



Dashboard of Risks

The ten indicators presented here track risk factors that may slow or reverse human development progress and which pose direct threats to the expansion of people's capabilities and freedoms.

The indicators measure outcomes that can change relatively quickly, and are thus more responsive to new policies in the short term than the composite American Human Development Index. Taken together, the Dashboard indicators help the user unpack factors fueling gaps in the Index scores of different population groups, craft solutions to address pervasive threats, and better assess the impact of various interventions in the near term.

RISKS TO A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE

The percentage of newborn babies with **low birth weight** (less than 5.5 pounds) is a sensitive indicator of population health—in particular, women's health and access to medical care. Compared to babies born with normal weight, low-birth-weight babies face a higher risk of infant death, developmental delays, and physical and cognitive impairments.²⁹

Diabetes rates track the prevalence of this chronic disease, a leading cause of death.³⁰ Obesity and physical inactivity contribute significantly to diabetes.

The **trauma-related death rate** captures the number of preventable deaths due to homicide, suicide, and unintentional injury, such as car crashes or workplace accidents.

RISKS TO ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

The percentage of **3- and 4-year-olds not enrolled in preschool** is an important indicator of school readiness and life chances. Children without access to quality early-childhood education are at higher risk of repeating grades and eventually dropping out than children who attend preschool.³¹

An important measure of student achievement is the percentage of **fourth-graders not demonstrating reading proficiency** on the National Assessment of Educational Progress test. Reading proficiency is a strong predictor of school performance.³²

Students who do not graduate from high school on time are at a higher risk of never graduating, not going on to higher education, and neither working nor attending school in early adulthood than those who graduate on time.³³

RISKS TO A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING

Children under 6 living in households with incomes below the poverty line are vulnerable to a range of risks to healthy cognitive and emotional development, which, in turn, is associated with a host of poor outcomes later.

Marginally attached workers are adults who are available to work, but have stopped trying to find employment. These individuals, who have looked for work within the past year but not in the prior four weeks, are not included in standard unemployment counts.

Renters with severe housing-cost burdens spend more than half of their household incomes on rent and utilities. Such renters are at risk of having to forgo other essential goods and services.

Elderly poverty engenders a host of risks to the well-being of adults over 65. While Social Security can reduce these risks, too many elderly individuals face trade-offs in such essential areas as medical care, home-care services, energy consumption, and food security.

STATE	LOW-BIRTH-WEIGHT INFANTS (%) 2007 ³⁴	PEOPLE AGE 18 AND OLDER WITH DIABETES (%) 2008 ³⁵	DEATH RATE DUE TO TRAUMA (per 100,000) 2007 ³⁴	CHILDREN AGES 3 AND 4 NOT ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL (%) 2008 ³⁷	4TH-GRADERS READING BELOW PROFICIENT (%) 2009 ³⁸	HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMEN NOT GRADUATING AFTER 4 YEARS (%) 2007 ³⁹	CHILDREN UNDER 6 LIVING IN POVERTY (%) 2008 ⁴⁰	MARGINALLY ATTACHED WORKERS (per 10,000)* 2009 ⁴¹	RENTERS WITH SEVERE HOUSING-COST BURDEN (%) 2008 ⁴²	ELDERLY POVERTY (%) 2008 ⁴³
Alabama	10.5	11.2	78.1	53.1	71.8	32.9	25.8	96.5	20.9	12.1
Alaska	6.0	6.7	86.4	57.0	72.8	30.9	13.4	106.3	13.9	3.7
Arizona	7.1	7.8	75.5	67.6	75.3	30.4	23.0	92.1	22.5	8.6
Arkansas	9.1	9.5	71.8	50.2	71.2	25.6	28.7	79.7	21.1	12.5
California	6.8	8.5	49.6	49.2	76.3	29.3	20.1	123.6	26.6	8.7
Colorado	9.0	6.0	66.3	51.1	59.8	23.4	18.0	66.4	23.2	8.4
Connecticut	8.0	6.8	47.4	35.6	57.6	18.2	14.3	100.4	24.9	7.6
Delaware	9.3	8.3	52.3	52.7	64.9	28.1	14.2	94.0	23.0	7.7
District of Columbia	11.3	8.0	63.1	26.4	83.2	45.1	25.7	120.3	23.7	15.2
Florida	8.7	9.5	68.8	48.4	64.2	35.0	21.3	106.4	27.3	10.4
Georgia	9.5	9.9	64.4	49.1	70.7	35.9	23.6	92.1	22.4	11.9
Hawaii	8.1	8.2	46.5	45.4	74.3	24.6	12.2	113.8	26.6	6.8
Idaho	6.8	7.0	63.1	63.4	67.7	19.6	19.6	78.5	16.7	7.6
Illinois	8.5	8.3	49.6	44.0	67.7	20.5	20.0	90.8	24.1	9.2
Indiana	8.2	9.6	58.1	59.8	66.3	26.1	22.3	85.7	22.5	8.3
Iowa	7.0	7.0	51.0	49.4	65.8	13.5	17.7	57.2	21.0	8.3
Kansas	7.2	8.1	60.3	52.5	64.9	21.1	17.9	68.0	19.7	8.1
Kentucky	9.0	9.9	76.3	51.5	63.8	23.6	27.6	93.4	21.2	13.8
Louisiana	11.3	10.7	83.4	45.0	81.7	38.7	29.5	70.6	22.7	13.5
Maine	6.7	8.3	58.8	60.9	64.5	21.5	19.5	96.1	23.4	9.2
Maryland	9.3	8.7	46.5	48.3	62.9	20.0	11.5	81.6	21.9	8.2
Massachusetts	7.9	7.2	42.2	37.7	52.8	19.2	13.3	70.5	23.3	10.2
Michigan	8.3	9.1	55.6	50.7	70.3	23.0	22.2	118.1	26.9	8.7
Minnesota	6.5	5.9	52.5	53.7	62.8	13.5	13.2	78.3	21.5	8.6
Mississippi	12.0	11.3	86.6	45.5	78.3	36.4	33.0	126.7	22.6	16.9
Missouri	8.1	9.1	70.0	57.0	64.3	18.1	22.6	70.7	20.0	9.3
Montana	7.2	6.5	84.3	62.8	65.4	18.5	23.6	55.0	18.9	8.9
Nebraska	7.0	7.8	50.9	55.0	65.2	13.7	16.3	58.8	17.5	9.8
Nevada	8.2	8.6	76.2	71.6	76.0	48.0	17.3	79.6	21.5	8.6
New Hampshire	6.9	7.2	52.4	48.5	58.7	18.3	10.6	83.9	19.9	8.3
New Jersey	8.4	8.4	39.3	32.7	59.8	15.6	14.2	93.6	24.0	7.9
New Mexico	8.6	7.9	97.9	57.1	80.2	40.9	29.1	67.5	22.0	13.4
New York	8.3	8.4	37.2	39.9	64.0	31.2	20.0	108.6	25.8	11.8
North Carolina	9.1	9.3	69.0	50.5	67.8	31.4	22.5	84.1	20.9	11.4
North Dakota	6.6	7.6	57.2	62.4	65.2	16.9	19.1	50.0	17.3	13.1
Ohio	8.7	9.9	59.0	53.7	64.3	21.3	22.7	102.7	22.6	8.8
Oklahoma	8.1	10.1	81.6	54.0	72.3	22.2	25.9	64.8	19.7	10.9
Oregon	6.1	6.9	60.7	56.3	69.1	26.2	21.2	92.7	24.0	8.7
Pennsylvania	8.4	8.8	59.6	50.3	63.4	17.0	19.5	86.2	22.8	9.3
Rhode Island	7.9	7.4	47.3	43.5	64.4	21.6	17.2	97.1	23.0	10.9
South Carolina	10.2	10.1	74.9	51.1	72.4	41.1	25.9	106.5	20.9	12.1
South Dakota	6.8	6.6	57.6	61.9	67.2	17.5	21.9	58.2	17.2	10.3
Tennessee	9.4	10.4	74.8	55.5	72.0	27.4	26.0	82.9	21.9	11.4
Texas	8.3	9.7	59.6	57.0	72.4	28.1	25.8	70.0	20.9	12.2
Utah	6.8	6.1	53.4	59.5	69.0	23.4	11.4	74.5	18.0	6.8
Vermont	6.5	6.4	62.9	44.6	58.6	11.4	15.0	80.0	22.9	8.5
Virginia	8.3	7.9	56.0	50.5	61.5	24.5	15.8	64.1	20.7	8.4
Washington	6.3	6.9	57.8	56.8	66.6	25.2	16.7	92.9	21.3	8.2
West Virginia	9.5	11.9	87.7	67.8	74.3	21.8	29.7	81.8	20.4	10.5
Wisconsin	7.0	7.2	61.8	54.7	67.3	11.5	15.7	85.5	20.3	8.4
Wyoming	8.7	7.4	80.7	59.3	67.4	24.2	14.2	56.2	14.9	7.3

* Working-age adults

See sources on page 284.