

- Death rates from heart disease, defined as race-adjusted death rates (1991-1993 data) were 163 per 100,000 for Tennessee and 150 per 100,000 for the U.S. Tennessee's heart disease death rate was thus 9% higher than that of the U.S. A combined measure, risk for heart disease in Tennessee (1993-1994 data) was 10% above the U.S. mean.⁹ Tennessee's heart disease risk was inflated by a hypertension prevalence that was 12% higher than for the U.S. (24.4% versus 21.7%), and a sedentary lifestyle prevalence that was 16% higher than for the U.S. (65.6% versus 56.5%). However, Tennessee's obesity prevalence was 11% lower (at 26.6% versus 30.1%) than that of the U.S. This deflated somewhat the risk of heart disease in Tennessee relative to the U.S.
- Tennessee had a 5% excess cancer case rate over the U.S. in 1996. Cancer incidence rates for 1996 were 549 per 100,000 population for Tennessee and 522 for the U.S.
- Communicable disease rates (1993-1995 data) revealed a large excess for Tennessee. Tennessee's rate of 73 cases per 100,000 was 34% above the U.S. average of 55 cases per 100,000. Communicable diseases here include AIDS, hepatitis and tuberculosis.
- Tennessee, along with New York and Wyoming, had the largest increase in reported communicable disease since the 1990 rankings - 40 more cases per 100,000.
- Smoking prevalence in Tennessee (1994 data) was 17% above the U.S. average (26.5% versus 22.6%); motor vehicular crash death rates (1994 data) were 28% above the U.S. average (2.3 per 1,000,000 miles compared to 1.8 for the U.S.); and violent crime (1994 data) was 4% above the U.S. mean (748 offenses per 100,000 compared to 716 for the U.S.).
- High school graduation rates (1993-1994 data) were 10% lower in Tennessee than in the U.S. (70.1%), while unemployment (1995 data) was slightly (4%) lower in Tennessee (5.2%) than in the U.S. (5.4%).
- Compared to the U.S., 75% of Tennessee's mothers received adequate prenatal care (1994 data), a level that was 3% higher than for the U.S. (73%).

⁹This risk component was the average of three measures from the BRFSS (1993-1994 data), viz., prevalence of hypertension, prevalence of sedentary lifestyle and prevalence of obesity.