Nursing Home Compare
Five-Star Quality Rating System: Technical Users' Guide

State-Level Health Inspection Cut Point Table

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CMS
CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Introduction

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has enhanced its *Nursing Home Compare* public reporting site to include a set of quality ratings for each nursing home that participates in Medicare or Medicaid. The ratings take the form of several "star" ratings for each nursing home. The primary goal in launching this rating system is to provide residents and their families with an easy way to understand assessment of nursing home quality, making meaningful distinctions between high and low performing nursing homes.

The rating system features an overall five-star rating based on facility performance for three types of performance measures, each of which has its own associated five-star rating. These domains are: Health Inspections (measures based on outcomes from State health inspection surveys), Staffing (measures based on nursing home staffing levels reported at the time of State health inspection), and Quality Measures (measures based on the CMS Minimum Data Set (MDS)). The Five Star Quality Rating System: Technical Users' Guide provides detailed information about the content and scoring of each domain, as well as the overall star rating.

This document - Five Star Quality Rating System Technical Users' Guide: State Level Health Inspection Cut Point Table - provides the data for the state-level cut points for the star ratings included in the health inspection domain. Cut points for the staffing ratings and for the QM ratings have been fixed and do not vary monthly. Data tables giving the cut points for those ratings are included in the Five Star Quality Rating System: Technical Users' Guide.

CMS' Five-Star quality ratings for the health inspection domain are based on the relative performance of facilities within a State. This approach helps to control for variation between States. Facility ratings are determined using these criteria:

- The top 10 percent (lowest 10 percent in terms of health inspection deficiency score) in each State receive a five-star rating.
- The middle 70 percent of facilities receive a rating of two, three, or four stars, with an equal number (approximately 23.33 percent) in each rating category.
- The bottom 20 percent receive a one-star rating.

This distribution is based on CMS experience and input from the Project's TEP. The cut points are re-calibrated each month so that the distribution of star ratings within States remains relatively constant over time in an effort to reduce the likelihood that the rating process affects the health inspection process. In the rare case that a State or territory has fewer than 5 facilities upon which to generate the cut points, the national distribution is used. Cut points for the health inspection ratings by state for the month of October 2026 are shown in Cut Point Table 1 (CP Table 1).

Cut Point Table 1
Star Cut Points for Health Inspection Scores - by State - (10-01-2026)

State	Number of facilities	Health Inspection Score							
		1 star	2 stars		3 stars		4 stars		5 stars
			Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	
Alabama	224	>46.000	≤46.000	>23.000	≤23.000	>12.000	≤12.000	>3.000	≤3.000
Alaska	20	>104.625	≤104.625	>75.000	≤75.000	>35.000	≤35.000	>14.000	≤14.000
Arizona	140	>59.000	≤59.000	>38.000	≤38.000	>23.000	≤23.000	>9.500	≤9.500
Arkansas	219	>44.000	≤44.000	>29.000	≤29.000	>18.000	≤18.000	>9.000	≤9.000
California	1,159	>146.000	≤146.000	>96.000	≤96.000	>66.000	≤66.000	>33.000	≤33.000
Colorado	209	>104.000	≤104.000	>70.750	≤70.750	>44.000	≤44.000	>22.000	≤22.000
Connecticut	191	>116.750	≤116.750	>79.000	≤79.000	>53.000	≤53.000	>29.000	≤29.000
D. C.	16	>432.000	≤432.000	>239.250	≤239.250	>95.000	≤95.000	>21.000	≤21.000
Delaware	44	>139.250	≤139.250	>80.000	≤80.000	>57.000	≤57.000	>20.000	≤20.000
Florida	694	>85.000	≤85.000	>46.000	≤46.000	>25.000	≤25.000	>8.000	≤8.000
Georgia	356	>67.000	≤67.000	>39.000	≤39.000	>24.000	≤24.000	>11.000	≤11.000
Guam	1*	>116.000	≤116.000	>64.000	≤64.000	>35.000	≤35.000	>12.000	≤12.000
Hawaii	42	>86.000	≤86.000	>69.000	≤69.000	>48.000	≤48.000	>20.000	≤20.000
Idaho	80	>85.000	≤85.000	>63.000	≤63.000	>46.000	≤46.000	>30.500	≤30.500
Illinois	663	>219.000	≤219.000	>120.250	≤120.250	>73.000	≤73.000	>31.000	≤31.000
Indiana	507	>72.000	≤72.000	>42.000	≤42.000	>24.000	≤24.000	>9.000	≤9.000
Iowa	387	>86.500	≤86.500	>41.000	≤41.000	>21.000	≤21.000	>7.000	≤7.000
Kansas	295	>114.375	≤114.375	>71.000	≤71.000	>49.000	≤49.000	>27.000	≤27.000
Kentucky	266	>45.000	≤45.000	>22.000	≤22.000	>11.000	≤11.000	>2.000	≤2.000
Louisiana	265	>88.750	≤88.750	>53.000	≤53.000	>33.000	≤33.000	>15.000	≤15.000
Maine	78	>115.500	≤115.500	>78.000	≤78.000	>55.000	≤55.000	>24.000	≤24.000
Maryland	220	>158.125	≤158.125	>104.750	≤104.750	>72.000	≤72.000	>32.000	≤32.000
Massachusetts	341	>76.000	≤76.000	>41.000	≤41.000	>24.000	≤24.000	>6.000	≤6.000
Michigan	422	>123.000	≤123.000	>78.000	≤78.000	>46.000	≤46.000	>18.000	≤18.000
Minnesota	337	>92.000	≤92.000	>54.000	≤54.000	>30.000	≤30.000	>9.000	≤9.000
Mississippi	200	>78.500	≤78.500	>47.000	≤47.000	>30.000	≤30.000	>15.000	≤15.000
Missouri	482	>159.000	≤159.000	>93.750	≤93.750	>54.000	≤54.000	>20.000	≤20.000
Montana	60	>135.375	≤135.375	>84.750	≤84.750	>49.250	≤49.250	>31.500	≤31.500
Nebraska	179	>94.250	≤94.250	>50.000	≤50.000	>31.000	≤31.000	>9.000	≤9.000
Nevada	66	>74.000	≤74.000	>46.000	≤46.000	>29.000	≤29.000	>16.000	≤16.000
New Hampshire	73	>40.000	≤40.000	>23.000	≤23.000	>15.000	≤15.000	>6.000	≤6.000

New Jersey	348	>93.750	≤93.750	>60.000	≤60.000	>37.000	≤37.000	>18.000	≤18.000
New Mexico	68	>212.750	≤212.750	>154.000	≤154.000	>97.000	≤97.000	>59.000	≤59.000
New York	592	>82.000	≤82.000	>46.000	≤46.000	>27.000	≤27.000	>12.000	≤12.000
North Carolina	417	>73.500	≤73.500	>35.000	≤35.000	>15.000	≤15.000	>4.000	≤4.000
North Dakota	72	>76.000	≤76.000	>42.500	≤42.500	>23.000	≤23.000	>10.000	≤10.000
Ohio	918	>121.250	≤121.250	>69.000	≤69.000	>42.000	≤42.000	>15.000	≤15.000
Oklahoma	283	>95.000	≤95.000	>55.000	≤55.000	>36.000	≤36.000	>14.000	≤14.000
Oregon	127	>95.250	≤95.250	>65.000	≤65.000	>41.000	≤41.000	>14.000	≤14.000
Pennsylvania	656	>128.000	≤128.000	>65.000	≤65.000	>33.000	≤33.000	>8.000	≤8.000
Puerto Rico	9	>284.000	≤284.000	>208.000	≤208.000	>52.000	≤52.000	>34.000	≤34.000
Rhode Island	72	>177.500	≤177.500	>89.000	≤89.000	>54.000	≤54.000	>26.000	≤26.000
South Carolina	187	>57.000	≤57.000	>33.000	≤33.000	>15.000	≤15.000	>3.000	≤3.000
South Dakota	95	>95.250	≤95.250	>55.000	≤55.000	>31.500	≤31.500	>14.000	≤14.000
Tennessee	302	>61.000	≤61.000	>31.000	≤31.000	>17.000	≤17.000	>9.000	≤9.000
Texas	1,172	>145.750	≤145.750	>85.000	≤85.000	>51.000	≤51.000	>26.000	≤26.000
Utah	97	>118.250	≤118.250	>66.000	≤66.000	>38.000	≤38.000	>15.000	≤15.000
Vermont	33	>150.000	≤150.000	>81.000	≤81.000	>58.000	≤58.000	>21.000	≤21.000
Virginia	288	>168.750	≤168.750	>76.500	≤76.500	>45.000	≤45.000	>16.000	≤16.000
Washington	193	>167.000	≤167.000	>100.000	≤100.000	>69.000	≤69.000	>31.000	≤31.000
West Virginia	123	>163.000	≤163.000	>92.500	≤92.500	>55.000	≤55.000	>24.000	≤24.000
Wisconsin	323	>130.750	≤130.750	>76.000	≤76.000	>37.000	≤37.000	>11.000	≤11.000
Wyoming	36	>106.000	≤106.000	>71.000	≤71.000	>31.000	≤31.000	>14.000	≤14.000

Notes: A higher score indicates worse performance on health inspections. The cut points are based on facility health inspection scores and are set separately for each state to achieve this distribution:

- 5 stars: ≤10th percentile
- 4 stars: >10th percentile and ≤ 33.33rd percentile
- 3 stars: >33.33rd percentile and ≤ 56.667th percentile
- 2 stars: >56.667th percentile and ≤ 80th percentile
- 1 star: >80th percentile

Due to the small number of facilities, the cut points for Guam and the Virgin Islands are based on the national distribution of health inspection scores.