

Rural Interstate Condition

In most states road condition is measured using special machines that determine the roughness of road surfaces. (A few states continue to use visual ratings). About 1.93 percent of U.S. rural interstates—580 miles out of 30,040—were reported in poor condition in 2007. Rural interstate condition has shown a slight improvement from 2006, when 1.98 percent of rural interstates were rated poor. However, the percentage of poor miles has consistently hovered near 2 percent since 2002, indicating that progress is becoming increasingly difficult.

The amount of poor mileage varies widely by state. Twenty states reported no poor mileage, and 10 more reported less than 1 percent poor mileage. On the other hand, four states (New York, Louisiana, New Jersey and Alaska) reported 5-10 percent poor mileage, and California reported more than 10 percent poor mileage (16.32 percent poor). California, in 2007, reported a total of 209 miles of rural interstate in poor condition, up significantly from just 49 miles reported to be in poor condition in 2006.

Poor-mileage interstate is increasingly a local problem rather than a national problem. About 64 percent of all the poor-condition rural interstate in the U.S. is in just four states (CA, NY, AK and LA), and two of these (CA and NY) have almost half (Table 10, Rural Interstate Condition, and Figure 3).

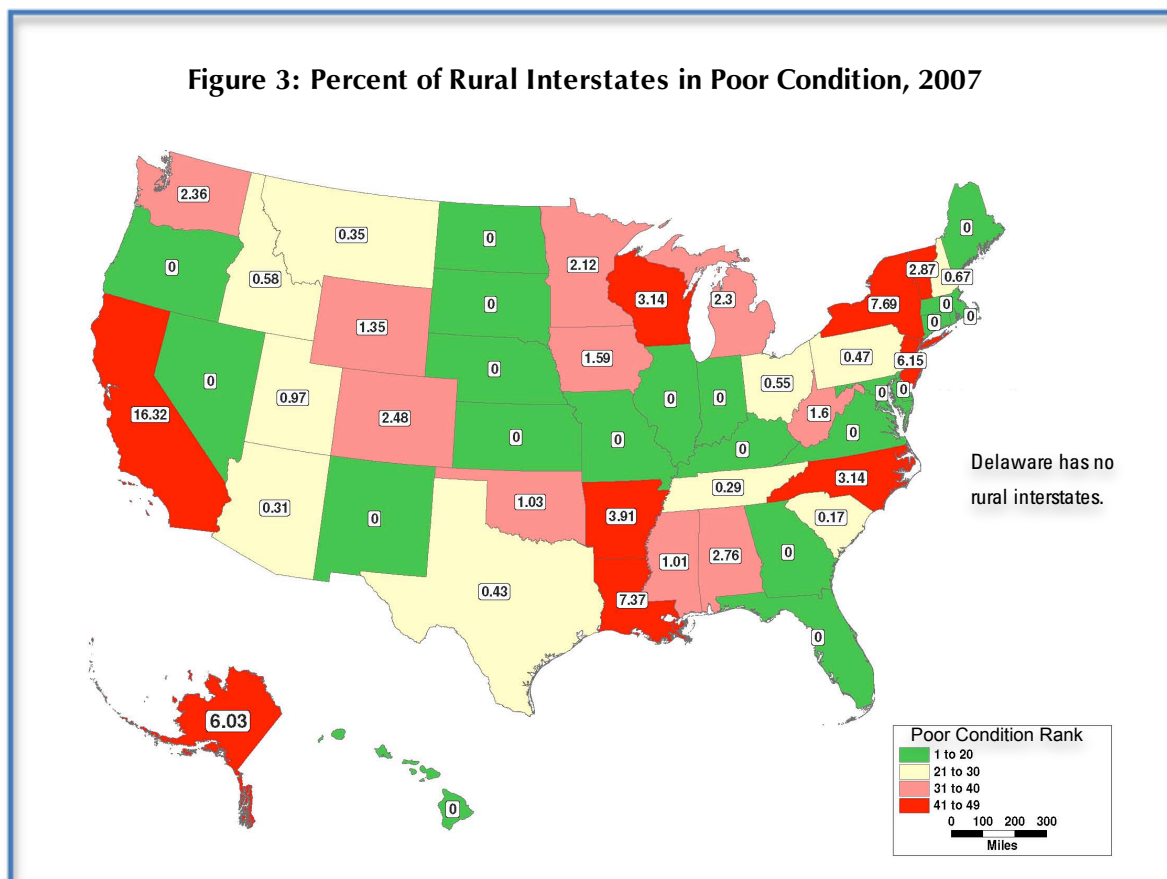


Table 10: Rural Interstate Condition, 2007					
Rank	State	Percent Poor Miles	Rank	State	Percent Poor Miles
1	CT	0.00	26	PA	0.47
1	FL	0.00	27	OH	0.55
1	GA	0.00	28	ID	0.58
1	HI	0.00	29	NH	0.67
1	IL	0.00	30	UT	0.97
1	IN	0.00	31	MS	1.01
1	KS	0.00	32	OK	1.02
1	KY	0.00	33	WY	1.35
1	MA	0.00	34	IA	1.59
1	MD	0.00	35	WV	1.60
1	ME	0.00	36	MN	2.12
1	MO	0.00	37	MI	2.30
1	ND	0.00	38	WA	2.36
1	NE	0.00	39	CO	2.48
1	NM	0.00	40	AL	2.76
1	NV	0.00	41	VT	2.87
1	OR	0.00	42	WI	3.14
1	RI	0.00	43	NC	3.14
1	SD	0.00	44	AR	3.91
1	VA	0.00	45	AK	6.03
21	SC	0.17	46	NJ	6.15
22	TN	0.29	47	LA	7.37
23	AZ	0.31	48	NY	7.69
24	MT	0.35	49	CA	16.32
25	TX	0.43		DE*	NA
				U.S.	1.93

* Delaware has no rural Interstate mileage.