

METHODOLOGY

America's Best Nursing Homes **2026**



Methodology – America’s Best Nursing Homes 2026

Summary of the project

- The seventh edition of **America’s Best Nursing Homes** ranking awards the nation’s leading nursing homes.
- Single branches of nursing homes that meet the pre-defined selection criteria were included:
 - The nursing home had to achieve a threshold score for performance data.
 - Nursing homes that are included in the Specialty Focus Facility (SFF) program were not considered.
- Nursing homes in the 33 states with the highest number of facilities, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), were included in the study⁽¹⁾.
- Nursing homes are recognized in three size categories: **large** (150+ certified beds), **medium** (100–149 certified beds), and **small** (50–99 certified beds).
- The evaluation is based on **four data sources**:
 - **Quality Metrics** data published by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data were used to determine the performance of nursing homes.
 - **National online survey**: From June to August 2025, thousands of medical professionals and managers working in nursing homes were invited to an online survey in cooperation with Newsweek.
 - **Accreditation data** on nursing homes provided by The Joint Commission (TJC) and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).
 - **Google reviews** as a proxy for resident satisfaction.
- For the first time, the 25 states with the highest number of nursing homes are also being recognized for facilities with 50–99 certified beds.

New features and changes in the 2026 edition

The following list provides a brief overview of the major changes in this year's edition compared to the America's Best Nursing Homes 2025 ranking:

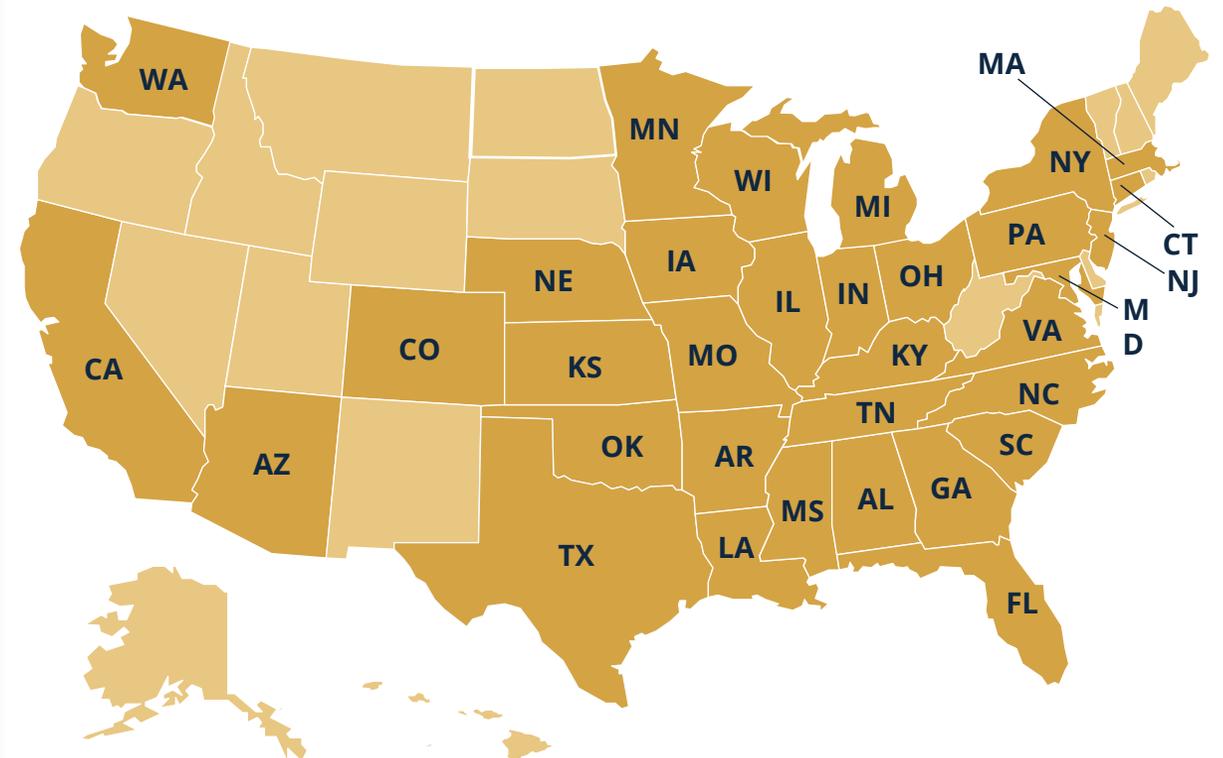
- **Increased nursing homes performance data weighting:** This year the weighting of the nursing homes performance data pillar was increased within the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on the nursing homes specific performance indicators.
- **Addition of new quality measures:** short- and long-term vaccination rates of residents for the seasonal influenza vaccine and the pneumococcal vaccine were added to the quality measures score.
- **Increased number of awarded states:** Each of the three size categories is represented by the 25 states with the highest number of facilities, resulting in a total of 33 states being awarded.
- **Expansion of the ranking:** Due to increased data availability, a total of 1,200 nursing homes nationwide are being recognized. The medium-size category features 375 nursing homes (last year: 300), while the small-size category includes 325 awarded nursing homes (last year: 250).

Nursing homes from 33 US states were eligible for the ranking

Geographical distribution

Per size category, the 33 states **with the highest number of facilities**⁽¹⁾ were included in the survey:

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Iowa
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin



Nursing home evaluation is based on four pillars, ranging from performance data and recommendations from peers to accreditations and resident satisfaction

Data sources



Three performance data dimensions were evaluated to identify leading nursing homes: Staffing, Quality Measures, and Health Inspections

Performance data score

1 Performance Data

CMS data was considered for the following three domains:

- **Staffing**
 - Staffing measures for nursing homes (e.g., registered nurse (RN) hours per resident per day, turnover rates for registered nurse and total staff)
- **Quality Measures**
 - Long and short stay measures (e.g., number of hospitalizations, discharge to community rate, etc.)
- **Health Inspections**
- **Evaluation of performance scores:**
 - Adaption of the CMS method, using a 10-point scale instead of 5 stars for a more detailed analysis

1 Eligibility Criteria

- Eligibility criteria ensure that only nursing homes meeting **quality and capacity standards** are considered for the award
- Awarded nursing homes in all size categories must have an **average of 6** out of a maximum of 10 points **across** all three measures
- Only nursing homes with a CMS star rating of **at least 3 stars** for facilities with 50-99 and 100-149 certified beds, and **at least 2 stars** for facilities with 150 or more certified beds, were considered.

PERFORMANCE DATA CONSTITUTES 55% OF THE OVERALL SCORE

Medical professionals with knowledge about nursing homes were surveyed about their top recommended facilities

2 Recommendations for Nursing Homes from medical professionals

From June to August 2025, thousands of medical professionals (registered nurses, nursing home managers and administrators, licensed practical nurses / licensed vocational nurses, nursing assistants, therapists and physicians) were invited to an online survey. The survey was also promoted on newsweek.com. Additionally, participants were invited via e-mail.



Online survey by state among medical professionals and managers/administrators working in nursing homes.

Participants were asked to recommend the leading nursing homes **from their respective state and in one of the other 33 US states included in the survey** by considering the quality of care offered, staff training level and the number of on-duty personnel. Recommendations for own employer were not allowed.

The number of state and national recommendations were weighted equally. A **score was assigned to each nursing home based on the number of recommendations**. Additionally, the professional experience of the participant was taken into account.

A quality score was calculated for each recommended nursing home

Quality score based on quality dimensions

2 Calculation of Quality Rating

- For each recommended nursing home participants were asked to assess **four quality dimensions** on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 10 ("Excellent"):
 - **Quality of care** (e.g., treatments/therapies, consultation with doctor/therapist)
 - **Overall nurse staffing** (e.g., qualifications, experience, number of courses)
 - **Quality of service** (e.g., meals, leisure activities)
 - **Accommodation & amenities** (e.g., size of room, quality of furnishing)
- A quality score was assigned to each facility based on the **weighted average** of these ratings.

2 Quality Rating Weights



THE QUALITY RATING SCORE CONSTITUTES 20% OF THE REPUTATION SCORE

Accreditations and resident satisfaction were used as additional elements of the scoring model

Accreditation score & Resident Satisfaction score

3 TJC Accreditation

- An accreditation reflects a range of structural and/or quality requirements which are relevant to the nursing homes ranking.
- **The Joint Commission⁽¹⁾** nursing care center accreditation accounts for **60%** of the accreditation score.

3 CARF Accreditation

- **CARF International⁽²⁾** (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services.
- The following specialty programs were included in the scoring model: **Ageing Services** and **Medical Rehabilitation**.
- Each specialty program accounts for **20%** to the accreditation score.

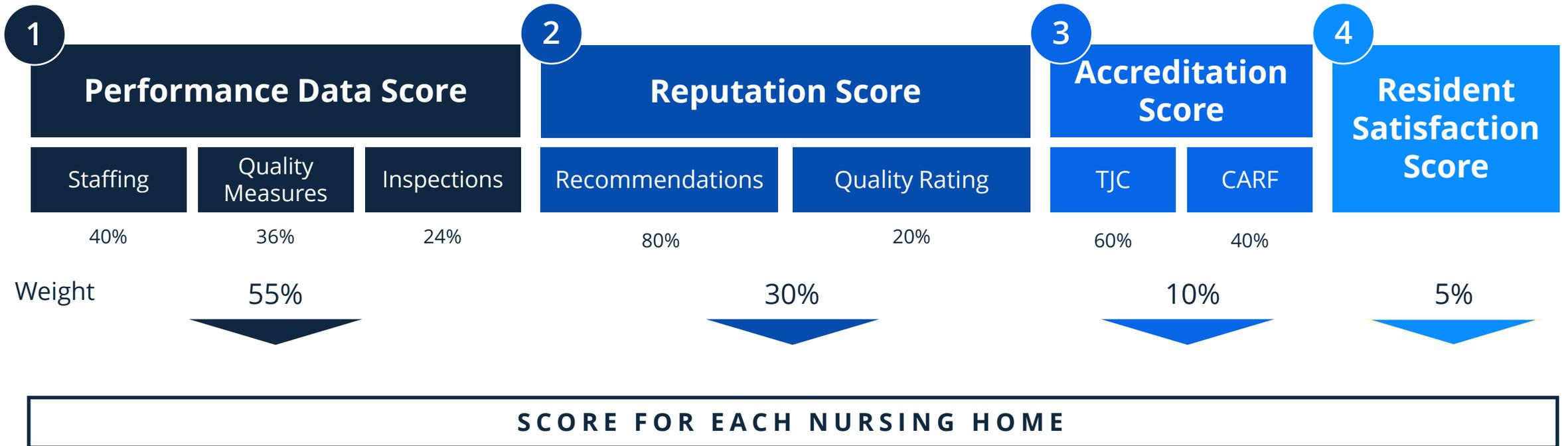
4 Resident Satisfaction

- As a minor additional pillar of the scoring, **evaluations from residents and relatives from Google** were included for each nursing home.
- Based on the available data, Nursing homes received a resident satisfaction rating between **0 and 5 stars**.
- To receive a resident satisfaction score, the nursing homes must have a minimum threshold of **at least 10** reviews.

ACCREDITATIONS ARE 10% OF THE OVERALL SCORE AND RESIDENT SATISFACTION 5%

A score was calculated for each nursing home

Scoring model



Result tables of the best nursing homes

Leading nursing homes

California

Rank	Nursing Home	City
1	Compass Health - Mission View Health Center	San Luis Obispo
2	Edgemoor DP SNF	Santee
3	Alden Terrace Convalescent Hospital	Los Angeles
4	Mission de la Casa Nursing & Rehabilitation Center	San Jose
5	Alamitos West Health & Rehabilitation	Los Alamitos

[...]

Texas

Rank	Nursing Home	City
1	St Dominic Village	Houston
2	Texhoma Christian Care Center	Wichita Falls
3	Beacon Harbor Healthcare & Rehabilitation	Rockwall
4	Beacon Hill	Denison
5	Denton Rehabilitation Center & Nursing Center	Denton

[...]

LEADING NURSING HOMES WERE AWARDED BY STATE

America's Best Nursing Homes partner network

Overview of involved parties

Newsweek

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Newsweek is a premier news magazine and website that has been bringing high-quality journalism to readers around the globe for over 80 years.

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Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of nursing homes that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on quality metrics, peer recommendations, accreditations and resident satisfaction. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last 12 months only. Furthermore, any events preceding and following the period August 20th, 2024 – August 20th, 2025, and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not considered in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about nursing homes or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to the facility. The quality of nursing homes that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.