

Most Caring Cities In America For 2026

Caring means having a connection with others and being concerned for their wellbeing. It can be expressed in many ways - from helping an elderly person cross the street to fighting a house fire. Some people prefer a more hands-on approach to show they care through their choice of employment or volunteering, while others open their pocketbooks to donate toward causes that help those in need.

Americans donated over \$592 billion in 2024 - and even after accounting for inflation, donations still rose 3.3% from 2023, marking a strong year for charitable giving. Even if you can't afford to give away your income - especially during the challenging conditions of the current economy - there are plenty of other ways to show compassion to others. You can volunteer your time and expertise as well.

In order to identify the areas that care the most, WalletHub compared the 100 largest cities across 38 key indicators of a compassionate spirit. Our data set ranges from the share of sheltered homeless people to volunteering hours per capita to the share of income donated to charity.

"The most caring cities donate a lot of money to charity and have high volunteer rates, but being a caring city overall requires much more than just giving time or money. In the top cities, like Virginia Beach, VA, Boston, MA, and Scottsdale, AZ, residents also display their care for others by working in

professions that help others, like teaching, social work, firefighting and medicine, at high rates. In addition, the top cities have low crime rates, environmentally-friendly residents and low rates of poverty and homelessness."

Chip Lupo, Wallethub Analyst

The Most Caring Cities In America

State	Score
1. Virginia Beach, VA.....	68.52
2. Boston, MA.....	68.06
3. Scottsdale, AZ.....	68.01
4. Gilbert, AZ.....	67.24
5. Fremont, CA.....	66.60
6. San Diego, CA.....	66.44
7. Chesapeake, VA.....	66.16
8. Colorado Springs, CO.....	65.78
9. St. Paul, MN.....	65.68
10. Madison, WI.....	65.12
11. Irvine, CA.....	64.65
12. Chula Vista, CA.....	64.45
13. Plano, TX.....	64.21
14. Lincoln, NE.....	64.13
15. New York, NY.....	63.93

25. Chicago, IL..... 61.33

Least Charitable Cities In America

87. Laredo, TX.....	49.46
88. Corpus Christi, TX.....	49.20
89. San Antonio, TX.....	48.70
90. Albuquerque, NM.....	48.10
91. Greensboro, NC.....	47.91
92. Houston, TX.....	47.89
93. San Bernardino, CA.....	47.30
94. Tulsa, OK.....	47.13
95. Cleveland, OH.....	46.86
96. New Orleans, LA.....	45.41
97. Detroit, MI.....	43.91
98. Memphis, TN.....	43.33

Illinois Maternal Mortality Report Finds Rise In Pregnancy-Related Deaths

by Maggie Dougherty, Capital News Illinois
Preventable pregnancy-related deaths rose and stark racial disparities remained in the Illinois Department of Public Health's most recent maternal mortality report.

The report studied 219 deaths that occurred in Illinois in 2021 and 2022 during or within one year of pregnancy. The two committees that reviewed the deaths determined 94 to be related to pregnancy. This is an increase from past data, which have been published in two-to-three-year increments since 2015.

"Each maternal death represents far more than a statistic: it is a profound and often preventable loss that leaves lasting emotional, social, and economic scars on families, communities, and society," the report stated. "Beyond the immediate tragedy, each loss signals a broader failure to provide equitable, comprehensive, and culturally competent maternal care."

Of the pregnancy-related deaths that occurred in 2021 and 2022, the committees found 91% could have been prevented.

Common causes

As in past years, substance use disorder remained the most common cause of pregnancy-related death, accounting for nearly a third of the deaths in the recent data. Other leading causes included blood clots and COVID-19, which rose in prevalence as the cause of death in 12% and 11% of deaths, respectively. Deaths due to hemorrhage, or postpartum bleeding, doubled to 10% from 5% in the previous period.

Black Illinoisians had the highest rate of maternal mortality at 78 deaths per 100,000 live births. The report found discrimination was present in 74% of the deaths related to Black pregnancies, making it the most common contributing factor in Black pregnancy-related deaths.

In August, Gov. JB Pritzker signed House Bill 2517, requiring obstetric care providers to take anti-bias training. The course was designed to educate maternal health care providers on historic racial discrepancies to reduce implicit biases and improve health outcomes.

99. Baton Rouge, LA.....	43.24
100. Birmingham, AL.....	38.24

Key Stats

◆ Tulsa, Oklahoma, has the highest share of income donated to charity, which is 3.2 times higher than in Laredo, Texas, the city with the lowest.

◆ Baltimore has the most volunteer hours per capita, which is 5.9 times more than in Jacksonville, Florida, the city with the fewest.

◆ Jacksonville, Florida, has the highest share of residents who do favors for their neighbors, which is 1.8 times higher than in Orlando, Florida, the city with the lowest.

◆ Buffalo, New York, has the highest share of sheltered homeless persons, which is 3.7 times higher than in Stockton, California.

◆ Fremont, California, has the lowest child-poverty rate, which is 10.9 times lower than in Cleveland, Ohio.

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	R	A	W	G	A	U	L	Z	A	P		
A	O	N	E	U	N	T	O	I	M	O		
D	O	N	A	I	D	O	L	T	I	N		
A	M	O	K	I	A	P	S	I	D	E		
				W	I	T	I	S	T			
B	R	A	I	N	Y	A	I	R	B	A	G	
B	U	R	L	S				L	O	O	S	E
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				F	T	F	M	S	G			
M	O	L	D	T	W	O	A	S	A	P		
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S	Y	N	M	C	I	I	M	A	T	E		
A	X	E	E	T	T	E	S	T	E	P		

New Education Laws

(From Toluca Front Page) inherent within artificial intelligence products."

The law directs ISBE to publish those guidelines by July 1.

Other education laws

Also beginning Jan. 1, students in seventh and eighth grade will be able to get an early jump on earning high school credits.

House Bill 3039 authorizes districts to award credits to seventh and eighth graders who enroll in

high school classes as long as they pass both the course and the end-of-course examination demonstrating they have achieved high school-level proficiency.

House Bill 1366 requires districts to notify the parents or guardians of students with special needs that they have a right to bring a third-party advocate with them to meetings about their student's Individual Education Plan, or IEP meetings.



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Help Lacon-Sparland Ambulance Save Lives



Join us for a fun night to raise money for essential, up-to-date life-saving equipment for our dedicated Lacon-Sparland Ambulance Service! Your support ensures our first responders have the best tools ready when our community needs them most.

CASH DONATIONS & RAFFLE ITEM DRIVE!

We are seeking cash donations and donations of raffle items (baskets, gift certificates, merchandise, etc.) to make this our most successful event yet!

To Donate Raffle items, please drop them off at the Lacon Ambulance Service or contact Kelsey Fitschen at (309) 472-7665 before the event.



WHISKERZ PUB, Lacon
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 28, 4:00

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **BINGO** will start at 5:00 p.m. and continue through the evening. Please join in at any time
- ◆ Play Bingo to help raise money and win fantastic prizes!
 - ◆ Raffle Drawings!
 - ◆ Pulled Pork and fixings until gone.

YOUR DONATION DIRECTLY EQUIPS OUR AMBULANCES!

Thank you for being a vital part of our life-saving team! If you would like to send a donation directly, please send to:

Lacon-Sparland Ambulance
PO Box 52, 921 Fifth Street, Lacon, IL 61540



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