



The 2022 Rankings include deaths attributable to COVID-19 from 2020. See our FAQs for more information on COVID-specific data.

## Polk (PO) 2022 Rankings

Download Iowa Rankings Data

### County Demographics

	County	State
Population	494,281	3,163,561
% below 18 years of age	24.6%	22.9%
% 65 and older	13.8%	17.9%
% Non-Hispanic Black	7.1%	4.0%
% American Indian & Alaska Native	0.4%	0.6%
% Asian	5.2%	2.8%
% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.2%
% Hispanic	8.8%	6.5%
% Non-Hispanic White	76.4%	84.5%
% not proficient in English **	3%	2%
% Females	50.7%	50.2%
% Rural	4.9%	36.0%

	County	Error Margin	Top U.S. Performers ^	Iowa
<b>Health Outcomes</b>				
<b>Length of Life</b>				
Premature death	6,900	6,600-7,100	5,600	6,500
<b>Quality of Life</b>				
Poor or fair health **	15%	13-17%	15%	14%
Poor physical health days **	3.1	2.8-3.3	3.4	3.1
Poor mental health days **	3.8	3.5-4.1	4.0	4.1
Low birthweight	7%	7-8%	6%	7%
<b>Additional Health Outcomes (not included in overall ranking)</b>				
COVID-19 age-adjusted mortality **	85	77-93	43	99
Life expectancy	78.4	78.2-78.7	80.6	78.7
Premature age-adjusted mortality	350	340-360	290	340
Child mortality	50	40-60	40	50
Infant mortality	6	5-7	4	5
Frequent physical distress **	10%	9-11%	10%	9%
Frequent mental distress **	13%	11-14%	13%	13%
Diabetes prevalence **	9%	8-10%	8%	9%
HIV prevalence	206		38	110
<b>Health Factors</b>				
<b>Health Behaviors</b>				
Adult smoking **	17%	15-20%	15%	17%
Adult obesity **	35%	34-37%	30%	34%
Food environment index	8.8		8.8	8.4
Physical inactivity **	25%	22-27%	23%	26%
Access to exercise opportunities	85%		86%	73%

Excessive drinking **	23%	23-24%	15%	25%
Alcohol-impaired driving deaths	29%	25-33%	10%	27%
Sexually transmitted infections	707.5		161.8	508.5
Teen births	19	18-20	11	16

**Additional Health Behaviors (not included in overall ranking)**

Food insecurity	8%		9%	9%
Limited access to healthy foods	5%		2%	6%
Drug overdose deaths	20	18-22	11	11
Motor vehicle crash deaths	7	6-8	9	11
Insufficient sleep **	32%	31-33%	32%	33%

**Clinical Care**

Uninsured	6%	5-6%	6%	6%
Primary care physicians	1,030:1		1,010:1	1,350:1
Dentists	1,330:1		1,210:1	1,440:1
Mental health providers	350:1		250:1	570:1
Preventable hospital stays	2,679		2,233	3,134
Mammography screening	52%		52%	53%
Flu vaccinations	61%		55%	54%

**Additional Clinical Care (not included in overall ranking)**

Uninsured adults	7%	6-8%	7%	7%
Uninsured children	2%	2-3%	3%	3%
Other primary care providers	660:1		580:1	840:1

**Social & Economic Factors**

High school completion	92%	92-93%	94%	92%
Some college	72%	70-74%	74%	71%
Unemployment	6.0%		4.0%	5.3%
Children in poverty	14%	12-16%	9%	12%
Income inequality	4.0	3.9-4.1	3.7	4.2
Children in single-parent households	24%	22-26%	14%	21%
Social associations	12.4		18.1	14.8
Violent crime	392		63	282
Injury deaths	72	68-75	61	70

**Additional Social & Economic Factors (not included in overall ranking)**

High school graduation	90%		96%	91%
Disconnected youth	8%	6-9%	4%	6%
Reading scores	3.0		3.3	3.1
Math scores	3.0		3.4	3.1
School segregation	0.13		0.02	0.19
School funding adequacy	\$3,311			\$1,880
Gender pay gap	0.83	0.80-0.86	0.88	0.78
Median household income	\$67,800	\$63,700 to \$71,900	\$75,100	\$62,400
Living wage **	\$38.15			\$37.38
Children eligible for free or reduced price lunch	47%		32%	42%
Residential segregation - Black/white	47		27	62
Residential segregation - non-white/white	37		16	45
Childcare cost burden **	23%		18%	24%
Childcare centers **	8		12	8
Homicides	4	4-5	2	3
Suicides	15	14-17	11	16
Firearm fatalities	10	9-11	8	10
Juvenile arrests	45			37

**Physical Environment**

Air pollution - particulate matter	8.0		5.9	8.2
Drinking water violations	No			
Severe housing problems	14%	13-14%	9%	12%
Driving alone to work	81%	81-82%	72%	80%
Long commute - driving alone	18%	17-19%	16%	21%

**Additional Physical Environment (not included in overall ranking)**

Traffic volume	667			260
Homeownership	67%	66-68%	81%	71%
Severe housing cost burden	10%	10-11%	7%	10%
Broadband access	87%	86-88%	88%	83%

^ 10th/90th percentile, i.e., only 10% are better.

\*\* Data should not be compared with prior years

Note: Blank values reflect unreliable or missing data

