

Snapshot of health system climate  
vulnerability and performance in...

# Washington

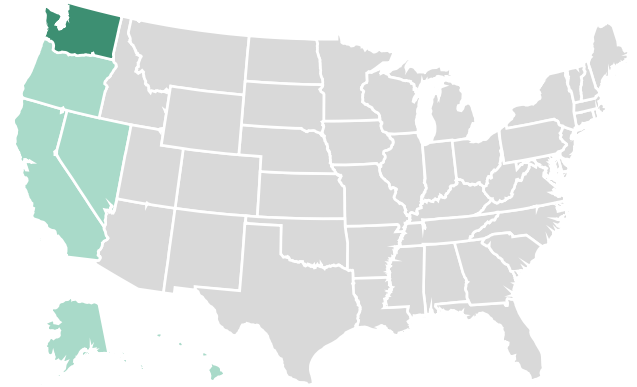


The  
Commonwealth  
Fund

Washington ranks #3 overall.

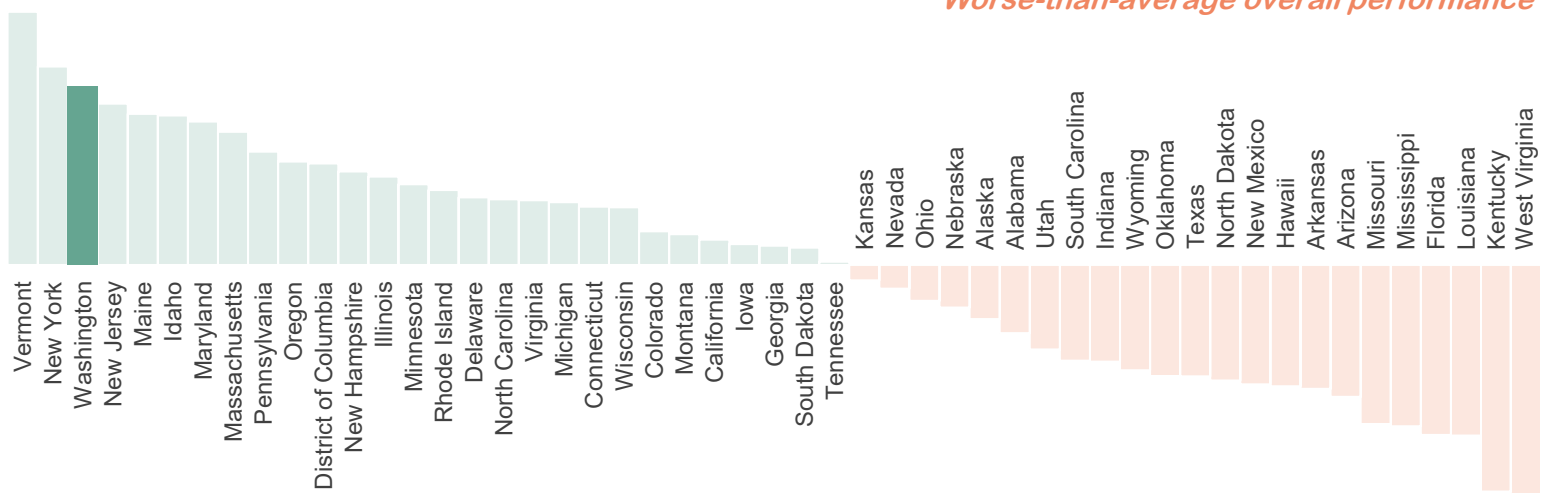
Washington ranks #1 in the West region.

	National Rank	Rank Among Western States*
Average Annual Air Quality Index	3 of 51	3 of 6
Health Risk from Extreme Heat	36	1
Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards	38	3
Health Care Facility Flood Risk	21	4
State Energy Efficiency Policy	11	2
State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact	2	1
Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	2	1
Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions	3	1



\*Note: West region includes AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA.

## How Washington Compares to All States



*Better-than-average overall performance*

**Table 1. Indicators of State Health System Climate Vulnerability and Performance**

Indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	State rank
<b>Average Annual Air Quality Index</b> Scale of 0–500, with values below 100 generally considered good/moderate air quality	2022	29	42	3
<b>Health Risk from Extreme Heat</b> CDC/ATSDR <sup>a</sup> Heat and Health Index (0–1), with 1 indicating greatest risk	2024	0.55	0.51	36
<b>Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards</b> FEMA <sup>b</sup> National Risk Index (0–100), with 100 indicating greatest risk	2023	70	54	38
<b>Health Care Facility Flood Risk</b> Percent of inpatient facility beds in high-hazard flood zones	2023	1.2%	2.5%	21
<b>State Energy Efficiency Policy</b> ACEEE <sup>c</sup> Energy Efficiency Scorecard (0–50), with 50 indicating best performance	2022	31.5	17	11
<b>State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact</b> Health impact per unit of electricity generated, <sup>d</sup> where lower values indicate less health impact from emissions	2021	0.097	0.464	2
<b>Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions</b> Kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e) <sup>e</sup>	2020	825	1,362	2
<b>Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions</b> Transportation-related GHG emissions from health care facility employee commuting (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e per employee)	2022	1,722	2,169	3



**Washington ranked best on:**

**State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact**

In Washington, emissions from electricity generation result in fewer negative health impacts per unit of electricity than in other states. Negative health impacts are represented by years of healthy life lost, measured by disability-adjusted life year (DALYs).



**Washington ranked worst on:**

**Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards**

On average, health care facilities in Washington are located in areas facing greater risk from natural hazards than facilities in other states.

**Notes:** (–) Indicates missing data. (a) Centers for Disease Control/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR). (b) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (c) American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). (d) Measured in Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) per gigawatt-hour (GWh) of electricity generated; DALYs are a common measure of the burden of disease, representing years of healthy life lost. (e) Kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>e stands for “carbon dioxide equivalent,” a standard measure of the warming effect of greenhouse gases.