4% statewide, and adult diabetes is 12.9% or higher in Greenwood, Laurens and Union counties. Smoking is higher than the state rate in nine of the ten counties.

Access to care

Cherokee and Union counties have about 3,000 residents for each primary care physician, which is roughly twice the state ratio of 1,485 to 1. Every county has a higher uninsured rate among residents under 65 than the nation, with rates from 12.2% to 14.3%.

Mothers and babies

Teen birth rates in Union, Laurens and Cherokee counties are more than one and a half times the state rate, and low birthweight births are most common in Union (12.5%), Cherokee (11.5%) and Greenwood (11.1%) counties.

Life expectancy

Life expectancy ranges from 76.8 years in Greenville County to 69.9 years in Union County, which is a gap of almost seven years inside the same region. The state average is 75.2 years and the national average is 77.6 years.

Mental health

Suicide death rates are higher than the national rate in all ten counties. Seven counties have more than 700 residents for each mental health provider, compared with 462 statewide, and Abbeville County has 1,624 residents per provider.

Economic stability

Child poverty is above the state rate of 19.2% in seven counties and reaches 26.5% in Laurens County. Greenville County is the only county with a median household income above the state median.

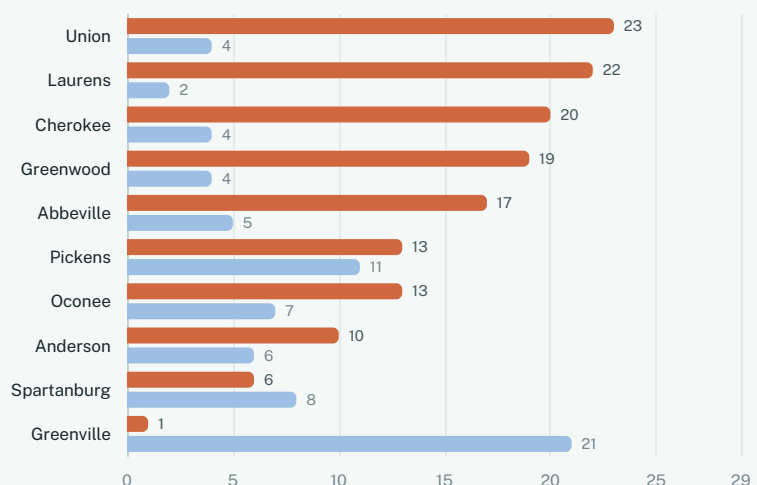
Strengths

The region also has strengths. Excessive drinking is lower than the state rate in nine counties, mammography screening is better than or similar to the state rate in every county, and severe housing cost burden is lower than the state rate in seven counties.

Rated indicators worse than the state, by county

Each county is compared with South Carolina on 29 rated indicators. Orange bars count indicators that are worse than the state and light blue bars count indicators that are better.

Union, Cherokee and Laurens counties are worse than the state on the most indicators. Greenville County is worse than the state on the fewest and better than the state on the most.



Methods and data sources

Data source	All values come from the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024 Annual Data Release, produced by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. That release compiles county, state and national values from federal and national sources such as the National Center for Health Statistics, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the American Community Survey and the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. The original source and data years for every indicator are listed in the appendix.
Geography	The profile covers ten Upstate counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg and Union. South Carolina and United States values come from the same release, so the benchmarks use the same definitions and years as the county values.
Comparison rule	A county is marked better or worse than a benchmark when its value differs from the benchmark by 5% or more in the favorable or unfavorable direction. Values within 5% are marked similar. This is a screening rule that makes the tables easy to scan, and it is not a test of statistical significance. Demographic indicators describe the population and are not rated.
Data years	Data years vary by indicator, from 2015 through 2023. Many mortality and birth measures combine several years of data so that small counties have enough events to report a stable rate. Because of this, the values describe conditions over a period of time and will not reflect changes from the last year or two.
Limitations	Measures from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, such as smoking, obesity and poor mental health days, are modeled estimates, so small differences between counties should be read with care. Rates for small counties can be based on few events, and the source does not report a value when counts are too small. Infant mortality is not reported for Abbeville and Union counties, most likely for this reason. County averages can also hide large differences between neighborhoods, which is why a full assessment adds sub-county data and community input.
Swapping in new data	The indicator table is stored in a long format with one row per county and indicator, including the value, unit, data years, source and benchmark flags. Newer downloads from County Health Rankings, CDC PLACES, the Census Bureau or a platform such as SparkMap can be added in the same format without changing the dashboard or the workbook.

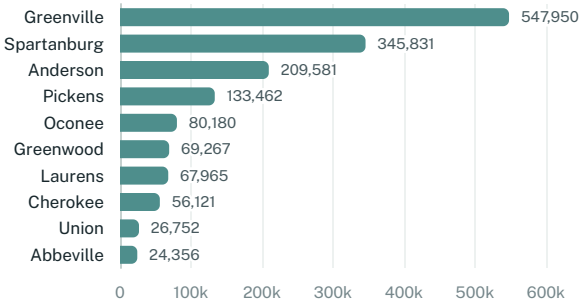
Demographics

Population size, age and rurality shape both health needs and how services can be delivered. The region includes one of the state's largest metropolitan counties and several small, mostly rural counties.

Demographic indicators are not rated | Lines mark the SC and US values

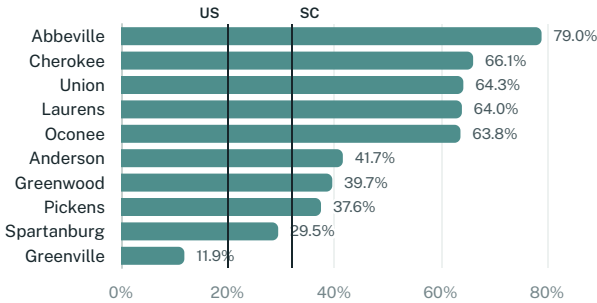
Total population

people, 2022



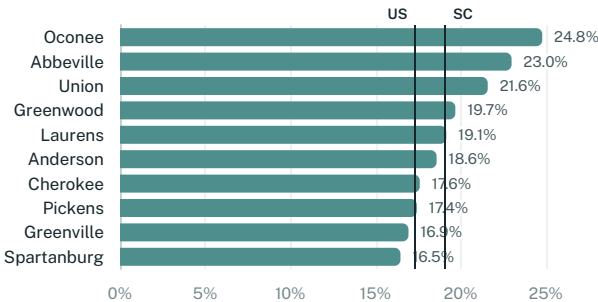
Population living in rural areas

percent, 2020



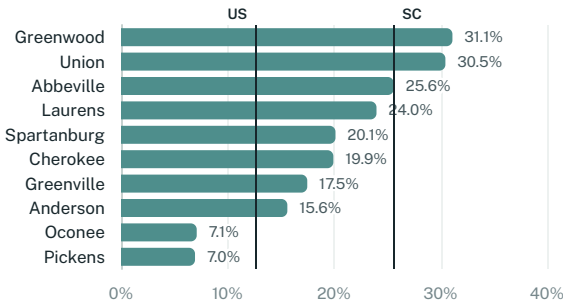
Population age 65 and older

percent, 2022



Non-Hispanic Black residents

percent, 2022



What the data shows

- Greenville (547,950), Spartanburg (345,831) and Anderson (209,581) counties hold about 71% of the region's 1.56 million residents.
- The share of residents living in rural areas ranges from 11.9% in Greenville County to 79.0% in Abbeville County, and five counties have a rural share above 60%.
- Oconee (24.8%) and Abbeville (23.0%) counties have the oldest populations, with nearly one in four residents age 65 or older, compared with 19.1% statewide.
- Non-Hispanic Black residents make up 31.1% of Greenwood County and 30.5% of Union County, compared with about 7% in Oconee and Pickens counties. Greenville County has the largest Hispanic share in the region at 10.3%.

Indicator	Data years	Range across counties	SC	US	Worse than SC	Better than SC
Total population	2022	24,356 to 547,950	5,282,634	333,287,557		Not rated
Population under age 18	2022	18.3% to 23.0%	21.2%	21.7%		Not rated
Population age 65 and older	2022	16.5% to 24.8%	19.1%	17.3%		Not rated
Non-Hispanic Black residents	2022	7.0% to 31.1%	25.6%	12.6%		Not rated
Hispanic residents	2022	2.1% to 10.3%	6.6%	19.1%		Not rated
Population living in rural areas	2020	11.9% to 79.0%	32.0%	20.0%		Not rated

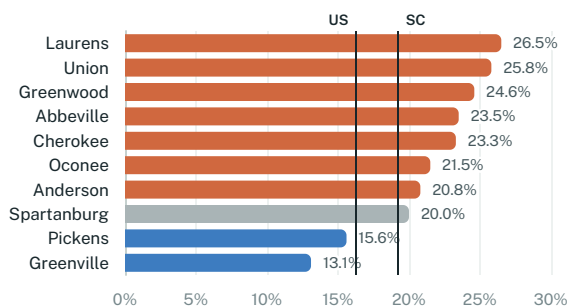
Social and economic factors

Income, employment, insurance, food access and housing costs affect health more than almost any clinical service. These indicators help explain why outcomes differ so much across the region.

■ Better than South Carolina ■ Worse than South Carolina ■ Within 5% of the state | Lines mark the SC and US values

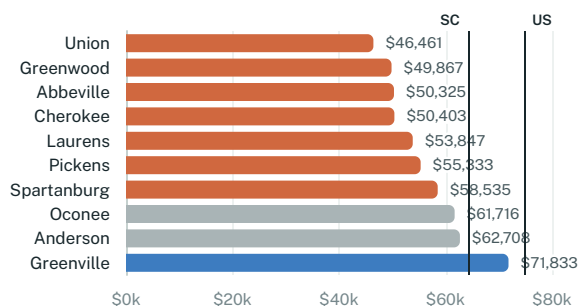
Children in poverty

percent, 2022 and 2018-2022



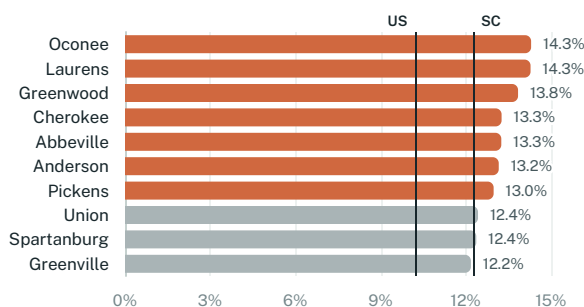
Median household income

dollars, 2022 and 2018-2022



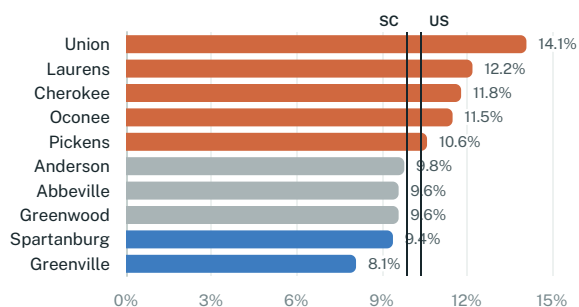
Uninsured, under age 65

percent, 2021



Food insecurity

percent, 2021



What the data shows

- Child poverty is above the state rate of 19.2% in seven counties and is highest in Laurens (26.5%), Union (25.8%) and Greenwood (24.6%) counties. Greenville (13.1%) and Pickens (15.6%) counties are below both the state and national rates.
- Greenville County is the only county with a median household income above the state median (\$71,833 compared with \$64,227). Union, Greenwood, Abbeville and Cherokee counties are each more than \$13,000 below the state median.
- All ten counties have a higher uninsured rate among residents under 65 than the nation (10.2%), with rates from 12.2% in Greenville County to 14.3% in Oconee County.
- Food insecurity is highest in Union (14.1%), Laurens (12.2%) and Cherokee (11.8%) counties, compared with 9.9% statewide. Broadband access is lowest in Cherokee (74.0%) and Abbeville (76.1%) counties, compared with 85.0% statewide.

Indicator	Data years	Range across counties	SC	US	Worse than SC	Better than SC
Children in poverty	2022 and 2018-2022	13.1% to 26.5%	19.2%	16.3%	7	2
Median household income	2022 and 2018-2022	\$46,461 to \$71,833	\$64,227	\$74,755	7	1
Unemployment rate	2022	2.8% to 4.7%	3.2%	3.6%	4	2
Uninsured, under age 65	2021	12.2% to 14.3%	12.3%	10.2%	7	0
Food insecurity	2021	8.1% to 14.1%	9.9%	10.4%	5	2
Severe housing cost burden	2018-2022	9.6% to 14.5%	12.8%	14.5%	1	7
High school completion	2018-2022	81.6% to 90.1%	89.3%	89.1%	2	0
Households with broadband	2018-2022	74.0% to 89.9%	85.0%	88.3%	5	1

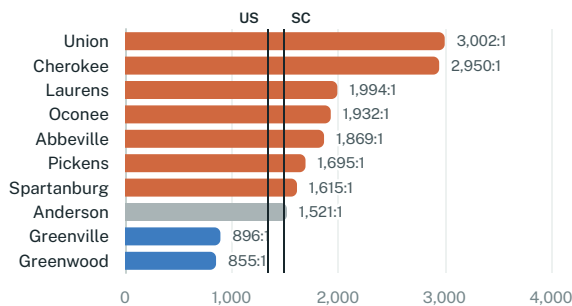
Access to care

Provider supply, insurance and use of preventive care show whether residents can get care close to home. Provider measures are shown as the number of residents for each provider, so a higher number means fewer providers.

■ Better than South Carolina ■ Worse than South Carolina ■ Within 5% of the state | Lines mark the SC and US values

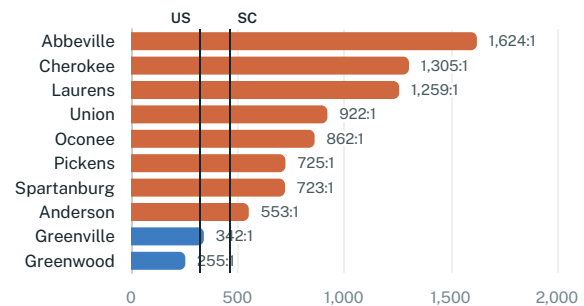
Residents per primary care physician

residents per provider, 2021



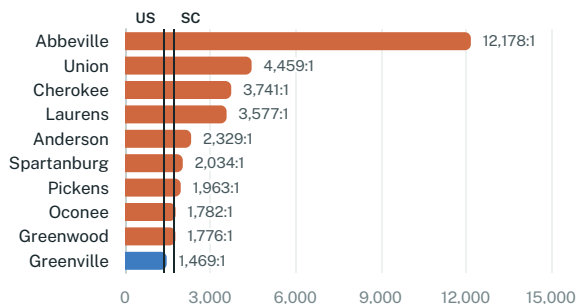
Residents per mental health provider

residents per provider, 2023



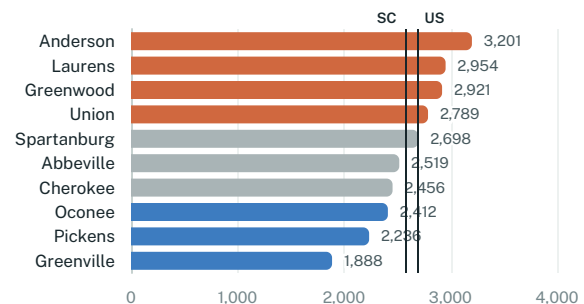
Residents per dentist

residents per provider, 2022



Preventable hospital stays

per 100,000 Medicare enrollees, 2021



What the data shows

- Union (3,002 to 1) and Cherokee (2,950 to 1) counties have about twice as many residents per primary care physician as the state (1,485 to 1). Greenwood (855 to 1) and Greenville (896 to 1) counties have more physicians per resident than both the state and the nation.
- Abbeville County has 1,624 residents per mental health provider, which is more than three times the state ratio of 462 to 1. Eight of the ten counties are worse than the state on this measure.
- Nine of the ten counties are worse than the state ratio of 1,682 residents per dentist, and Abbeville County has 12,178 residents per dentist, which is the highest ratio in the region by a wide margin.
- Anderson County has the highest rate of preventable hospital stays at 3,201 per 100,000 Medicare enrollees, while Greenville County has the lowest at 1,888. Mammography screening is better than or similar to the state rate in every county.

Indicator	Data years	Range across counties	SC	US	Worse than SC	Better than SC
Residents per primary care physician	2021	855:1 to 3,002:1	1,485:1	1,334:1	7	2
Residents per mental health provider	2023	255:1 to 1,624:1	462:1	319:1	8	2
Residents per dentist	2022	1,469:1 to 12,178:1	1,682:1	1,361:1	9	1
Preventable hospital stays	2021	1,888 to 3,201	2,571	2,681	4	3
Mammography screening	2021	47.0% to 58.0%	48.0%	43.0%	0	6

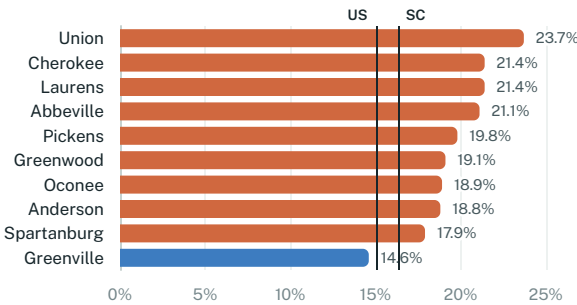
Health behaviors

Tobacco use, physical activity, alcohol use and sleep are strong predictors of chronic disease. These measures come from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a telephone survey of adults, and the source models them to the county level.

■ Better than South Carolina
 ■ Worse than South Carolina
 ■ Within 5% of the state
 | Lines mark the SC and US values

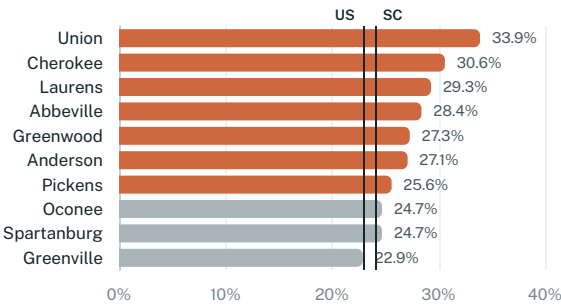
Adult smoking

percent, 2021



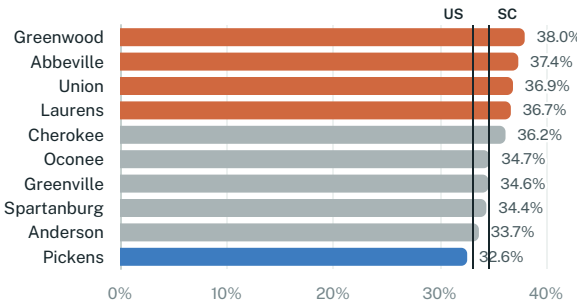
Physical inactivity

percent, 2021



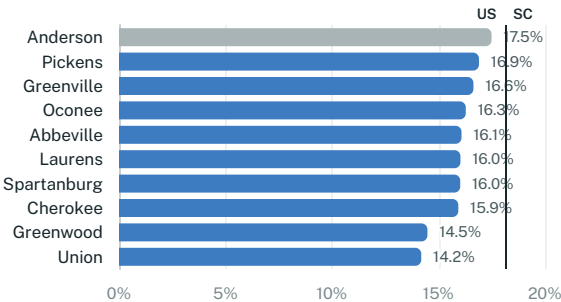
Insufficient sleep

percent, 2020



Excessive drinking

percent, 2021



What the data shows

- Adult smoking is higher than the state rate of 16.3% in nine of the ten counties and reaches 23.7% in Union County. Greenville County (14.6%) is the only county below the state rate.
- Physical inactivity is highest in Union (33.9%) and Cherokee (30.6%) counties, and seven counties are worse than the state rate of 24.0%.
- Insufficient sleep affects 38.0% of adults in Greenwood County and 37.4% in Abbeville County, compared with 34.7% statewide.
- Excessive drinking is lower than the state rate of 18.1% in nine counties, which makes it one of the few behaviors where the region compares well with the state.

Indicator	Data years	Range across counties	SC	US	Worse than SC	Better than SC
Adult smoking	2021	14.6% to 23.7%	16.3%	15.0%	9	1
Physical inactivity	2021	22.9% to 33.9%	24.0%	22.9%	7	0
Excessive drinking	2021	14.2% to 17.5%	18.1%	18.1%	0	9
Insufficient sleep	2020	32.6% to 38.0%	34.7%	33.0%	4	1

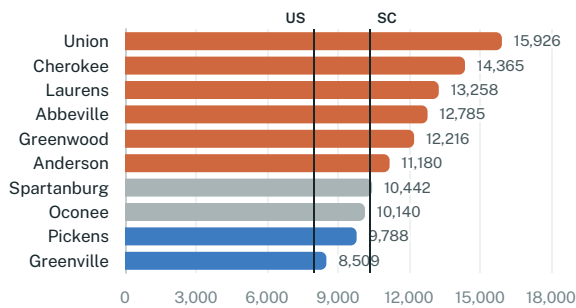
Length of life and chronic disease

Premature death and life expectancy summarize the combined effect of every other factor in this profile. Obesity and diabetes are shown here because they drive much of the chronic disease burden in the region.

■ Better than South Carolina ■ Worse than South Carolina ■ Within 5% of the state | Lines mark the SC and US values

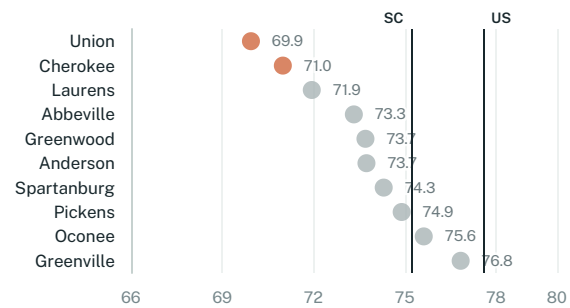
Premature death (years of life lost)

years lost per 100,000, 2019-2021



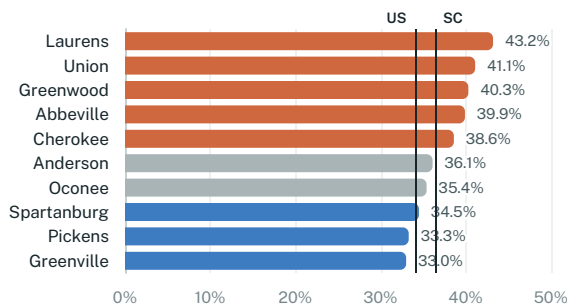
Life expectancy

years, 2019-2021



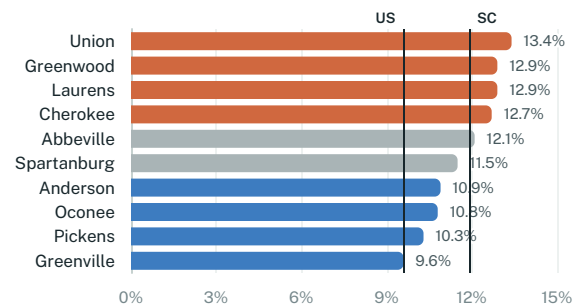
Adult obesity

percent, 2021



Adult diabetes

percent, 2021



What the data shows

- Premature death is higher than the national rate in all ten counties and higher than the state rate in six. Union (15,926), Cherokee (14,365) and Laurens (13,258) counties have the highest rates of years of life lost before age 75.
- Life expectancy is 76.8 years in Greenville County and 69.9 years in Union County. Cherokee (71.0) and Laurens (71.9) counties are also more than three years below the state average of 75.2.
- Adult obesity ranges from 33.0% in Greenville County to 43.2% in Laurens County, and five counties are worse than the state rate of 36.4%.
- Adult diabetes is higher than the national rate of 9.6% in nine counties. Union County has the highest rate at 13.4%, followed by Greenwood and Laurens counties at 12.9%.

Indicator	Data years	Range across counties	SC	US	Worse than SC	Better than SC
Premature death (years of life lost)	2019-2021	8,509 to 15,926	10,318	7,972	6	2
Life expectancy	2019-2021	69.9 to 76.8	75.2	77.6	2	0
Adult obesity	2021	33.0% to 43.2%	36.4%	34.0%	5	3
Adult diabetes	2021	9.6% to 13.4%	11.9%	9.6%	4	4

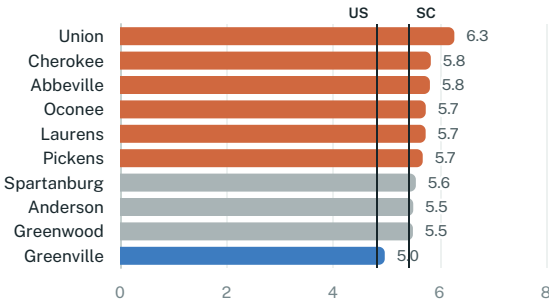
Mental health and injury

Poor mental health days, suicide and drug overdose deaths are grouped here because they point to related needs for behavioral health services, crisis care and substance use treatment.

■ Better than South Carolina ■ Worse than South Carolina ■ Within 5% of the state | Lines mark the SC and US values

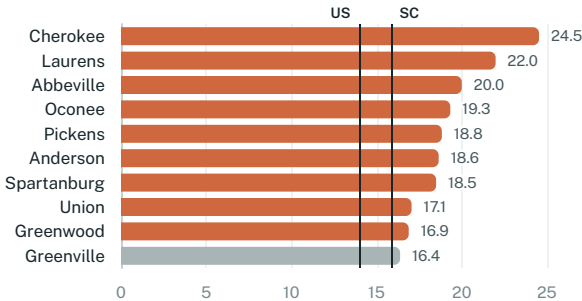
Poor mental health days

days per month, 2021



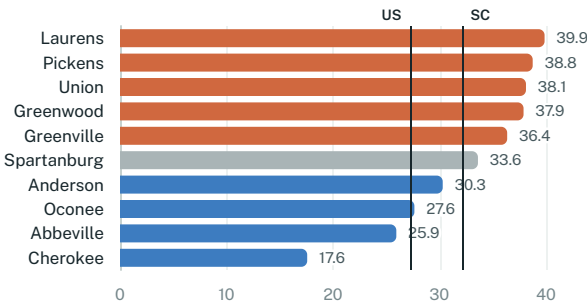
Suicide deaths

per 100,000, 2017-2021



Drug overdose deaths

per 100,000, 2019-2021



A note on small numbers

Suicide and overdose rates for small counties rest on a small number of deaths, even after the source combines three to five years of data. A difference of a few deaths can move a small county's rate by several points, so these rates are best read alongside local data from coroners, emergency departments and treatment providers.

What the data shows

- Adults in Union County report an average of 6.3 poor mental health days per month, the highest in the region, compared with 5.4 statewide and 4.8 nationally. Six counties are worse than the state on this measure.
- Suicide death rates are higher than the national rate of 13.9 per 100,000 in all ten counties and higher than the state rate in nine. Cherokee (24.5) and Laurens (22.0) counties have the highest rates.
- Drug overdose death rates are above the state rate of 32.2 per 100,000 in five counties: Laurens (39.9), Pickens (38.8), Union (38.1), Greenwood (37.9) and Greenville (36.4). Cherokee County has the lowest rate at 17.6.

Indicator	Data years	Range across counties	SC	US	Worse than SC	Better than SC
Poor mental health days	2021	5.0 to 6.3	5.4	4.8	6	1
Suicide deaths	2017-2021	16.4 to 24.5	15.9	13.9	9	0
Drug overdose deaths	2019-2021	17.6 to 39.9	32.2	27.2	5	4

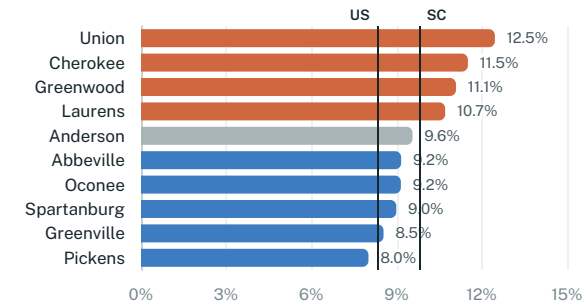
Maternal and child health

Birth outcomes and child health reflect the health of women before and during pregnancy, access to prenatal care and the conditions children grow up in.

■ Better than South Carolina ■ Worse than South Carolina ■ Within 5% of the state | Lines mark the SC and US values

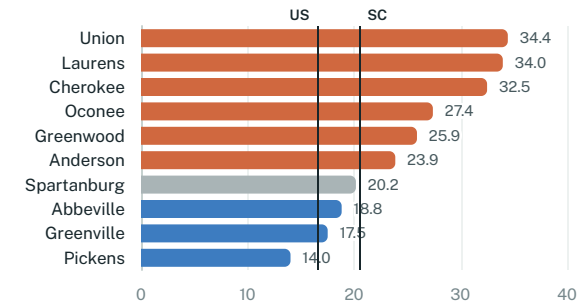
Low birthweight births

percent, 2016-2022



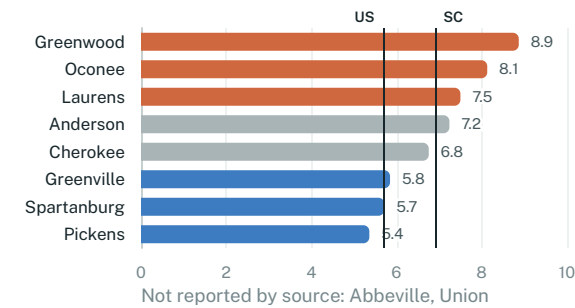
Teen birth rate

per 1,000 females 15-19, 2016-2022



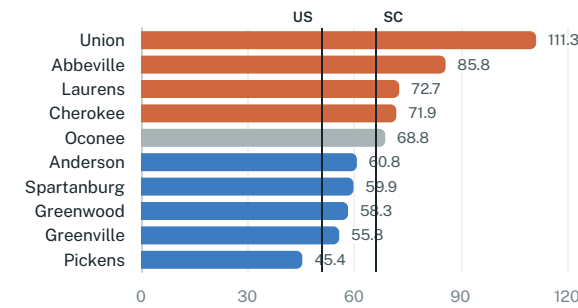
Infant mortality

per 1,000 live births, 2015-2021



Child mortality

per 100,000 under age 20, 2018-2021



What the data shows

- Low birthweight births are most common in Union (12.5%), Cherokee (11.5%) and Greenwood (11.1%) counties, compared with 9.8% statewide. Pickens County has the lowest share at 8.0%.
- Teen birth rates in Union (34.4), Laurens (34.0) and Cherokee (32.5) counties are more than one and a half times the state rate of 20.5 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19.
- Infant mortality is highest in Greenwood (8.9 per 1,000 live births) and Oconee (8.1) counties. The source does not report a value for Abbeville and Union counties, which usually means the counts were too small to produce a reliable rate.
- Child mortality in Union County (111.3 per 100,000) is well above the state rate of 66.0, although this rate is based on a small number of deaths and should be read with care.

Indicator	Data years	Range across counties	SC	US	Worse than SC	Better than SC
Low birthweight births	2016-2022	8.0% to 12.5%	9.8%	8.3%	4	5
Infant mortality	2015-2021	5.4 to 8.9	6.9	5.7	3	3
Teen birth rate	2016-2022	14.0 to 34.4	20.5	16.6	6	3
Child mortality	2018-2021	45.4 to 111.3	66.0	50.6	4	5
Uninsured children	2021	4.4% to 6.7%	5.3%	5.3%	4	2

County comparison grid

This grid shows every rated indicator for every county in one view. Shading compares each county with South Carolina, so a row with mostly orange cells points to a regional need and a column with mostly orange cells points to a county with many needs at once.

■ Better than South Carolina ■ Worse than South Carolina ■ Within 5% of the state

Provider measures show residents per provider. Income is shown in thousands of dollars.

Indicator	Abbeville	Anderson	Cherokee	Greenville	Greenwood	Laurens	Oconee	Pickens	Spartanburg	Union	SC	US
Social and Economic Factors												
Children in poverty	23.5%	20.8%	23.3%	13.1%	24.6%	26.5%	21.5%	15.6%	20.0%	25.8%	19.2%	16.3%
Median household income	\$50.3k	\$62.7k	\$50.4k	\$71.8k	\$49.9k	\$53.8k	\$61.7k	\$55.3k	\$58.5k	\$46.5k	\$64.2k	\$74.8k
Unemployment rate	3.9%	3.0%	4.1%	2.8%	3.7%	3.4%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	4.7%	3.2%	3.6%
Uninsured, under 65	13.2%	13.2%	13.3%	12.2%	13.8%	14.3%	14.3%	13.0%	12.4%	12.4%	12.3%	10.2%
Food insecurity	9.6%	9.8%	11.8%	8.1%	9.6%	12.2%	11.5%	10.6%	9.4%	14.1%	9.9%	10.4%
Severe housing cost burden	10.6%	10.4%	10.4%	11.2%	12.6%	12.7%	11.2%	14.5%	11.5%	9.6%	12.8%	14.5%
High school completion	85.1%	87.2%	85.2%	90.1%	86.9%	82.7%	87.0%	87.0%	87.8%	81.6%	89.3%	89.1%
Households with broadband	76.1%	85.7%	74.0%	89.9%	78.8%	81.5%	80.0%	82.8%	85.5%	80.8%	85.0%	88.3%
Access to Care												
Primary care physicians	1,869	1,521	2,950	896	855	1,994	1,932	1,695	1,615	3,002	1,485	1,334
Mental health providers	1,624	553	1,305	342	255	1,259	862	725	723	922	462	319
Dentists	12,178	2,329	3,741	1,469	1,776	3,577	1,782	1,963	2,034	4,459	1,682	1,361
Preventable hospital stays	2,519	3,201	2,456	1,888	2,921	2,954	2,412	2,236	2,698	2,789	2,571	2,681
Mammography screening	50.0%	57.0%	51.0%	52.0%	50.0%	47.0%	58.0%	50.0%	54.0%	54.0%	48.0%	43.0%
Health Behaviors												
Adult smoking	21.1%	18.8%	21.4%	14.6%	19.1%	21.4%	18.9%	19.8%	17.9%	23.7%	16.3%	15.0%
Physical inactivity	28.4%	27.1%	30.6%	22.9%	27.3%	29.3%	24.7%	25.6%	24.7%	33.9%	24.0%	22.9%
Excessive drinking	16.1%	17.5%	15.9%	16.6%	14.5%	16.0%	16.3%	16.9%	16.0%	14.2%	18.1%	18.1%
Insufficient sleep	37.4%	33.7%	36.2%	34.6%	38.0%	36.7%	34.7%	32.6%	34.4%	36.9%	34.7%	33.0%
Health Outcomes												
Premature death (YPLL)	12,785	11,180	14,365	8,509	12,216	13,258	10,140	9,788	10,442	15,926	10,318	7,972
Life expectancy	73.3	73.7	71.0	76.8	73.7	71.9	75.6	74.9	74.3	69.9	75.2	77.6
Adult diabetes	12.1%	10.9%	12.7%	9.6%	12.9%	12.9%	10.8%	10.3%	11.5%	13.4%	11.9%	9.6%
Adult obesity	39.9%	36.1%	38.6%	33.0%	40.3%	43.2%	35.4%	33.3%	34.5%	41.1%	36.4%	34.0%
Poor mental health days	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.0	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	6.3	5.4	4.8
Drug overdose deaths	25.9	30.3	17.6	36.4	37.9	39.9	27.6	38.8	33.6	38.1	32.2	27.2
Suicide deaths	20.0	18.6	24.5	16.4	16.9	22.0	19.3	18.8	18.5	17.1	15.9	13.9
Maternal and Child Health												
Low birthweight births	9.2%	9.6%	11.5%	8.5%	11.1%	10.7%	9.2%	8.0%	9.0%	12.5%	9.8%	8.3%
Infant mortality	n/a	7.2	6.8	5.8	8.9	7.5	8.1	5.4	5.7	n/a	6.9	5.7
Teen birth rate	18.8	23.9	32.5	17.5	25.9	34.0	27.4	14.0	20.2	34.4	20.5	16.6
Child mortality	85.8	60.8	71.9	55.8	58.3	72.7	68.8	45.4	59.9	111.3	66.0	50.6
Uninsured children	6.2%	5.4%	5.2%	5.5%	5.9%	4.8%	6.7%	5.8%	5.5%	4.4%	5.3%	5.3%

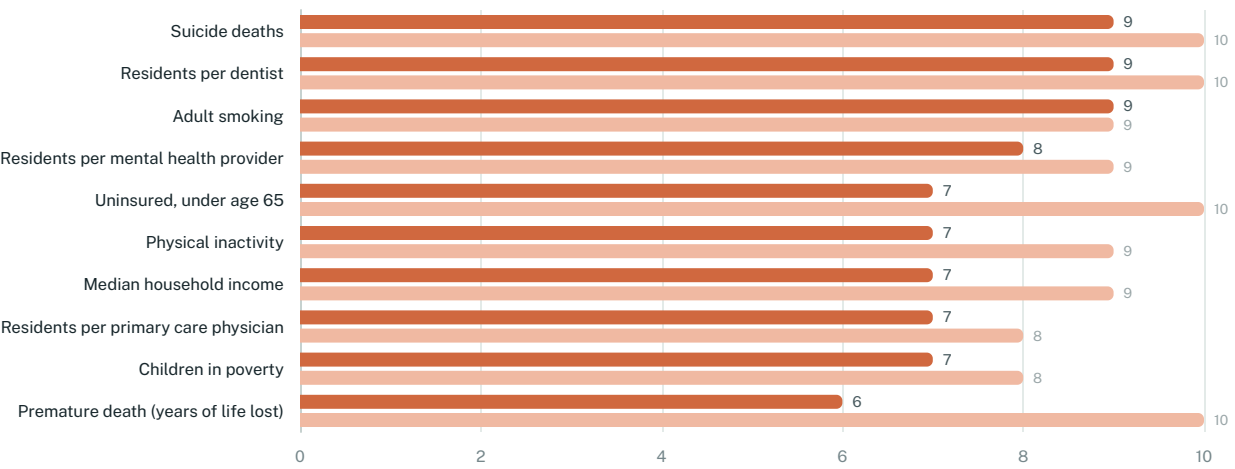
Priority needs summary

The secondary data points to six areas of need. These are a starting point for the assessment committee and are meant to be tested against community survey results, focus groups and input from local partners before final priorities are set.

Need area	Key indicators	Counties most affected	What the data shows
Chronic disease and premature death	Premature death, Life expectancy, Adult obesity, Adult diabetes, Adult smoking, Physical inactivity	Union, Cherokee, Laurens, Greenwood, Abbeville	Premature death is worse than the nation in all ten counties, and smoking is worse than the state in nine.
Mental health and suicide	Suicide deaths, Poor mental health days, Residents per mental health provider	Cherokee, Laurens, Abbeville, Union	Suicide rates are worse than the nation in all ten counties, and eight counties have fewer mental health providers per resident than the state.
Access to primary and dental care	Residents per primary care physician, Residents per dentist, Uninsured, under age 65	Union, Cherokee, Abbeville, Laurens, Oconee	Uninsured rates are worse than the nation in all ten counties, and nine counties have fewer dentists per resident than the state.
Economic stability and food access	Children in poverty, Median household income, Food insecurity, Households with broadband	Union, Laurens, Greenwood, Cherokee, Abbeville	Child poverty and median household income are worse than the state in seven counties.
Maternal and infant health	Low birthweight births, Teen birth rate, Infant mortality	Union, Cherokee, Laurens, Greenwood	Teen birth rates are worse than the state in six counties, and low birthweight is worse than the state in four.
Substance use	Drug overdose deaths	Laurens, Pickens, Union, Greenwood, Greenville	Overdose death rates are worse than the state in five counties, including the region's largest county.

Rated indicators by number of counties worse than South Carolina

The darker bar counts counties worse than the state. The lighter bar counts counties worse than the nation.



Appendix: indicator definitions and sources

All values come from the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024 Annual Data Release, which compiles the original sources below.

Indicator	Definition	Original source	Data years
Demographics (6 indicators)	Total population, and the percentage of residents under 18, age 65 and older, non-Hispanic Black, Hispanic, and living in a census-defined rural area.	Census Population Estimates	2022 (rural share 2020)
Children in poverty	Percentage of people under age 18 in poverty.	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; American Community Survey 5-year estimates	2022 and 2018-2022
Median household income	The income where half of households earn more and half earn less.	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; American Community Survey 5-year estimates	2022 and 2018-2022
Unemployment rate	Percentage of the civilian labor force age 16 and older that is unemployed but seeking work.	Bureau of Labor Statistics	2022
Uninsured, under age 65	Percentage of population under age 65 without health insurance.	Small Area Health Insurance Estimates	2021
Food insecurity	Percentage of population who lack adequate access to food.	Map the Meal Gap (Feeding America)	2021
Severe housing cost burden	Percentage of households that spend 50% or more of their income on housing.	American Community Survey 5-year estimates	2018-2022
High school completion	Percentage of adults ages 25 and over with a high school diploma or equivalent.	American Community Survey 5-year estimates	2018-2022
Households with broadband	Percentage of households with broadband internet connection.	American Community Survey 5-year estimates	2018-2022
Residents per primary care physician	Number of residents for each primary care physician. A higher number means fewer physicians for the population.	Area Health Resource File / American Medical Association	2021
Residents per mental health provider	Number of residents for each mental health provider.	CMS National Provider Identification	2023
Residents per dentist	Number of residents for each dentist.	Area Health Resource File / National Provider Identifier file	2022
Preventable hospital stays	Hospital stays for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions per 100,000 Medicare enrollees (age-adjusted).	Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool	2021
Mammography screening	Percentage of female Medicare enrollees ages 65 to 74 who received an annual mammography screening.	Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool	2021
Adult smoking	Percentage of adults who are current smokers.	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (modeled estimate)	2021
Physical inactivity	Percentage of adults age 18 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity.	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (modeled estimate)	2021
Excessive drinking	Percentage of adults reporting binge or heavy drinking.	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (modeled estimate)	2021
Insufficient sleep	Percentage of adults who report fewer than 7 hours of sleep on average.	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (modeled estimate)	2020
Premature death (years of life lost)	Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age-adjusted).	National Center for Health Statistics; Census Population Estimates	2019-2021
Life expectancy	Average number of years a person can expect to live.	National Center for Health Statistics; Census Population Estimates	2019-2021
Adult diabetes	Percentage of adults age 20 and above with diagnosed diabetes (age-adjusted).	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (modeled estimate)	2021
Adult obesity	Percentage of the adult population (age 18 and older) that reports a body mass index of 30 or more.	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (modeled estimate)	2021
Poor mental health days	Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in the past 30 days (age-adjusted).	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (modeled estimate)	2021
Drug overdose deaths	Number of drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population.	National Center for Health Statistics; Census Population Estimates	2019-2021
Suicide deaths	Number of deaths due to suicide per 100,000 population.	National Center for Health Statistics; Census Population Estimates	2017-2021
Low birthweight births	Percentage of live births with low birthweight (under 2,500 grams).	National Center for Health Statistics natality files	2016-2022
Infant mortality	Number of all infant deaths (within 1 year) per 1,000 live births.	National Center for Health Statistics natality and mortality files	2015-2021
Teen birth rate	Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15 to 19.	National Center for Health Statistics; Census Population Estimates	2016-2022
Child mortality	Number of deaths among residents under age 20 per 100,000 population under age 20.	National Center for Health Statistics; Census Population Estimates	2018-2021
Uninsured children	Percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance.	Small Area Health Insurance Estimates	2021