VERMONT RANKINGS –
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Vermont Rankings -- Categories

VERMONT. HEALTH, SAFETY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE, QUALITY OF LIFE, EDUCATION, ECONOMY, CIVIC CULTURE, TOURISM & RECREATION

VERMONT

A recent study placed Vermont at the 10th “best” state in the United States. The ranking combines education, health care, economy, crime and more. Vermont’s high ranking in safety contrasted with lower scores in economy and infrastructure. See the Burlington Free Press article for further analysis.

Vermont also ranks high nationally in government expenditures, according to a list compiled by economist Arthur Woolf -- number one in health care spending per capita, third in welfare spending and fourth in transportation spending.

HEALTH

According to data from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, in 2014 Vermont ranked as the 8th state with the most homelessness per 100,000 residents, having 249 per 100k residents. This ranking has risen drastically from 2011, when Vermont was ranked as the 16th state with the most homelessness.

Based on a comprehensive report from the United Health Foundation and the American Public Health Association Vermont ranks as the 2nd healthiest state. The report took into account everything from personal behaviors, like smoking and exercise, to measures of community well-being such as air pollution, violent crime, high school graduation rate, premature deaths, child poverty, diabetes, health insurance and public health funding.

Vermont was recently named one of the top states for insurance enrollment and preventive care delivery in adolescents and young adults. In a study by researchers at the University of California, Vermont and six other top performing states’ approaches to increasing insurance enrollment were studied, finding strategies such as use of partnerships, special populations outreach, leveraging laws and resources, and youth engagement to be most effective.

Vermont was awarded a ‘B’ rating for enforcing policies that support new parents. In light of the 23rd anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), a state-by-state analysis revealed that most states earned a ‘C’ or lower by failing to enact measures that go beyond the act’s protections against unpaid leave. Vermont’s higher grade reflected expanded policies, including the paid sick day law enacted earlier this year.

The 2016 America’s Health Ranking Senior Report revealed that while Vermont ranks second in the U.S. for overall health in citizens over the age of 65, the state also ranks 41st for its alarming rate of falls. One third of seniors report having a fall annually. Check out the Bennington Banner article for more Information.
The University of Vermont Medical Center earned a top ranking at 13th for the sixth consecutive year in the Vizient University HealthSystem Consortium Quality and Accountability Study. Other top-tier honorees included elite academic hospitals like Mayo Clinic, and the Vizient UHC Study has been noted as the most intensive and credible examination of its kind.

Older adults in Vermont report some of the lowest overall well-beings in the country, according to a new Gallup poll. The results were found by interviewing over 115,000 adults aged 55 and over across the U.S., and following a Well-Being Index that takes into account elements essential to happiness, like purpose, social and financial fulfillment, a sense of community, and physical health. Hawaii had the highest Well-Being Index score for the second year in a row.

Contrasting the nation’s overall declining health in preterm births, Vermont was one of just four states, including New Hampshire, to earn an “A” grade on the latest March of Dimes Birth Report Card. Vermont had the lowest prematurity rate in the country at 7.3 percent. See the Vermont Biz article for more information.

The 2016 America's Health Ranking Senior Report revealed that while Vermont ranks second in the U.S. for overall health in citizens over the age of 65, the state also ranks 41st for its alarming rate of falls. Just under one third of Vermont seniors (31.7%) reported having had a fall within the past year—significantly higher than the national average of 28.7%. Check out this commentary in the Bennington Banner for more information (September, 2016).

According to data from the latest National Survey of Drug Use and Health, Vermonters aged 18-25 are some of the nation’s most frequent marijuana users. The survey found that more than one third of Vermonters in that age bracket regularly use marijuana, compared to less than 10 percent of Utah's 18- to 25-year-olds. Nationally about 7 percent of Americans over age 12 have used marijuana in the past month. Western states tend to have the highest rate of usage, at 9 percent, followed by the Northeast. The South has the lowest overall rate at 5.83 percent. Read the Washington Post article here. (November 13, 2014)

October 1: 2016: The America’s Health Rankings report ranked Vermont number two in overall health of women and children and number one for children with adequate health insurance. The northeast fared well overall, with Massachusetts and New Hampshire rounding out the top three.

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SAFETY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Vermont ranks in the top 25 safest states in the country. Vermont has been ranked the number one safest state in the nation. In a violent crime rate review by 24/7 Wall Street, Vermont was reported to have only 118 violent crimes per 100,000 state residents. For an in depth analysis see the article by the Burlington Free Press.

Vermont drivers have been ranked some of the best in the country. A study conducted by Car Insurance Comparison compiled statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ranked each state in terms of fatal car wrecks and their causes, including drunk driving, speeding, and careless driving.
A report by the Trust for America’s Health reveals Vermont is working hard to combat prescription drug abuse. A state by state analysis found that Vermont was one of only two states to score 10 out of a possible 10 possible indicators of promising strategies to fight prescription drug abuse. To develop scores for the report, the organization worked with public-health, clinical, injury-prevention, law-enforcement and community organization experts to review a range of national recommendations. Read the Kentucky Health News Story here. (October 11, 2013).

QUALITY OF LIFE

According to the CATO Institute “Freedom in the 50 States 2016” report, Vermont ranks 10th in the country in personal freedom. The ranking takes into account incarceration and arrests, marriage freedom, education, gun control, alcohol, marijuana freedom, gambling, asset forfeiture, tobacco, travel freedom, civil liberties, and campaign finance.

Vermont is one of the best places in America to raise girls, according to a Girl Scout Research Institute report, “The State of Girls: Thriving or Surviving?” The report, which rated Vermont 5th out of 50 states, gleaned its results from data on girls’ physical health and safety, as well as their economic well-being, education, emotional health and extracurricular or out-of-school activities. The report found that the Midwest, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic tended to score more highly, while states in the South tended to receive lower rankings. Read the Huffington Post story here (September, 2014).

According to a recent report, Vermont ranks number one in the country as the safest state for online dating. The report theorizes Vermont may be a safe haven for those seeking love online due to its aging population, lower crime rates, and effective sex education. The findings come from an analysis of data on each state drawn from FBI and CDC data regarding cyber crime and violent crime rate per capita and reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea, respectively. (Report published 1/24/17)

EDUCATION

According to data from the National Center for Educational Statistics, Vermont ranks #7 for having the most elementary and secondary schools per capita. Having 0.631 schools per 1000 people. Other states with small, rural populations accompany Vermont in the top ten, including the Dakotas, Montana, Alaska, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

Data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau found that the state of Vermont expends the fifth highest amount of revenue on education of any state, at $18,066 per student in 2014. Additionally, 87.7 percent of Vermont students that were freshmen in 2011 graduated in 2015, taking the expected four years. See the Burlington Free Press article for more information (June 2, 2015).

The University of Vermont ranks number 23 among national university pass rates for the Certified Public Accountants Exam (CPA). UVM students had a whopping 78.6 percent first-time pass rate for the exam, as compared to the national and international first-time pass rate of 54.4 percent. The majority of the 49 UVM students that took the CPA were in the Grossman School of Business’s Master of Accountancy Program. The ranking is based on the most recent data published by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. (Published: 2/17/17)

ECONOMY
According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Vermont has the 4th highest minimum wage, tied with Connecticut and Rhode Island at $9.60 per hour. Effective Jan 1, 2017 the minimum wage will increase to $10.00 and effective Jan 1, 2018 the wage will increase to $10.50. Starting on Jan 1, 2019 the minimum wage in the state will increase by 5% or the consumer price index, whichever is higher.

According to the Brewers Association, Vermont ranks #1 for the state with the most craft breweries per capita, home to 9.7 breweries per 100,000 21+ residents. Oregon ranks second, two breweries per capita behind, with 7.7 per 100,000 21+ residents. Vermont also ranks #1 for the highest craft beer production in gallons per capita, producing 17.4 gallons per 21+ adult. Colorado follows Vermont, with about three gallons per person behind, producing 14.1 gallons per 21+ adult.

In a recent social media study, Vermont was ranked 4th in the country for states where people love their jobs. The study, done by Monster and Brandwatch, swept Twitter for sentiments towards users’ jobs, taking in the location and other pertinent details in order to rank job happiness by state. Read the full article on the Vermont Biz website.

While Vermont’s small-state economy ranks #41 out of 50, Business Insider also notes “Vermont has seen the greatest economic growth in New England since the Great Recession.” CNBC ranks Vermont #36 in its Top U.S. States for Business 2016, using more than 60 measures of competitiveness.

Vermont imposes the highest taxes on retirees in the country, according to the Kiplinger Letter. The state taxes most retirement income, including Social Security, and has an income tax ranging from 3.55 percent to 8.95 percent. Check out the Barre Montpelier Times Argus article to learn more.

Vermont is the most bartender-friendly state, according to a recent study by Zippia. The average annual salary is $29,530, with experienced workers earning as much as $48,490. The study took a number of factors into account, using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, including entry-level salary, number of jobs, and location quotient. See the Vermont Biz article for more information.

Vermonters’ credit card debt is higher in total, yet because the state has higher than average wealth, it is lower as a percent than the rest of the United States. According to the annual report released by SmartAsset, Chittenden County residents have some of the lowest credit debt in the state. See the article in Vermont Biz for details.

Vermont was awarded a ‘B’ rating by the National Partnership for Women & Families for enforcing policies that support new parents. Released on the eve of the 23rd anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the state-by-state analysis noted that most states earned a ‘C’ or lower by failing to enact measures that go beyond the act’s protections against unpaid leave. Vermont’s higher grade reflected expanded policies, including a paid sick day law enacted earlier this year. (August, 2016)

Vermont’s economic outlook ranks 49th in the latest Rich States, Poor States Report, by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a conservative nonprofit. With much of the ranking predicated on tax policy, Vermont has predictably finished near or at the bottom. In the eight years of the study, Vermont has not finished higher than 49th and has been 50th twice.
While ranking low for all the income and property tax questions, Vermont was 7th best in sales tax and 5th in debt service. Read the Vermont Business Journal article here. (April 9, 2015)

Vermont comes in 15th for the cheapest states to raise a family, according to gobankingrates.com, a personal finance and consumer banking website. The survey compared the costs and factors that affect family financies in all 50 states, scoring each for the following five factors: (1) median income, (2) state family leave policies, (3) food costs, (4) housing costs and (5) child care costs. Each category was weighted equally and used to generate a family affordability score for each state. (November 9, 2015).

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According to a study conducted by Pew Trusts, states rely on property taxes for less than 2 percent of their total revenues on average. However, 34 percent of Vermont’s revenue is comprised of property taxes, with personal income taxes making up an additional 23.3 percent.

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ENERGY & ENVIROMENT

Vermont is #1 on Forbes list of America’s Greenest States, thanks to environmentally friendly policies, energy-efficient building and higher per-capita energy efficiency spending. Vermont tops all other states in terms of their commitment to local food, according to the 2016 Locavore Index.

CIVIC CULTURE

Vermont ranks in the top 10 most politically engaged states, but is trending down, reports tech company SmartAsset. In 2010, Vermont had the 5th highest voter turnout in the country, at 55%. That number then fell to 42.5% in 2014, and the state is now ranked 8th this year. See this vermontbiz.com article to learn more.

Vermont was ranked number one by Ballotpedia in state election agency accessibility, providing political candidates with timely and useful information. The study was conducted by determining the ease of access to and quality of information as well as the speed at which the agency returned an inquiring email. Vermont earned 49 out of 50 points. See the VT Digger article for more information.

Based on data retrieved from the 2010 and 2012 voter turnouts, 2012 voter registration, and 2012 presidential donations, Vermont was ranked 7th among the top ten most politically active states by SmartAsset. New England as a whole was found to be politically engaged, with five of the six states that it is comprised of included in the top ten.

TOURISM & RECREATION

Route 108 near Smuggler’s Notch was named one of the Top 10 beautiful tree tunnels of the World.

Stowe was listed by Country Living Magazine as one of the 18 [most charming small towns](#) across America.

Grafton ranks in the top 12 of [America’s most beautiful places](#). Home to Stowe, Sugarbush, Jay, Stratton, Mad River Glen, and other beloved ski meccas, Vermont ranks as one of the [top 10 skiing destinations](#) of the world.