

Tennessee

State Health Department Website: tn.gov/health

Overall Rank:

39

Summary

Strengths:

- Low percentage of low-care nursing home residents
- Low prevalence of excessive drinking
- Low prevalence of insufficient sleep

Challenges:

- High early death rate
- High prevalence of full-mouth teeth extractions
- High prevalence of smoking

Highlights:

GERIATRIC PROVIDERS

▲27%

from 19.4 to 24.7 per
100,000 adults ages 65+
between September 2018
and September 2021

SUICIDE

▲26%

from 16.8 to 21.1 deaths per
100,000 adults ages 65+
between 2009-2011 and
2018-2020

HIGH HEALTH STATUS

▲21%

from 32.6% to 39.4% of
adults ages 65+ between
2017 and 2020

Measures

		Rating	State Rank	State Value	U.S. Value
SOCIAL & ECONOMIC FACTORS*		++	40	-0.407	—
Community and Family Safety	Violent Crime (offenses per 100,000 population)	+	48	673	399
Economic Resources	Food Insecurity (% of adults ages 60+)	++	33	13.7%	12.6%
	Poverty (% of adults ages 65+)	++	37	9.7%	9.4%
	Poverty Racial Disparity (ratio)†	—	—	2.2	2.7
	SNAP Reach (participants per 100 adults ages 60+ in poverty)	+++	27	64.6	81.0
Social Support and Engagement	Community Support Expenditures (dollars per adult ages 60+)	+	44	\$23	\$57
	High-speed Internet (% of households with adults ages 65+)	+	41	73.7%	78.0%
	Low-care Nursing Home Residents (% of residents)	+++++	4	8.6%	15.2%
	Risk of Social Isolation (index 1-100, adults ages 65+)	++	40	67	—
	Volunteerism (% of adults ages 65+)	++	32	30.2%	31.6%
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT*		+++++	9	0.680	—
Air and Water Quality	Air Pollution (micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter)	+++	23	7.2	8.3
	Drinking Water Violations (% of community water systems)	++	34	0.5%	0.8%
Housing	Severe Housing Problems (% of small households with an adult ages 62+)	++++	11	25.9%	32.7%
CLINICAL CARE*		++	40	-0.349	—
Access to Care	Avoided Care Due to Cost (% of adults ages 65+)	++	39	4.8%	4.2%
	Geriatric Providers (providers per 100,000 adults ages 65+)	++	32	24.7	31.1
	Home Health Care Workers (workers per 1,000 adults ages 65+)	+	48	22.5	57.7
Preventive Clinical Services	Cancer Screenings (% of adults ages 65-75)	+++	21	78.2%	75.9%
	Flu Vaccination (% of adults ages 65+)	+	46	62.1%	67.3%
	Pneumonia Vaccination (% of adults ages 65+)	++++	15	73.9%	70.3%
Quality of Care	Dedicated Health Care Provider (% of adults ages 65+)	+++	24	93.9%	93.5%
	Hospice Care (% of Medicare decedents)	+	42	44.9%	50.7%
	Hospital Readmissions (risk-standardized readmission rate per 100 admissions)	++++	20	16	16
	Nursing Home Quality (% of beds rated four or five stars)	++	39	37.4%	41.2%
	Preventable Hospitalizations (discharges per 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries ages 65-74)	++	35	1,762	1,582
BEHAVIORS*		++	36	-0.274	—
Nutrition and Physical Activity	Exercise (% of adults ages 65+)	++	33	20.9%	23.1%
	Fruit and Vegetable Consumption (% of adults ages 65+)	+++++	9	8.7%	7.3%
	Physical Inactivity (% of adults ages 65+ in fair or better health)	++	31	32.3%	30.6%
Sleep Health	Insufficient Sleep (% of adults ages 65+)	++++	15	23.3%	26.0%
Tobacco Use	Smoking (% of adults ages 65+)	+	50	14.0%	8.9%
HEALTH OUTCOMES*		++	39	-0.446	—
Behavioral Health	Drug Deaths (deaths per 100,000 adults ages 65+)*	—	—	9.3	8.4
	Excessive Drinking (% of adults ages 65+)	+++++	3	4.3%	7.4%
	Frequent Mental Distress (% of adults ages 65+)	+++	29	8.1%	8.1%
	Suicide (deaths per 100,000 adults ages 65+)	++	39	21.1	16.9
Mortality	Early Death (deaths per 100,000 adults ages 65-74)	+	43	2,563	2,072
	Early Death Racial Disparity (ratio)*	—	—	1.3	1.6
Physical Health	Falls (% of adults ages 65+)	++	35	29.5%	27.1%
	Frequent Physical Distress (% of adults ages 65+)	++	40	15.8%	14.5%
	High Health Status (% of adults ages 65+)*	++	39	39.4%	43.5%
	Multiple Chronic Conditions (% of Medicare beneficiaries ages 65-74)	++	40	50%	46%
	Obesity (% of adults ages 65+)	+++	27	30.3%	29.3%
	Teeth Extractions (% of adults ages 65+)	+	45	19.2%	13.4%
OVERALL		++	39	-0.324	—

* Value is a summation score. Higher scores are healthier.

† Non-ranking measure.

— Indicates data missing or suppressed.

For measure definitions, including data sources and years, visit AmericasHealthRankings.org.

Rating	Rank
+++++	1-10
++++	11-20
+++	21-30
++	31-40
+	41-50