

[Home](#) > [2014](#) > [October](#) > The Best States in Which to Practice

FEATURE

The Best States in Which to Practice

Every state has much to offer physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. It may be quality of life. Employment opportunities. Regulatory and business friendliness. Or any of dozens of other features. But to make it to the top of PT in Motion's second annual analysis of the best states overall in which to practice, states needed high rankings in multiple traits that health care professionals say are important.

By Donald E. Tepper
October 2014

What's the best state in which to practice?

The answer of course depends in part on what you value. How important is salary? Quality of life? Future job prospects? Fewer regulatory restraints? The demographic characteristics (such as age and health) of the state's residents? And so on.

Many rankings of "best states" use some combination of these factors. Last year, when *PT in Motion* unveiled its "Best States in Which to Practice," the analysis used 6 criteria that are again used this year:

- **Well-being and future livability:** The quality of life—as it relates to both physical therapists (PTs) and the general population—and the overall health of the population are included here, as are projections on future living conditions.
- **Literacy and health literacy:** Both general literacy and health literacy, considered to be desirable population traits, reflect the ease and effectiveness with which health care providers can communicate with patients and clients.
- **Employment and employment projections:** What's the job situation? This factor is based on US Department of Labor projections for the percentage growth in physical therapy jobs by state over the next 10 years.
- **Business and practice friendliness:** Most health care professionals say it's more desirable to practice in a state that is friendly toward business in general and physical therapists in particular.
- **Technology and innovation:** Health information technology is becoming increasingly important in the practices of physical therapists and other health care providers with whom they interact. Which states lead in health care technology?
- **PT and student engagement with APTA:** These figures reflected PT and student membership in APTA. A greater involvement suggests a stronger commitment in time and money to current and future professional development as well as involvement in state and national regulatory and legislative issues.

This year, *PT in Motion* added a seventh factor:

- **Compensation and cost of living:** How much is a PT paid, on both an hourly and annual basis? And how far does the compensation stretch, as measured by that state's cost of living?

We also updated the data and made minor adjustments within categories. For example, PTA membership was added to the category formerly termed "PT and Student Engagement."



In calculating the final state rankings, we weighted each of the 7 criteria equally. For example, "employment and employment projections" counted as much as "well-being and future livability."

Other surveys and reader response to last year's survey suggest that all the factors are important. However, you personally might rank one higher than another, while your colleague might reverse those preferences. For that reason, we've provided the states' individual rankings for each of the 7 criteria so that you can adjust our rankings to your personal preferences.

The average score for each of the 7 criteria was 10. An above-average state (for instance, higher-than-average anticipated growth rate) received more than 10 points while a below-average state received fewer than 10 points. Thus, the average cumulative score across all 7 measures is 70. Actual cumulative state scores range from 49.6 to 90.4.

Many states received similar scores. For example, Iowa, ranked 7, received an overall score of 80.660, while Washington, ranked 8, received 80.613 points. Does that make Iowa a far better state in which to practice than Washington? Of course not. On the other hand, if you look at the individual components of the scores, you'll see that Washington ranks higher than Iowa in technology, while Iowa tops Washington in business friendliness.

But when it comes down to including all 7 factors, one state was the clear leader. Again. And that state was...

...Utah.

Utah scored 90.357 points, coming in above second-place Colorado, which itself turned in an impressive score of 87.071.

Unlike last year, Utah didn't rank first in any specific category-demonstrating that consistently strong numbers across the board is the real key to overall ranking success. Utah's highest scores came in "well-being and future livability" and "employment and employment projections," where it ranked third. Its lowest ranking was 23-still slightly above average-in "technology."

Similarly, Colorado demonstrated multiple strengths, ranking second in "well-being and future livability," third in "business and practice friendliness," and fourth in "technology."

Rounding out the Top 5 were Minnesota at number 3 (85.8 points), Nebraska at number 4 (84.3 points), and Idaho at number 5 (82.7 points).

It should be noted, though, that any state can have many desirable features. For instance, New Hampshire is ranked 18th but came in first for literacy and health literacy. Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee-none of which made the top 20 in the overall rankings-came in first, second, and third, respectively, in "compensation and cost of living," aided by a combination of above-average compensation and low cost of living.

Ranking the States: Behind the Numbers

What makes a state more or less desirable for practicing physical therapy? The answer can vary, based on each physical therapist's (PT) or physical therapist assistant's (PTA) personal preferences. A PT seeking a state with good compensation and a low cost of living might place Mississippi or Kentucky-the 2 states with the strongest combination of pay and cost of living-at the top of his list. A PTA who is seeking a state with strong prospects for employment and overall growth in employment might choose that category's top-ranking California.

Usually, though, the choice of the "best" state is based on multiple factors, many of which appear in different entities' rankings of "best states in which to practice" for a range of health care professions.

For example, *Physicians Practice* magazine rates the best states for physicians.¹ Factors in its calculations include cost of living, state and local income tax burden per capita, physicians per 100,000 residents (the lower, the better), malpractice payouts per capita, and medical board disciplinary actions per 1,000 physicians.

ValuePenguin, which compiles various "best" listings, ranked best cities for physical therapists based on PT income, cost of living, and concentration of physical therapists.²

A ranking by Dentistry iQ (a division of PennWell) of best states in which to be a dental hygienist includes percent of the population without insurance, public health funding, smoking prevalence, recent dental visits, and the unemployment rate.³

Other organizations' rankings show a similar mix of general economic issues (unemployment rate, cost of living, and so on), health-specific items (general population health, life expectancy), regulatory and business climate, and profession-specific

considerations (concentration of practitioners, utilization of providers in that state).

In constructing the initial *PT in Motion* "Best States" listing last year, we used these and other state rankings to identify 3 general areas:

- Making a living as a PT; financial and employment factors
- The health and other demographics of the population
- Quality of life

APTA chapters then were asked for their evaluation of those factors. They also were asked to provide additional suggestions. Based on those suggestions, further research, and feedback from last year's "Best States" listing, *PT in Motion* identified the 7 criteria to inform its 2014 rankings:

Well-Being and Future Livability

Rationale: The quality of life-as it relates to both PTs and the general population-and the overall health of the population are important considerations. After identifying dozens of different data sources, *PT in Motion* settled on 4. Two-dealing specifically with well-being and future livability-are compiled by Gallup. Each, in turn, is based on multiple inputs. The other 2, both compiled by Kaiser Family Foundation, are life expectancy at birth-a measure of overall health and well-being-and the percent of adults who participate in activity.

Well-Being Index

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index summarizes more than 50 different well-being items in 7 categories.⁴ The data are based on daily surveys conducted from January through December, including interviews with more than 350,000 Americans nationwide and at least 1,000 residents in each state except Alaska and Hawaii.

The major categories are:

- Overall wellbeing
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Exercise frequently
- Eat produce frequently
- City optimism
- Uninsured

The index is calculated on a scale of 0 to 100. In the current survey, the highest-ranking states are North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Minnesota.

Future Livability

The Gallup Future Livability Index uses 13 "forward-looking" metrics that it says might determine which states will be the best places to live in the future.⁵ Five of the 13 encompass economic, workplace, community, and personal choices. The remaining 8 metrics include evaluations of one's life 5 years from now, economic confidence, job creation, standard of living momentum, obesity, ease of finding a safe place to exercise, visits to the dentist, and the percentage of workers employed full time for an employer. The findings are based on the results of more than 350,000 interviews with US adults conducted from January 2011 through June 2012 as part of Gallup Daily Tracking and the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. The top-ranked states are Utah, Minnesota, and Colorado.

Patient Literacy and Health Literacy

Rationale: Both general literacy and health literacy are considered to be desirable population traits. They reflect the ease and effectiveness with which health care providers can communicate with patients and clients. For example, *The Health*

Literacy of America's Adults, published by the National Center for Education Statistics of the Department of Education, states, "Health literacy is important for all adults. Adults may read an article in a magazine or a pamphlet in their doctor's office about preventive health practices; they may need to fill a prescription, select and buy an over-the-counter medication, or understand health insurance forms. Parents must manage their children's health care, including getting them immunized, taking them for physicals, and having their illnesses treated."⁶

APTA supports health literacy. HPSO (Healthcare Providers Service Organization) explains: "Health literacy is integrated into key American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) core documents, including it as part of the evaluation criteria for accreditation of PT education programs. Health literacy is also implied in APTA's Statement of Practice for Physical Therapy."⁷

Data Sources: *PT in Motion's* measures of general and health literacy had multiple inputs:

- Percent of population in poverty. **Source:** Census Bureau.⁸
- Literacy-level of basic prose literacy skills. **Source:** US Department of Education.⁹
- Home access to the Internet. **Source:** Census Bureau.¹⁰
- Percentage of population with a graduate or professional degree. **Source:** American Community Survey.¹¹
- High school graduation rate. **Source:** Department of Education.¹²

In 2014, the 3 highest-ranking states in this category are New Hampshire, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

Employment and Employment Projections

Rationale: One nearly universal measure of "best states" in which to practice considers prospects for future employment and job demand. To determine this, *PT in Motion* began with the US Department of Labor employment projections for the percentage growth in physical therapy jobs by state from 2010 to 2020.¹³ We also factored in the percent of the US population in that state. For example, the Department of Labor projects similar demand growth for PTs in Alaska and Minnesota-approximately 33%. However, because Minnesota's population is approximately 7 times that of Alaska's, Minnesota ranks higher on our scale for employment opportunities. The top 2 states in 2014 in this category are California and Texas.

Business and Practice Friendliness

Rationale: It's more desirable to practice in a state that is friendly toward business in general and physical therapists in particular. To measure these factors, *PT in Motion* used 3 sources.

Small Business Friendliness

The first is the 2014 Thumbtack.com Small Business Friendliness Survey, conducted in partnership with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.¹⁴ Rather than basing its results on publicly available statistics (such as unemployment rates, income per capita, and tax rates) as proxies for a state's friendliness toward business, this survey asked nearly 8,000 small business owners to rate their local and state environment across a variety of measures. Therefore, according to Thumbtack, "we are able to capture nuances that are difficult or impossible to measure through other data sources." Components of the ratings included overall regulatory friendliness, friendliness of licensing regulations, friendliness of health and safety regulations, and availability of helpful training or networking programs. Ratings were expressed as grades, ranging from A+ to F. States receiving an A+ were Idaho, Texas, Utah, Louisiana, and Virginia.

Business Competitiveness

This is a CNBC ranking of all states using 56 measures of competitiveness, developed using input from business groups, economic development experts, companies, and the states themselves. States receive points based on their rankings in each metric. CNBC then separated those metrics into 10 broad categories, weighting the categories based on how frequently they are cited in state economic development marketing materials. CNBC explains, "That way, our study ranks the states based on the criteria they use to sell themselves." In 2014, the leading states are Georgia, Texas, and Utah.

Direct Access to Physical Therapy

APTA's "A Summary of Direct Access Language in State Physical Therapy Practice Acts" was used to determine a state's direct access score. 15 States with unlimited direct access scored the highest, followed by those with provisions.

Technology and Innovation

Rationale: Health information technology is becoming increasingly important to the practices of physical therapists. APTA says: "As we move closer to a nationwide health information technology infrastructure, APTA is aggressively pursuing avenues to assist physical therapists select and implement health information technology (HIT). Additionally, APTA is working with federal policymakers to educate them as to the importance of including physical therapists in HIT initiatives moving forward."

"While physicians and hospitals are the beneficiaries of many of the federal government's initial efforts to encourage HIT adoption, they will expect the other providers they work with, including physical therapists, to use it as well. Patients may also begin to expect their providers to use HIT to manage their care. Physical therapists should remain aware of and become educated on issues relating to health information technology particularly in this dynamic health care delivery environment."

The ranking of technology and innovation uses 5 different measures:

State Telehealth Laws and Reimbursement Policies. The 2013 report by the Center for Connected Health Policy is a summary guide describing how each of the 50 states defines, governs, and regulates the use of telehealth or telemedicine technologies in the delivery of health care services. *16PT in Motion* assigned points for 5 factors (reimbursement, live video, store and forward, remote patient monitoring, and cross-state licensing) identified in the report.

- **Adoption of Basic EHRs: Overall Physician Practices.** 17 Compiled by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, US Department of Health and Human Services.
- **Overall Hospital Adoption of EHRs.** 18 Compiled by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, US Department of Health and Human Services.
- **State Technology and Science Index.** 19 A composite of nearly 80 factors collected from public and private sources and assembled into 5 categories: human capital investment, risk capital and entrepreneurial infrastructure, research and development inputs, technology concentration and dynamism, and technology and science work force. Compiled by the Milken Institute.
- The "**Technology and Innovation**" component of CNBC's "America's Top States for Business 2014."²⁰

The highest-ranked states in the category of technology are Illinois, Minnesota, California, and Colorado.

APTA Engagement

Rationale: These figures reflect PT, PTA, and student engagement with APTA. They are based on the percent of PTs, PTAs, and students within a state who are members of APTA. These figures may suggest a commitment in time and money to current and future professional development as well as involvement in state and national regulatory and legislative issues. A state with an active and engaged student body and professionals is likely to be more responsive to those interests and concerns.

Scores were weighted, with 50% of the score based on PT membership, 33% based on PTA membership, and 17% based on student membership. Among the leaders are the District of Columbia, Alaska, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

Data Sources: APTA compiles regional information on student membership in APTA.²¹ APTA also compiles state-level information for PT and PTA memberships.²²

Compensation and Cost of Living

Rationale: The pay and benefits that a PT receives are important considerations in determining a state's desirability. However, a lower cost of living can offset lower compensation. This category looked at 3 elements: (1) hourly rate of pay for physical therapists, (2) annual rate of pay for physical therapists, and (3) the state's cost of living. States with high rates of compensation and low cost of living ranked highest. The highest-ranking states were Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Data for hourly and annual rates of pay came from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.²³ Cost of living data came from the

Adding it Up

To calculate scores in each of the 7 categories, the average ranking nationwide was assigned a score of 10. An above-average state was awarded additional points; the more it exceeded the average, the more points it received. A below-average state received fewer than 10 points, based on how much below average it scored.

Each state's 7 scores were added up. These scores were not weighted; each of the 7 counted equally. Each state's summary also shows how it ranks in each of the 7 contributing factors.

Donald E. Tepper is editor of PT in Motion.

References

1. Sprey E. Best States to Practice 2013. Physicians Practice. September 27, 2013. <http://www.physicianspractice.com/best-states-practice-2013>. Accessed August 8, 2014.
2. Best Cities for Physical Therapists. Value Penguin. <http://www.valuepenguin.com/2013/07/best-cities-physical-therapists>. Accessed August 8, 2014.
3. Best states to be a dental hygienist. Dentistry iQ. <http://www.dentistryiq.com/articles/2012/01/best-states-rdh-2012.html>. Accessed August 8, 2014.
4. Witters D. North Dakota No. 1 in Well-Being, West Virginia Still Last. February 20, 2014. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/167435/north-dakota-well-being-west-virginia-still-last.aspx>. Accessed September 8, 2014.
5. Witters D. Utah Poised to Be the Best U.S. State to Live in. Gallup. August 7, 2012. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/156449/utah-poised-best-state-live.aspx>. Accessed August 6, 2013.
6. Kutner M, Greenberg E, Jin Y, et al. The Health Literacy of America's Adults-Results from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NCES 2006-483). National Center for Education Statistics, US Department of Education iii-iv.
7. Improving health literacy improves patient outcomes. Healthcare Providers Service Organization Risk Advisor for Physical Therapists. 2012. <http://www.hpso.com/pdfs/db/newsletters/2012-PhysicalTherapist-Risk-Advisor.pdf?fileName=2012-PhysicalTherapist-Risk-Advisor.pdf&folder=pdfs/db/newsletters&isLiveStr=Y>.
8. Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State: 2000 and 2012. Census 2000 Supplementary Survey and 2012 American Community Survey. U.S. Department of Commerce. Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/acsbr12-01.pdf>. Accessed August 8, 2014.
9. National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences. <http://nces.ed.gov/naal/>. Accessed August 8, 2014.
10. Computer and Internet Use in the United States: 2012. US Department of Commerce. United States Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov/hhes/computer/files/2012/table2.xls>. Accessed August 8, 2014.
11. "Percent of People Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree by State." American Community Survey. <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/>. Accessed August 6, 2014.
12. Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the Common Core of Data: School Year 2009–10. National Center for Education Statistics. Department of Education. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013309rev.pdf>. Accessed August 6, 2014.
13. Occupational Employment Statistics. Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2013. 29-1123 Physical Therapists. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291123.htm>. Accessed August 11, 2014.
14. United States Small Business Friendliness. <http://www.thumbtack.com/survey#/2014/1/states>. Accessed September 8, 2014.
15. A Summary of Direct Access Language in State Physical Therapy Practice Acts. January 2014. www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/Advocacy/State/Issues/Direct_Access/DirectAccessbyState.pdf. Accessed September 8, 2014.
16. State Telehealth Policies and Reimbursement Schedules. Center for Connected Health Policy. 2014. http://cchpca.org/sites/default/files/uploader/50/STATE_MEDICAID_REPORT_SEPT_2014.pdf. Accessed September 8, 2014.
17. Hsiao C, Hing E. Use and Characteristics of Electronic Health Record Systems Among Office-based Physician Practices: United States, 2001–2013. NCHS Data Brief No. 143. January 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db143.pdf>. Accessed September 8, 2014.
18. Charles D, Gabriel M, Furukawa M. Adoption of Electronic Health Record Systems among U.S. Non-federal Acute Care Hospitals: 2008-2013. Data Brief No. 16. May 2014 <http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/oncdatabrief16.pdf>. Accessed September 8, 2014.
19. State Technology and Science Index. Statetechandscience.org. 2012. The Milken Institute. <http://statetechandscience.org/statetech.taf>. Accessed August 8, 2014.
20. Technology and Innovation (CNBC) 2014 <http://www.cnn.com/id/101758236>. Accessed August 8, 2014.
21. APTA Student Market Share as of December 31 [2011] www.apta.org/MembershipDevelopment/Statistics/StudentMarketShare/. Accessed August 6, 2013.
22. 2012 PT/PTA Market Share by State. www.apta.org/MembershipDevelopment/Statistics/ChapterMarketShare/. Accessed September 8, 2014.
23. Occupational Employment Statistics. Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2013. 29-1123 Physical Therapists. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291123.htm>. Accessed August 11, 2014.
24. Cost of Living Data Series First Quarter 2014. Missouri Economic Research and Information Center. http://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost_of_living/index.stm. Accessed August 11, 2014.

What's Good? What's Bad?

When ranking a state or city, some criteria pretty obviously work in favor of, or against, a particular location. It's generally agreed that higher practitioner income and lower cost of living are positive factors. So is future demand.

Some factors, however, aren't as easy to categorize. For example, consider concentration of practitioners in an area. Is it good if there's a greater concentration of PTs in a state or city? Or does the higher concentration reflect more competition and, thus, become a negative factor?

Physicians Practice considers higher physician density-number of physicians per 100,000 residents-to be a negative.¹ It views this as greater competition. Areas with high concentrations in that publication's ratings are the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, and Maryland.

On the other hand, ValuePenguin, in rating best cities for PTs, considers a greater concentration-what it terms "location quotient"-to be good.² It explains, "A higher location quotient can be inferred to mean a relatively high demand for physical therapy services." Among its highest location quotient locations are Peabody, Massachusetts, Punta Gorda, Florida, and Danbury, Connecticut.

PT in Motion's ratings do not consider concentration of PTs.

The Top 20 States in Detail

Presented below are the detailed rankings for the top 20 states. Each shows the state's overall ranking (lower is better), its cumulative score (higher is better), and its ranking for each of the 7 criteria.

Utah

Overall Ranking: 1
 Score: 90.357
 Well-being and Future Livability: 3
 Literacy and Health Literacy: 12
 Employment and Employment Projections: 3
 Business and Practice Friendliness: 13
 Technology and Innovation: 23
 APTA Engagement: 6
 Compensation and Cost of Living: 16

Colorado

Overall Ranking: 2
 Score: 87.071
 Well-being and Future Livability: 2
 Literacy and Health Literacy: 16
 Employment and Employment Projections: 12
 Business and Practice Friendliness: 3
 Technology and Innovation: 4
 APTA Engagement: 28
 Compensation and Cost of Living: 33

Minnesota

Overall Ranking: 3
 Score: 85.843
 Well-being and Future Livability: 1
 Literacy and Health Literacy: 2

Employment and Employment Projections: 16
Business and Practice Friendliness: 19
Technology and Innovation: 2
APTA Engagement: 23
Compensation and Cost of Living: 30

Nebraska

Overall Ranking: 4
Score: 84.314
Well-being and Future Livability: 8
Literacy and Health Literacy: 10
Employment and Employment Projections: 39
Business and Practice Friendliness: 2
Technology and Innovation: 32
APTA Engagement: 4
Compensation and Cost of Living: 18

Idaho

Overall Ranking: 5
Score: 82.744
Well-being and Future Livability: 14
Literacy and Health Literacy: 26
Employment and Employment Projections: 10
Business and Practice Friendliness: 1
Technology and Innovation: 48
APTA Engagement: 9
Compensation and Cost of Living: 19

Virginia

Overall Ranking: 6
Score: 81.776
Well-being and Future Livability: 19
Literacy and Health Literacy: 27
Employment and Employment Projections: 6
Business and Practice Friendliness: 18
Technology and Innovation: 8
APTA Engagement: 20
Compensation and Cost of Living: 22

Iowa

Overall Ranking: 7
Score: 80.660
Well-being and Future Livability: 17
Literacy and Health Literacy: 7
Employment and Employment Projections: 22
Business and Practice Friendliness: 8
Technology and Innovation: 36
APTA Engagement: 12
Compensation and Cost of Living: 17

Washington

Overall Ranking: 8
Score: 80.613
Well-being and Future Livability: 12
Literacy and Health Literacy: 20
Employment and Employment Projections: 26
Business and Practice Friendliness: 32
Technology and Innovation: 5
APTA Engagement: 8
Compensation and Cost of Living: 29

Arizona

Overall Ranking: 9
Score: 80.210
Well-being and Future Livability: 22
Literacy and Health Literacy: 35
Employment and Employment Projections: 9
Business and Practice Friendliness: 5
Technology and Innovation: 6
APTA Engagement: 15
Compensation and Cost of Living: 32

Alaska

Overall Ranking: 10
Score: 78.773
Well-being and Future Livability: 19
Literacy and Health Literacy: 8
Employment and Employment Projections: 29
Business and Practice Friendliness: 9
Technology and Innovation: 30
APTA Engagement: 2
Compensation and Cost of Living: 47

South Dakota

Overall Ranking: 11
Score: 78.756
Well-being and Future Livability: 13
Literacy and Health Literacy: 11
Employment and Employment Projections: 43
Business and Practice Friendliness: 4
Technology and Innovation: 35
APTA Engagement: 3
Compensation and Cost of Living: 34

Oregon

Overall Ranking: 12
Score: 78.592
Well-being and Future Livability: 15
Literacy and Health Literacy: 23
Employment and Employment Projections: 18
Business and Practice Friendliness: 12
Technology and Innovation: 7
APTA Engagement: 10
Compensation and Cost of Living: 44

Montana

Overall Ranking: 13
Score: 78.010
Wellbeing and Future Livability: 18
Literacy and Health Literacy: 16
Employment and Employment Projections: 13
Business and Practice Friendliness: 20
Technology and Innovation: 34
APTA Engagement: 7
Compensation and Cost of Living: 35

North Dakota

Overall Ranking: 14
Score: 76.502
Well-being and Future Livability: 9
Literacy and Health Literacy: 3
Employment and Employment Projections: 46
Business and Practice Friendliness: 7
Technology and Innovation: 24
APTA Engagement: 16
Compensation and Cost of Living: 37

Wisconsin

Overall Ranking: 15
Score: 75.674
Well-being and Future Livability: 10
Literacy and Health Literacy: 6
Employment and Employment Projections: 36
Business and Practice Friendliness: 38
Technology and Innovation: 14
APTA Engagement: 17
Compensation and Cost of Living: 28

Kansas

Overall Ranking: 16
Score: 74.897
Well-being and Future Livability: 26
Literacy and Health Literacy: 13
Employment and Employment Projections: 20
Business and Practice Friendliness: 21
Technology and Innovation: 33
APTA Engagement: 21
Compensation and Cost of Living: 11

Wyoming

Overall Ranking: 17
Score: 73.909
Well-being and Future Livability: 28
Literacy and Health Literacy: 14
Employment and Employment Projections: 33
Business and Practice Friendliness: 31

Technology and Innovation: 41
 APTA Engagement: 5
 Compensation and Cost of Living: 12

New Hampshire

Overall Ranking: 18
 Score: 73.701
 Well-being and Future Livability: 11
 Literacy and Health Literacy: 1
 Employment and Employment Projections: 34
 Business and Practice Friendliness: 15
 Technology and Innovation: 19
 APTA Engagement: 45
 Compensation and Cost of Living: 40

Maryland

Overall Ranking: 19
 Score: 73.015
 Well-being and Future Livability: 24
 Literacy and Health Literacy: 22
 Employment and Employment Projections: 15
 Business and Practice Friendliness: 22
 Technology and Innovation: 11
 APTA Engagement: 40
 Compensation and Cost of Living: 39

Massachusetts

Overall Ranking: 20
 Score: 72.551
 Well-being and Future Livability: 6
 Literacy and Health Literacy: 15
 Employment and Employment Projections: 31
 Business and Practice Friendliness: 14
 Technology and Innovation: 9
 APTA Engagement: 51
 Compensation and Cost of Living: 42

PT in Motion, APTA's official member magazine, is the successor to *PT—Magazine of Physical Therapy*, which published 1993-2009. All links within articles reflect the URLs at the time of publication and may have expired.

Comments

How do we access the entire list with all 50 states?

Posted by Rick Gawenda -> =IY`?L on 9/27/2014 10:16:17 PM

Where can we access the ranking of all 50 states?

Posted by Pamela Roberts -> CKPc= on 9/27/2014 11:57:50 PM

Yes!!!...For Minnesota!!!

Posted by Cynthia Rieck -> @JVAD on 9/28/2014 3:35:45 PM

I am shocked that WV didn't make the Top 20. I hope we made the Top 50...

Posted by Jonathan James -> =IV_

Very interesting where does Del stack up?f

Posted by Linda Cullen -> >FSJCH on 9/28/2014 5:09:42 PM

What about the rest of the States?

Posted by Richard Kruckeberg -> ?FWa< on 9/28/2014 6:25:16 PM

Where is new York on that list?

Posted by Matthew Catanzarite -> >KW^DH on 9/28/2014 9:39:32 PM

Maybe I missed this, but I don't find anywhere the State practice Act, State Rules and Regulations being factored into the equation. When it comes to practice-and I am considering moving to another state-the first thing I will look at is that state's practice act. A number of states have very restrictive language-If I have a choice I won't move there-no matter the other factors. This 'ranking' makes for interesting reading. Thanks-Bill

Posted by William Boissonnault -> ?MU'D on 9/30/2014 1:22:11 PM

There is so much data being collected on each state, that the results don't end up really measuring anything. Would be nice to see useful results, which would be the state rankings by each category. That would be a useful and accurate representation of which states are the "best" states in which to practice.

Posted by Frank Bates -> ?GRc=G on 10/1/2014 4:37:36 PM

I would be interested in seeing the ranking of the bottom 30 states. It might help those of us living in these states to see what we may be able to do to help improve our scores and give us a basis for inter-state collaboration.

Posted by Lise McCarthy -> >JVADJ on 10/3/2014 8:52:25 AM

Dr. Boissonnault, I absolutely agree with your statement whole-heartedly!!! I recently was licensed in FL to take a traveler position there. However, I was unaware of the absolute restrictions regarding spinal manipulation and DN/IMT there before I read and took the practice act exam. If I would have known this prior, I would not have "wasted" my training in such a restrictive state that has no real limitations with PTA supervision, and allows Chiropractors, Physiatrists, and Orthopedic Surgeons to take my supervision place post evaluation!!! Now in NC, I come to find out that with spinal manipulation, that it has to be "specified" on the prescription to be performed!!! I am just a Padawan with 20+ years of experience, however, this has opened my eyes to how little we have progressed as a profession in the "whole" scheme of things...

Posted by Andrew Dimitro -> =FR^EM on 10/3/2014 6:29:26 PM

I found it interesting that Alaska scored second on APTA Engagement and 47th on Compensation and Cost of Living, which contradicts the reason that most Floridians give as being the reason for not joining the APTA; high cost. It's sad that the commitment for professional development is not higher in our state.

Posted by Anna Castaneda -> AJVZEG on 10/4/2014 9:46:21 AM

LOL!!! "I am shocked that WV didn't make the Top 20. I hope we made the Top 50..." Love it Jonathan!!!

Posted by Andrew Dimitro -> =FR^EM on 10/4/2014 11:10:23 AM

Like other people have asked, where can we get ranking of the bottom 30 states?

Posted by Michael Gorman -> =HR_

The rest of the rankings?!?!?

Posted by Adam Holleran -> ?Oub?I on 10/7/2014 11:18:29 AM

more support for posting the entire results inclusive of all states! perhaps with columns for each sub-field that can be sorted lowest-highest or vice-versa for easy comparison of the sub-factors. Thanks!

Posted by Lauren Stubbs -> BHV`

please provide a list of the bottom 30 states

Posted by Dale Buchberger -> ?MTcCO on 11/14/2014 4:09:46 PM

Leave a comment:

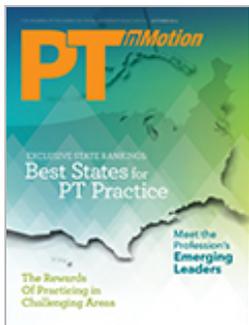
(2000 character limit)

Submit Comment

ADVERTISEMENT



You're Reading



October 2014

[See more from this issue.](#)