



Carbon monoxide poisoning is a pervasive yet preventable threat in the United States, causing significant harm each year. UL Standards & Engagement has developed the CO Risk Readiness Assessment to evaluate how effectively each U.S. state addresses CO risks.

*The labels "Worst" and "Best" correspond to the lowest and highest scores states achieved within each category: code and regulatory strength, public awareness, and incidence prevention.*

## Illinois

### Recommendations:

- **Mandate Basic CO Alarm Requirements:** Require CO alarms that adhere to safety standards in all new and existing commercial, mixed-use, and residential buildings.
- **Launch Initial Public Outreach:** Launch targeted campaigns to educate vulnerable populations (e.g., renters, elderly, and low-income households) and establish statewide CO awareness programs.
- **Develop Emergency Response Programs:** Train first responders and healthcare professionals to handle CO poisoning cases effectively.
- **Collaborate with Federal Agencies:** Seek guidance and resources from organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop robust CO safety initiatives.
- **Monitor and Evaluate Progress:** Establish systems to track CO-related incidents and measure the effectiveness of new policies.

See the next page for more information on tier recommendations.

## CO SAFETY STARTER

# Illinois



● Illinois Average

● U.S. Average

### Health Outcomes Score

● 33% ● 41%



### Code & Regulatory Strength Score

● 55% ● 72%



### Public Awareness & Behavior Score

● 60% ● 51%



### Quick Illinois Stats:

Average winter temperature:	26.9°F
Population:	12,812,508
Median household income:	\$80,306
Households using a fuel source potentially putting residents at risk of CO exposure:	90%
January 2024 heating degree days: <small>HDD shows how cold a month was based on days below 65°F—higher values mean more heating needed</small>	1,232



Scan the QR code or visit  
[ULSE.org/CO-risk-assessment](https://ulse.org/CO-risk-assessment)  
for the full report & methodology

Recommendations	States
CO Safety Champion	
<div><b>Sustain and Evolve Public Awareness Campaigns:</b> Continue public education on CO risks, symptoms, and prevention measures via social media, schools, community events, and regular public service announcements during high-risk times for your state, updating content as new risks and technologies emerge.</div> <div><b>Expand Technology Integration:</b> Promote the adoption of smart CO alarms that integrate with home automation systems, enabling real-time alerts and remote monitoring.</div> <div><b>Conduct Regular Regulation Reviews:</b> Periodically assess CO safety regulations to incorporate emerging technologies, address identified gaps, and align with evolving industry standards.</div> <div><b>Advance Data Collection:</b> Study CO poisonings that otherwise are missed by standard tracking techniques.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Jersey</li><li>• Virginia</li><li>• Vermont</li><li>• Alabama</li><li>• California</li><li>• Arkansas</li></ul></div>
CO Safety Leader	
<div><b>Mandate Regular Alarm Maintenance:</b> Require periodic inspections and maintenance of CO alarms by landlords, property owners, or certified technicians to ensure ongoing functionality.</div> <div><b>Broaden Stakeholder Involvement:</b> Engage local governments, community organizations, and industry stakeholders in regular training and awareness sessions to further integrate CO safety into everyday practices.</div> <div><b>Confirm Alarm Longevity/Reliability:</b> Promote adoption of CO alarms that adhere to safety standards.</div> <div><b>Expand Tracking and Information:</b> Increase tracked details of CO poisonings and publish reports for public use (sources, severity, other determinants).</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Washington</li><li>• New York</li><li>• Maryland</li><li>• Wisconsin</li><li>• North Carolina</li><li>• Utah</li><li>• Arizona</li><li>• New Hampshire</li><li>• Mississippi</li><li>• Pennsylvania</li><li>• Michigan</li><li>• Connecticut</li></ul></div>
CO Safety Advocate	
<div><b>Build on Mandatory Installations:</b> Continue enforcing basic alarm requirements as established at the Starter level.</div> <div><b>Enhance Public Outreach:</b> Launch targeted campaigns to educate vulnerable populations (e.g., renters, elderly, and low-income households) and stakeholders (doctors, HVAC technicians, construction, firefighters) and establish statewide CO awareness programs.</div> <div><b>Encourage Alarm Installation:</b> Offer financial incentives for low-income or vulnerable households to install CO alarms that adhere to safety standards.</div> <div><b>Strengthen Enforcement Mechanisms:</b> Implement penalties for non-compliance with CO safety regulations to ensure accountability.</div>	<div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Washington, D.C.</li><li>• Indiana</li><li>• Oregon</li><li>• Massachusetts</li><li>• Colorado</li><li>• Georgia</li><li>• Ohio</li><li>• Wyoming</li><li>• Iowa</li><li>• Minnesota</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tennessee</li><li>• Idaho</li><li>• Kentucky</li><li>• Oklahoma</li><li>• New Mexico</li><li>• Maine</li><li>• Florida</li><li>• South Carolina</li><li>• Rhode Island</li><li>• Montana</li></ul></div></div>
CO Safety Starter	
<div><b>Mandate Basic CO Alarm Requirements:</b> Require CO alarms that adhere to safety standards in all new and existing commercial, mixed-use, and residential buildings.</div> <div><b>Launch Initial Public Outreach:</b> Launch targeted campaigns to educate vulnerable populations (e.g., renters, elderly, and low-income households) and establish statewide CO awareness programs.</div> <div><b>Develop Emergency Response Programs:</b> Train first responders and healthcare professionals to handle CO poisoning cases effectively.</div> <div><b>Collaborate with Federal Agencies:</b> Seek guidance and resources from organizations like the CDC to develop robust CO safety initiatives.</div> <div><b>Monitor and Evaluate Progress:</b> Establish systems to track CO-related incidents and measure the effectiveness of new policies.</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alaska</li><li>• Nevada</li><li>• Illinois</li><li>• West Virginia</li><li>• Delaware</li><li>• North Dakota</li><li>• South Dakota</li><li>• Louisiana</li><li>• Hawaii</li><li>• Texas</li><li>• Nebraska</li><li>• Kansas</li><li>• Missouri</li></ul></div>