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## NEWS

# Indiana ranks last on list of 'Safest States During COVID-19'

**Rashika Jaipuriar** Indianapolis Star

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More than half of Indiana's population remains unvaccinated against COVID-19, and the state's largest hospital system is so strained they've asked the Indiana National Guard for assistance.

A new WalletHub report adds another dire distinction to the résumé: Indiana is the least safe state in the country during the pandemic.

It's not *one* of the worst, or the worst *in the Midwest* — it's the worst.

Indiana ranked 51 on the list of "Safest States During COVID-19" (which includes all 50 states and Washington, D.C.).

The rankings came from the following data, according to WalletHub:

- Vaccinations
- Deaths
- Hospitalizations
- Transmission rate
- Positive testing rate

All five categories were averaged together and graded on a 100-point scale, with 100 being the most safe.

Indiana received a score of 17.67 out of 100.

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Hoosiers fared poorly in each individual category.

When looking at vaccination rates, Indiana ranks No. 48 out of all 50 states and Washington, D.C. For COVID-19 hospitalizations, Indiana ranks No. 46 — tied with South Dakota, Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan.

As of Thursday, Dec. 16, the state reported more than 5,100 COVID-19 cases and more than 3,000 people in the hospital, according to the Indiana State Department of Health's dashboard. Indiana's latest average positivity rate was 13.8%, as of Dec. 10.

Nearly 18,000 Hoosiers have died due to COVID during the pandemic.

*Contact Rashika Jaipuriar at [rjaipuriar@gannett.com](mailto:rjaipuriar@gannett.com) and follow her on Twitter @rashikajpr.*