

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

South Carolina

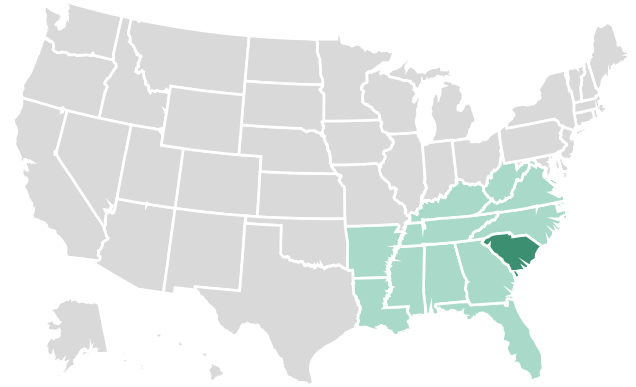


The
Commonwealth
Fund

South Carolina ranks #36 overall.

South Carolina ranks #6 in the Southeast region.

	National Rank	Rank Among Southeastern States*
Average Annual Air Quality Index	20 of 51	7 of 12
Health Risk from Extreme Heat	26	6
Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards	35	8
Health Care Facility Flood Risk	47	8
State Energy Efficiency Policy	49	12
State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact	12	1
Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	3	1
Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions	51	12



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

How South Carolina Compares to All States

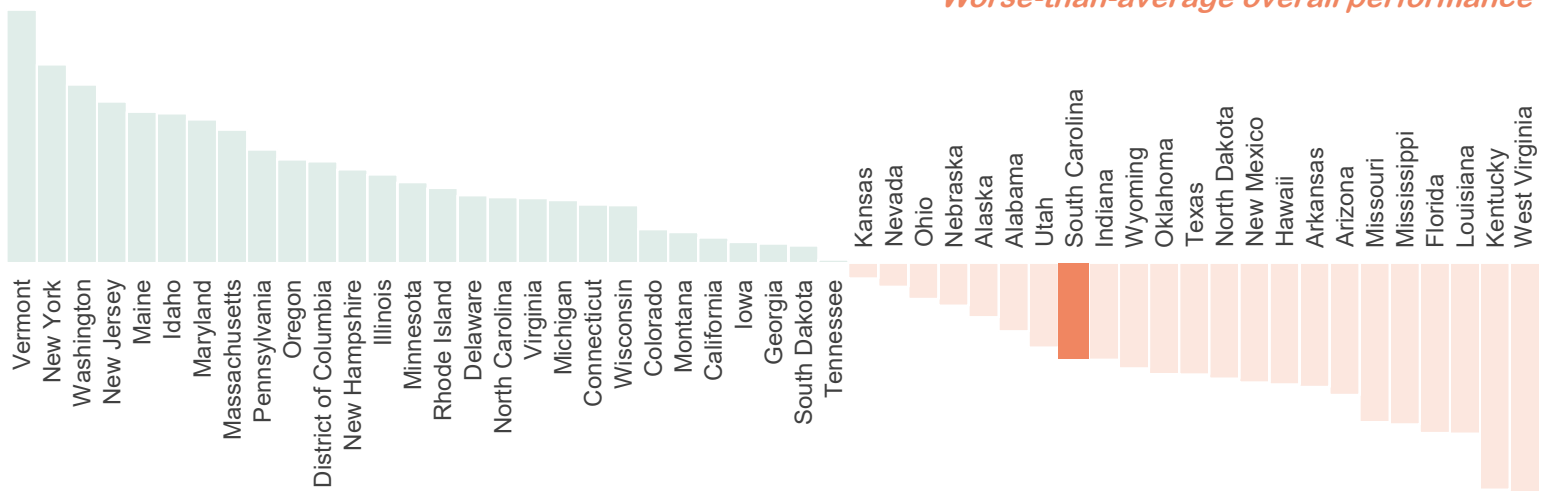


Table 1. Indicators of State Health System Climate Vulnerability and Performance

Indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	State rank
Average Annual Air Quality Index Scale of 0–500, with values below 100 generally considered good/moderate air quality	2022	39	42	20
Health Risk from Extreme Heat CDC/ATSDR ^a Heat and Health Index (0–1), with 1 indicating greatest risk	2024	0.51	0.51	26
Health Care Facility Risk from Natural Hazards FEMA ^b National Risk Index (0–100), with 100 indicating greatest risk	2023	68	54	35
Health Care Facility Flood Risk Percent of inpatient facility beds in high-hazard flood zones	2023	6.6%	2.5%	47
State Energy Efficiency Policy ACEEE ^c Energy Efficiency Scorecard (0–50), with 50 indicating best performance	2022	3	17	49
State Electricity Emissions and Their Health Impact Health impact per unit of electricity generated, ^d where lower values indicate less health impact from emissions	2021	0.275	0.464	12
Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kg CO ₂ e) ^e	2020	958	1,362	3
Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions Transportation-related GHG emissions from health care facility employee commuting (kg CO ₂ e per employee)	2022	2,718	2,169	51



South Carolina ranked best on:

Health Care Sector Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

The South Carolina health sector produces fewer 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.



South Carolina ranked worst on:

Health Care Worker Commuting Emissions

On average, health care facilities in South Carolina have higher annual commuting emissions per employee than in other states. Health care facilities in the state are more often located in lower-density areas with limited access to public transit or pedestrian infrastructure, requiring longer trips.

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 CO₂e stands for “carbon dioxide equivalent,” a standard measure of the warming effect of greenhouse gases.