

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

# West Virginia

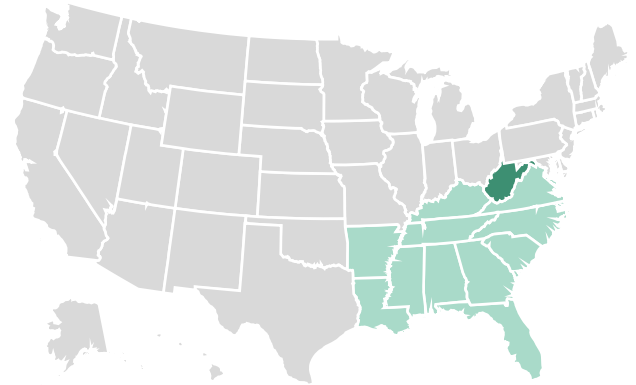


The  
Commonwealth  
Fund

West Virginia ranks #51 overall.

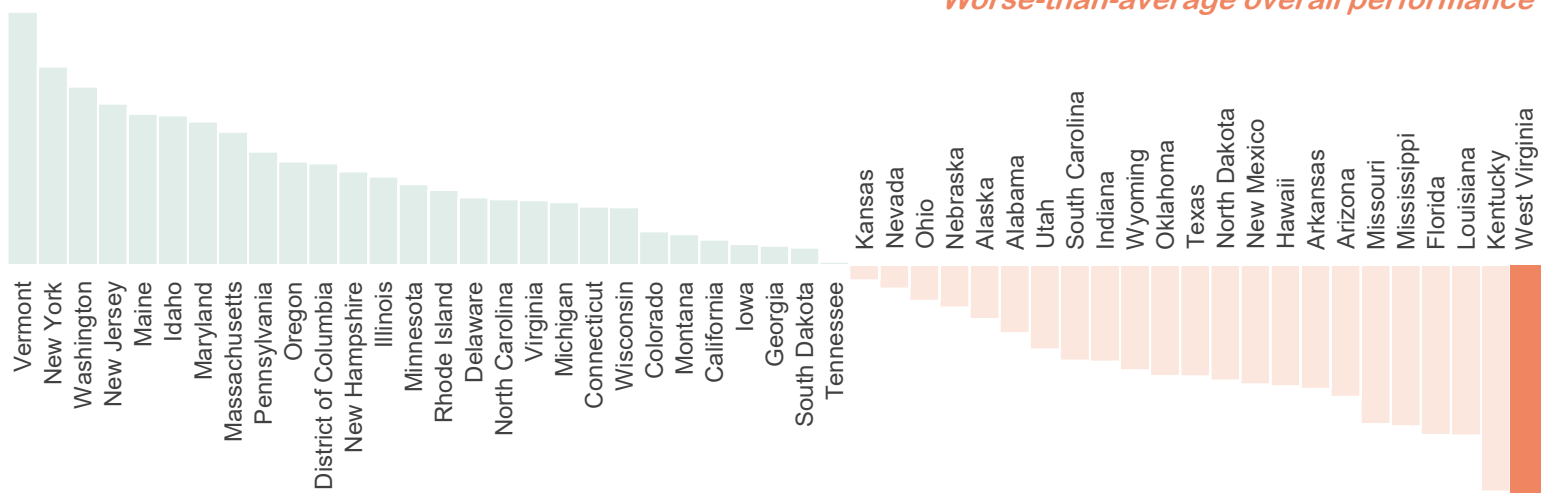
West Virginia ranks #12 in the Southeast region.

	National Rank	Rank Among Southeastern States*
Average Annual Air Quality Index	13 of 51	4 of 12
Health Risk from Extreme Heat	43	12
Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards	5	1
Health Care Facility Flood Risk	43	7
State Energy Efficiency Policy	44	9
State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact	49	11
Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	51	12
Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions	45	7




\*Note: Southeast region includes AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV.

## How West Virginia Compares to All States



**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	38	42	13
<b>Health Risk from Extreme Heat</b> CDC/ATSDR <sup>a</sup> Heat and Health Index (0–1), with 1 indicating greatest risk	2024	0.59	0.51	43
<b>Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards</b> FEMA <sup>b</sup> National Risk Index (0–100), with 100 indicating greatest risk	2023	29	54	5
<b>Health Care Facility Flood Risk</b> Percent of inpatient facility beds in high-hazard flood zones	2023	3.9%	2.5%	43
<b>State Energy Efficiency Policy</b> ACEEE <sup>c</sup> Energy Efficiency Scorecard (0–50), with 50 indicating best performance	2022	4	17	44
<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	1.023	0.464	49
<b>Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions</b> Kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e) <sup>e</sup>	2020	2,568	1,362	51
<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	2,516	2,169	45



**West Virginia ranked best on:**

**Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards**

On average, health care facilities in West Virginia are located in areas facing less risk from natural hazards than facilities in other states.



**West Virginia ranked worst on:**

**Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions**

The West Virginia health sector produces more greenhouse gas emissions per capita than in other states. This indicator helps gauge the sector's role in driving climate change at the state level.

**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.