

METHODOLOGY

America's Leading Doctors **2025**

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista 

Newsweek



Methodology – America’s Leading Doctors 2025

How we did it – a brief summary of the project



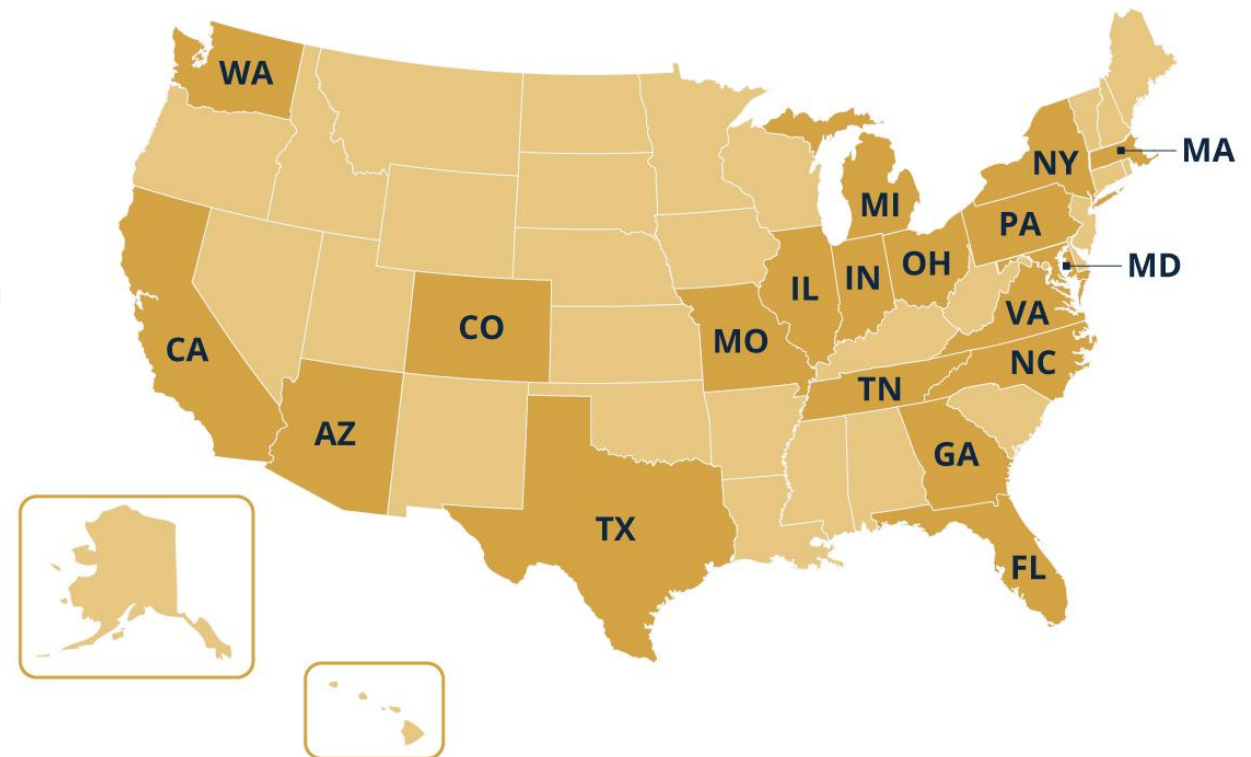
Special features of America's Leading Doctors 2025

- The following list provides a brief overview of all the special features of **America's Leading Doctors 2025**:
 - This year, there are **15 specialty-specific top lists**, each featuring 175 to 200 distinguished leading doctors: Cardiothoracic surgery, Cataracts surgery, Colorectal surgery, Foot and ankle surgery, Glaucoma surgery, Hand surgery, Hip surgery, Knee surgery, Mohs surgery, Pain Management, Retina surgery, Shoulder surgery, Spine surgery, Sports Medicine, and Vascular surgery.
 - Inclusion of **Medicare Fee-for-Service claims and commercial data**, including **quality performance benchmark data sourced from Arcadia**, were incorporated.
 - **Weighting of 60% for doctor performance data**: Among the four pillars of the scoring model, doctor performance data carries the highest weight, reflecting the strong emphasis on outcome quality indicators.
 - Treatment performance is determined through a multi-dimensional evaluation that **incorporates case volume, with results represented by one to three ribbons**.
 - **Inclusion of previous year's recommendation data for existing specialty rankings (Vascular surgery & Spine surgery)**: To account for reputational continuity, recommendation data from last year was factored into the reputation pillar.
 - For each awarded doctor, up to three hospital affiliations are displayed, based on performance benchmark data sourced from Arcadia.

Doctors from the 20 states with the highest number of physicians were eligible for the ranking

Geographical distribution

- The following 20 states with the highest number of physicians per specialty were included in the survey^[1]:
 - Arizona
 - California
 - Colorado
 - Florida
 - Georgia
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
 - Maryland
 - Massachusetts
 - Michigan
 - Missouri
 - New Jersey
 - New York
 - North Carolina
 - Ohio
 - Pennsylvania
 - Tennessee
 - Texas
 - Virginia
 - Washington



Doctors' evaluation is based on four pillars, ranging from physician performance data and recommendations from peers to quality assessment and certifications

Data sources



Performance benchmark data sourced from Arcadia was used to evaluate each physician's performed procedures against the state average

Methodology: Doctor performance data

1 Doctor Performance Data

- **The volume of episodes performed was compared to the state average across measures relevant to each specific doctor's specialty⁽¹⁻²⁾.**

The following is an illustrative example from the specialty Hand Surgery:

- Joint or tendon inflammation of the finger/wrist/hand
- Joint cyst
- Fracture/dislocation treatment arm/wrist/hand
- Carpal tunnel & related syndromes
- **Evaluated measures per procedure⁽²⁾:**
 - Average LOS (Days) of Institutional Long-term Stay
 - ER Visits per 1,000 Episodes
 - Mortality Rate
 - Complications by Episode
 - Unplanned Readmissions per 1,000 Episodes
 - Average Episode Payment

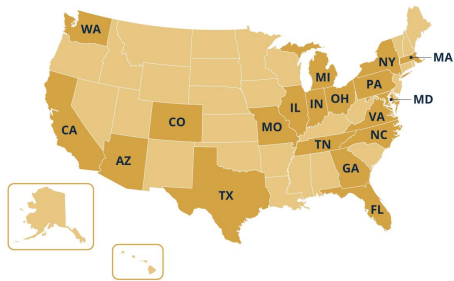
- Physicians who performed a volume of episodes greater than the state average received either 1, 2, or 3 ribbons based on the number of episodes.
- The analysis was based on performance benchmark data sourced from Arcadia for the years 2022-2023⁽³⁾.

DOCTOR PERFORMANCE DATA CONSTITUTES 60% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

Thousands of medical professionals were invited to an online survey

2 Doctor recommendations from peers

From March to May 2025, Statista invited thousands of medical experts (physicians, managers/administrators, and other medical professionals with knowledge in the respective medical field) across 20 U.S. states to an online survey. The survey was also promoted on newsweek.com.



Online survey among medical professionals in the 20 U.S. states with the greatest number of doctors in the respective specialty.



Participants were asked to recommend doctors in their own state and in any other states included in the survey. They were also able to specify a "peers' choice" standout treatment for each recommended doctor.



Recommendations for each physician were analyzed. The reason for recommendation (e.g., well-known specialist), the work experience of the participant, and the order of recommendation were considered.

A quality score and certifications were taken into consideration for all physicians

Methodology: Quality assessment and certifications

3 Quality assessment

- For within-state recommendations, participants were asked to assess the **quality of care** (e.g., treatments, follow-up care, use of most recent equipment) and **professional expertise** (e.g., knowledge in medical field) of the doctor.
- Doctors who received *only* out-of-state recommendations were given a baseline score.
- For each recommendation, participants rated the doctor across several quality dimensions on a scale from **1 ("poor") to 10 ("excellent")**.
- A quality score was calculated for each doctor who received within-state recommendations. This score accounts for 7.5% of the total score.

SCORE FOR QUALITY ASSESSMENT

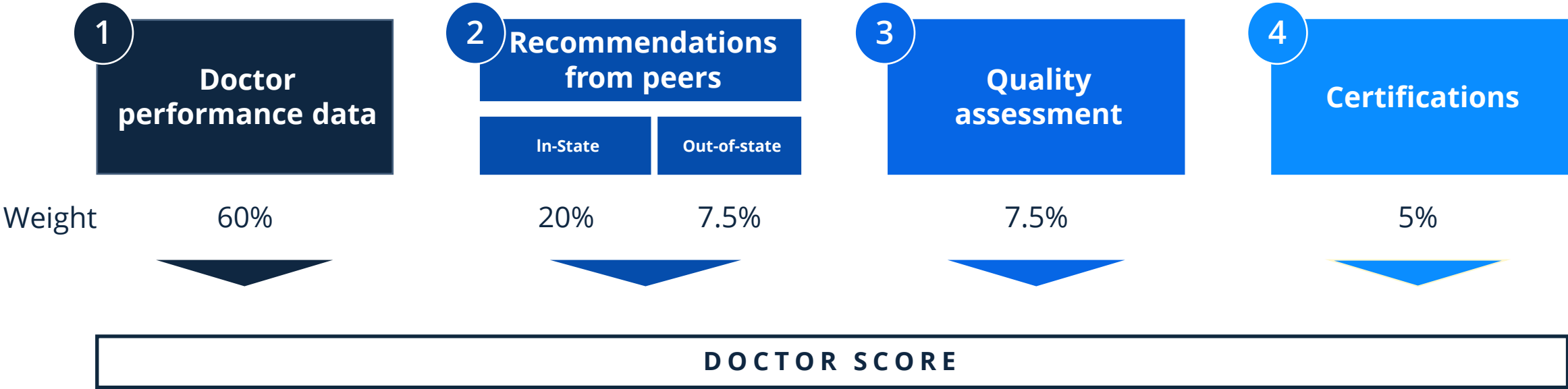
4 Certifications

- Certifications from American medical and surgical certification boards were included in the evaluation.
- For example, in the specialty of Hand Surgery:
 - **American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery:**
 - Orthopaedic Surgery Certification
 - Subspecialty Certification in "Surgery of the Hand"
 - **American Board of Plastic Surgery:**
 - Hand Surgery Certification
- Certifications contribute 5% to the total score.

SCORE FOR CERTIFICATION

A score was calculated for each doctor

Scoring model



The total doctor score is based on the four pillars and their respective weights listed above.

As a result, the top 175-200 doctors per specialty were awarded

Top list of leading doctors in the US

Rank	Hand Surgeons	Hospital Affiliation	City, State	Certifications, Treatments and More
1	David Viktor Tuckman, MD	Long Island Jewish Medical Center	New Hyde Park, NY	Click to Display
2	Christopher Jones, MD	Rothman Orthopaedic Specialty Hospital	Bensalem, PA	Click to Display
3	Alan C Sull, MD	Saint John's Health Center	Santa Monica, CA	Click to Display
4	Jack Abboudi, MD	Rothman Orthopaedic Specialty Hospital	Bensalem, PA	Click to Display
5	Brian M Katt, MD			Click to Display

[...]

Notes

- Hospital affiliation for each doctor was determined by patient volume⁽¹⁾. For doctors with no data related to hospital affiliation, affiliation was determined by desk research.
- If the specified affiliated hospital has been awarded in a recent hospital ranking by *Newsweek* and Statista, it is denoted under "Affiliated with best hospital".
- Up to three ribbons were awarded for each episode based on each doctor's percentile rank for episode volume within their state. If a particular procedure was recommended frequently by peers, it is indicated under "Peers' Choice".

DOCTORS WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE IN EACH SPECIALTY WERE AWARDED

Statista R and Newsweek comprise the strong partner network behind America's Leading Doctors 2025

Partner network



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Statista R is a world leader in the creation of company, brand, and product rankings and top lists, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: Statista R recognizes the best. With a team of over 100 expert analysts and in cooperation with more than 40 high profile media brands across all continents, Statista R creates transparency for consumers and business decision makers and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories. Visit r.statista.com.

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The Newsweek logo, consisting of the word "Newsweek" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a solid red rectangular background.

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Legal disclaimer for America's Leading Doctors

Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of doctors that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the top lists is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations and available data sources at the time. The top lists are the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the past 12 months only. Furthermore, any events preceding or following the period June 25th, 2024 – June 24th, 2025, were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of these top lists should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in these top lists should be considered in conjunction with other available information about physicians or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a hospital/physician's practice. The quality of physicians that are not included in the top lists are not disputed.