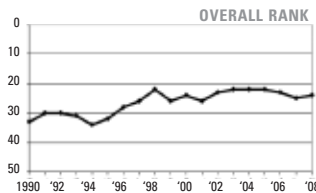# California

Ranking: California is 24th this year; it was 25th in 2007.

Strengths: Strengths include a low prevalence of smoking at 14.3 percent of the population, a low prevalence of obesity at 23.3 percent of the population, a low occupational fatalities rate at 3.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, a low infant mortality rate at 5.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, a low rate of cancer deaths at 175.4 deaths per 100,000 population and a low rate of preventable hospitalizations with 63.1 discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees.

Challenges: Challenges include high levels of air pollution at 14.8 micrograms of fine particulate per cubic meter, a high rate of uninsured population at 18.5 percent, high geographic disparity within the state at 17.3 percent and a high incidence of infectious disease at 21.4 cases per 100,000 population.

Significant Changes:
▼ In the past year, the incidence of infectious disease declined from 23.7 to 21.4 cases per 100,000 population.
▲ In the past year, the prevalence of binge drinking increased from 14.7 percent to 16.2 percent of the population.
▼ Since 1990, the violent crime rate decreased from 918 to 523 offenses per 100,000 population.
▼ Since 1990, the infant mortality rate declined from 9.0 to 5.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Health Disparities: In California, low birth weight babies are more common among non-Hispanic blacks at 12.5 percent than all other races in the state at 6.7 percent. Access to health care varies significantly by race and ethnicity in California; 34.4 percent of Hispanics lack health insurance compared to 9.7 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

State Health Department Web Site: www.dhs.ca.gov

OVERALL RANK

Overall Rank: 24
Change: ▲1

Strengths:
• Low prevalence of smoking
• Low prevalence of obesity
• Low rate of cancer deaths

Challenges:
• High levels of air pollution
• High rate of uninsured population
• High geographic disparity within the state

Significant Changes:
• In the past year, the incidence of infectious disease declined by 10%
• In the past year, the prevalence of binge drinking increased by 10%
• Since 1990, the violent crime rate decreased by 43%
• Since 1990, the premature death rate declined by 25%

California

	2008 VALUE	2008 RANK	2007 VALUE	2007 RANK	2003 VALUE	2003 RANK	1990 VALUE	1990 RANK
DETERMINANTS **PERSONAL BEHAVIORS**								
Prevalence of Smoking (Percent of population)	14.3	2	14.9	2	16.4	2	25.6	4
Prevalence of Binge Drinking (Percent of population	16.2⇑	30	14.7	24	15.2*	23	—	—
Prevalence of Obesity (Percent of population)	23.3	9	23.3	16	19.2	11	9.8	6
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT								
High School Graduation (Percent of incoming ninth graders)	74.6	33	73.9	32	68.7*	31*	68.5*	41
Violent Crime (Offenses per 100,000 population)	523	38	533	37	617	43	918	48
Occupational Fatalities (Deaths per 100,000 workers)	3.4	2	3.5	3	3.6	7	8.4*	16
Infectious Disease (Cases per 100,000 population)	21.4⇓	41	23.7	40	29.8	42	70.6	46
Children in Poverty (Percent of persons under age 18)	17.9	31	18.1	33	16.4	32	22.0	36
Air Pollution (Micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter)	14.8⇓	42	15.5	49	19.4	50.0	—	—
PUBLIC & HEALTH POLICIES								
Lack of Health Insurance (Percent without health insurance)	18.5	44	18.8	44	18.4	48	17.9	43
Public Health Funding (Dollars per person)	$104	12	$94	15	—	—	—	—
Immunization Coverage (Percent of children ages 19 to 35 months)	79.4	31	80.3	27	73.2	35	—	—
CLINICAL CARE								
Adequacy of Prenatal Care (Percent of pregnant women)	77.5**	—	78.7	18	79.87*	16	—*	31
Primary Care Physicians (Number per 100,000 population)	117.2	22	116.8	21	—	—	—	—
Preventable Hospitalizations (Number per 1,000 Medicare enrollees)	63.1	10	63.1	10	69.3	17	—	—
ALL DETERMINANTS	3.1	24	2.3	25	2.1	27	-1.6	34
HEALTH OUTCOMES								
Poor Mental Health Days (Days in previous 30 days)	3.5	32	3.8	43	3.6	40	—	—
Poor Physical Health Days (Days in previous 30 days)	3.3	15	3.7	38	3.6	40	—	—
Geographic Disparity (Relative standard deviation)	17.3	44	15.3	42	—	—	—	—
Infant Mortality (Deaths per 1,000 live births)	5.3	9	5.4	9	5.4	4	9.0	12
Cardiovascular Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 population)	289.2⇓	26	299.7	27	328.1	0	378.0	20
Cancer Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 population)	175.4	6	177.0	6	182.3	6	193.8	22
Premature Death (Years lost per 100,000 population)	6,356	14	6,323	14	6,506	15	8,453	25
ALL HEALTH OUTCOMES	2.2	21	1.3	26	3.5	9	-1.8	34
OVERALL	5.3	24	3.6	25	5.7	22	-3.4	33

⇓ and ⇑ indicate major increases and decreases in the last year.   — indicates data not available.   *Data may not be comparable.   **See measure description for full details.