Gaps in Adult Health Status by Level of Education: How Do States Compare?

In every state, the percent of adults ages 25 to 74 in less than very good health was lowest among college graduates and increased as the level of educational attainment decreased. Although the size of the gap1 between each state’s overall rate of less than very good health and the rate among college graduates varies markedly, adults in every state could be healthier.

Size\(^2\) of Gap in Adult Health Status\(^3\)
(Percent of adults in less than very good health)

- **Small Gap** (9.0–12.8)
- **Medium Gap** (13.0–14.7)
- **Large Gap** (15.1–19.9)

---

Prepared for the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America by the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco. Source: 2005-2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data.

1 Defined as the difference between the state’s overall rate and the rate among college graduates.
2 States were categorized into three approximately equal groups based on the size of the gaps in adult health status by level of educational attainment.
3 Based on self-report and measured as poor, fair, good, very good or excellent.