

METHODOLOGY

America's Best-in-State Hospitals 2026

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista 

Newsweek



Methodology – America's Best-in-State Hospitals 2026

Summary of the project

- Proximity and access are always key factors for patients seeking medical care within their state. **Statista and Newsweek** have partnered again to identify the top hospitals at the state level in the U.S.
- The **America's Best-in-State Hospitals 2026** ranking awards the nation's 800 leading hospitals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Hospitals with a capacity of 50+ beds from all US states are considered, excluding hospitals with a 1-star rating in Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data.
- The underlying data analysis is based on four data pillars:
 - **Hospital quality metrics:** Quality metrics data from the CMS, performance benchmark data from Medicare fee for service claims sourced from Arcadia, data from the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey of Hospitals Database, and Accreditation data from various sources are considered.
 - **Hospital reputation:** From July to August 2025, a nationwide online survey among medical professionals (doctors, hospital managers and healthcare workers) was conducted in cooperation with Newsweek.
 - **Patient experience:** Data from The Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey: a standardized survey of hospital patients in the U.S. regarding their experiences during a recent procedure or surgery.
 - **Statista PROMs implementation survey:** To account for the increasing importance of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs), hospitals which participated in the Statista PROMs implementation survey received a PROMs implementation score.

New features and changes in the 2026 edition

The following list provides a brief overview of all **major changes in this year's edition** compared to the 2025 rankings:

- **Inclusion of additional hospital quality metrics data:**
 - CMS data on PROs is factored in for the first time this year
 - Medicare Fee-for-Service claims, including quality performance benchmark data sourced from Arcadia, are included
 - In AHA, staffing is added as a new category this year to reflect hospitals' utilization rates and capacities
- **Inclusion of additional accreditations and certifications:**
 - Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)
 - Critical Access Hospital accreditation and Responsible Use of Health Data advanced certification from The Joint Commission
 - Planetree accreditation
- **Inclusion of previous year's reputation data:** To ensure reputational continuity, last year's recommendation data is incorporated into the evaluation under the peer recommendation pillar.
- **Changes in the weights of pillars:** To reflect emphasis on performance indicators the weighting of the hospital quality metrics and PROMs implementation pillars are increased within the scoring model.
- **Expansion of ranking list:** Expanded data availability has enabled the inclusion of 800 hospitals in this years' ranking, an increase from 700 last year.

Hospitals from all U.S. states are eligible for the ranking

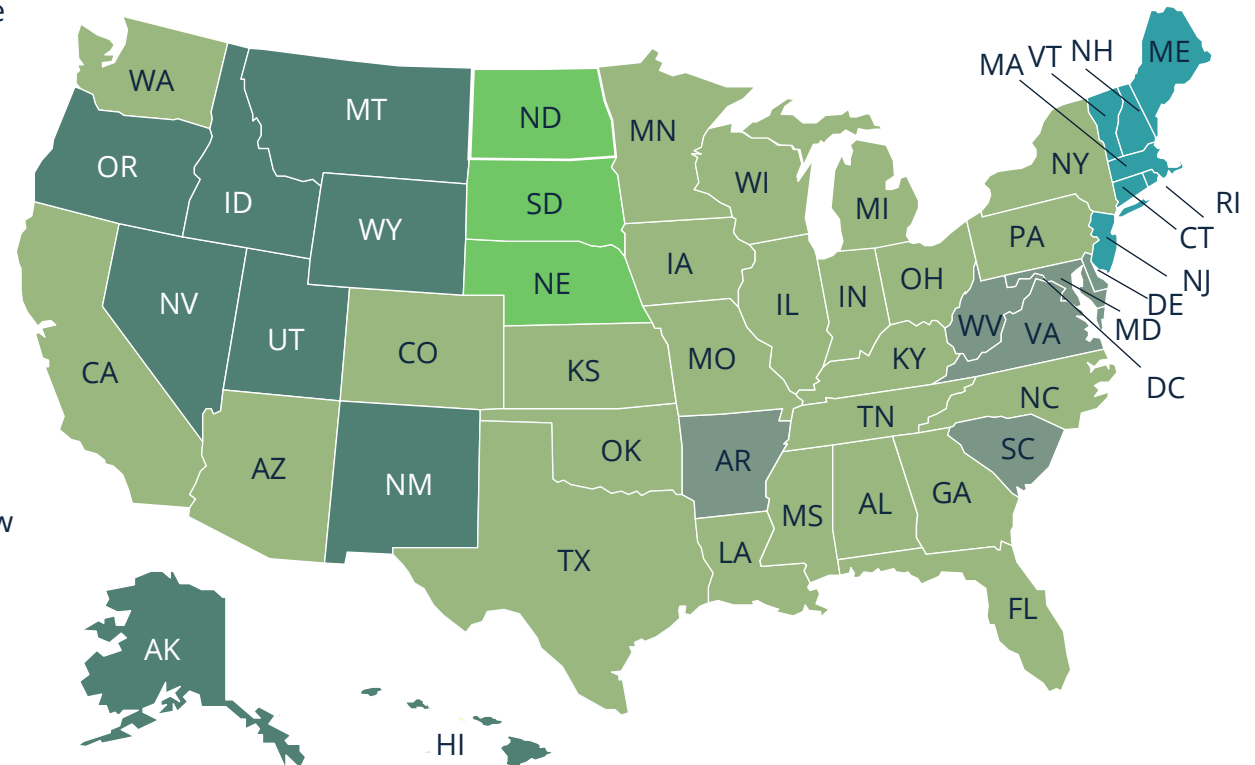
Geographical distribution

Hospitals from **the 25 states with the highest number of hospitals** were included in the survey:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| – Alabama | – Kansas | – Ohio |
| – Arizona | – Kentucky | – Oklahoma |
| – California | – Louisiana | – Pennsylvania |
| – Colorado | – Michigan | – Tennessee |
| – Florida | – Minnesota | – Texas |
| – Georgia | – Mississippi | – Washington |
| – Illinois | – Missouri | – Wisconsin |
| – Indiana | – New York | |
| – Iowa | – North Carolina | |

All remaining states are divided into **4 regions** for the survey:

- **Northeast:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont
- **Midwest:** Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
- **West:** Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming
- **South:** Arkansas, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia



Hospital evaluation is based on four pillars, ranging from quality metrics and reputation and to patient experience and PROMS implementation

Data sources



Available data on hospital quality metrics is analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – **Part 1**

1 **Hospital quality metrics - Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

Hospital quality metrics from Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)⁽¹⁾ are available for:

- Mortality
- Safety
- Readmission
- Timely & effective care
- Patient Satisfaction
- Health equity
- Patient reported outcomes

Hospitals had to report in at least 3 out of the 5 key CMS categories (one of which was required to be either Mortality or Safety) to be eligible for the CMS score.

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

Available data on hospital quality metrics is analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – Part 2

1 Hospital quality metrics – Medicare Fee-for-Service claims (Arcadia)

In this year's edition, performance benchmark data based on Medicare Fee-for-Service claims, sourced from Arcadia⁽¹⁾, is evaluated based on two types of data:

- **Population-level:** A variety of measures relating to a hospital's quality performance are taken into consideration
- **Episodes of care data:** For each medical episode, the following measures are taken into consideration:
 - 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

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

Available data on hospital quality metrics is analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – **Part 3**



1 Hospital quality metrics - The AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database

The AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database is included in the scoring model. The database contains data provided by more than 6,100 hospitals and 399 health care systems and features over 1,300 hospital data points⁽¹⁾. Structural and organizational data of hospital facilities is included in the hospital quality metrics score.

The following indicator groups of the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database 2023 are used as part of the hospital quality metrics score:

General indicators – Clinical services and care – Health research and screening – Workforce strategic planning	Health equity – Health equity goals – DEI disaggregated data – Health equity strategic plan	Technologies and Innovation – Diagnostic technology – Telehealth and virtual care – AI and automation	Staffing – Number of full-time and part-time employed physicians, technicians – Nursing to bed ratio
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SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

Available data on hospital quality metrics is analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – **Part 4**

1 Hospital quality metrics - Accreditations & certifications

Several **accreditations & certifications** are included in the scoring analysis.

The following accreditations & certifications are included in the hospital quality metric score to reflect hospitals' commitment to excellence in structural and quality standards:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)– American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) – Magnet Recognition Program– Planetree (Person-Centered Care Certification for Organizations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– The Joint Commission (TJC)<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hospital Accreditation▪ Academic Medical Center▪ Sustainable Healthcare Accreditation▪ Healthcare Equity Accreditation▪ Responsible Use of Health Data▪ Critical Access Hospital |
|---|---|

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

Medical experts with knowledge about hospitals are invited to the survey

2 Hospital reputation based on nationwide online survey

From July to August 2025, Statista conducted a nationwide online survey among medical professionals (doctors, hospital managers and other healthcare professionals). The survey was available to medical experts for participation on Newsweek.com. Additionally, participants were invited via email.



Online survey by state among medical professionals and hospital managers, invited via e-mail and the Newsweek platform.

Participants are asked to recommend the top hospitals in their own state (with quality assessment ratings) as well as in other states, excluding their own employer.

In-state recommendations are weighted 80%, and out-of-state 20%. Overall score for each hospital is based on weighted recommendations. ^{(1) (2)}

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL REPUTATION

10 (1) Participants' profession and experience were also considered in the scoring weight
(2) Last year's recommendations were included at a lower weight

A quality assessment is calculated for each recommended hospital

Quality assessment based on key quality dimensions

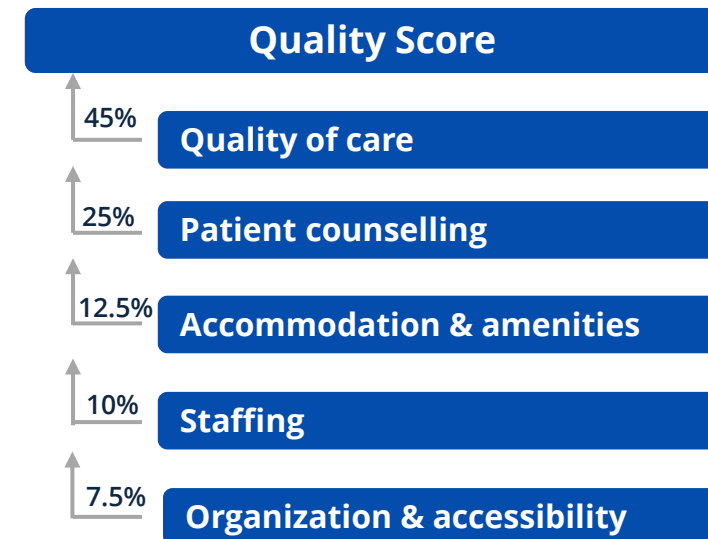
★★★ Calculation of quality assessment

For each recommended hospital participants are asked to assess **five quality dimensions** on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 10 ("Excellent"):

- **Quality of care** (e.g., effectiveness of treatments/therapies, patient safety)
- **Patient counselling** (e.g., communication and support of staff, involvement and decision making, patient education)
- **Accommodation & amenities** (e.g., size of room, quality of furnishing)
- **Staffing** (e.g., qualifications & experience)
- **Organization & accessibility** (e.g., waiting times, efficiency of appointment scheduling, overall hospital organization)

A quality score is assigned to each hospital based on the **weighted average** of these ratings.

⚖️ Quality score weights



SCORE FOR HOSPITAL REPUTATION

Publicly available patient experience data on hospitals is analyzed

Patient experience

3 Patient experience

Publicly available data is used to analyze patient experience

CMS data ⁽¹⁾ from the survey of patient experience covers the following topics associated to patient care:

- Cleanliness of the hospital
- Communication of the nurses/doctors
- Care transition
- Communication about medicines
- Discharge information
- Quietness
- Staff responsiveness

3 Patient experience award

Additionally, hospitals with an **outstanding performance** in patient experience are recognized with a **patient experience award**, highlighting their dedication to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.

To qualify for the award, hospitals must demonstrate exceptional performance across all evaluated metrics:

- Only hospitals that reported all 10 HCAHPS measures and are within the top 40% per measure are eligible, ensuring a solid baseline of care quality
- At least 3 of the 10 measures must be rated in the top 15%, highlighting areas of outstanding achievement
- In addition to the above, hospitals must also rank within the top 10% (90th percentile or higher) on at least four of the ten measures, underscoring the hospital's commitment to excellence in critical performance areas

SCORE FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE

The Statista PROMs implementation survey collects data directly from hospitals

PROMs Implementation Survey

4 Statista PROMs implementation survey

PROMs are standardized, validated questionnaires completed by patients to measure their perception of their functional well-being and quality of life.

Survey cycle: In fall/winter of each year, Newsweek and Statista conduct the **PROMs implementation survey**⁽¹⁾ to determine the status quo of PROMs implementation, auditing and reporting of the data, and whether the PROMs data is used to optimize care process and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.

Statista has partnered with the **International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement** (ICHOM, www.ichom.org) as a knowledge partner. ICHOM is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the development of standardized measurement of patient-important outcomes (including PROMs). ICHOM promotes the development of the PROMs implementation survey, as well as the use of the data from PROMs (and other patient-important outcomes), towards the advancement of value-based healthcare.

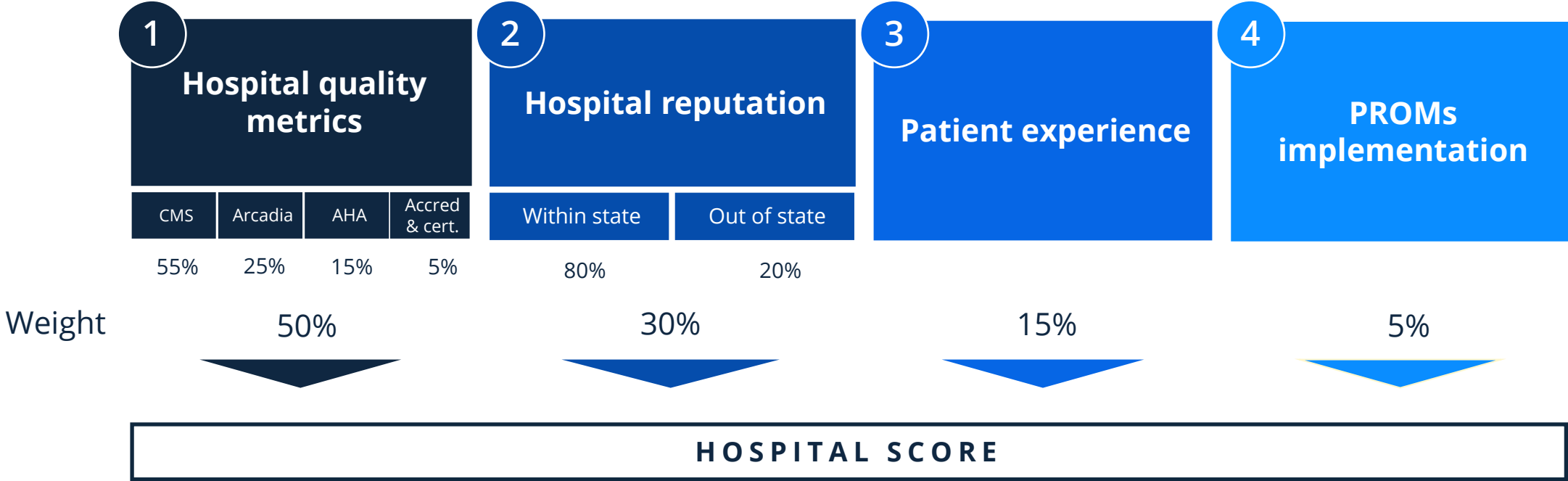
A **grading system** for the different questions was built to determine a **PROMs implementation score** for each participating hospital. Only hospitals that achieved a **minimum of 50%** (of the maximum 100% score) were eligible to be graded and received a maximum of up to 5% towards the total score.

Future survey cycles will be announced on r.statista.com, newsweek.com, and via e-mail to registered participants. Registrations can be submitted to: hospitals@statista.com or [here](#).

SCORE FOR PROMS IMPLEMENTATION

A score is calculated for each hospital

Scoring model



As a result, the 800 hospitals with the highest total score are awarded

Final ranking by state

California

Rank	Hospital	City	Patient experience award	PROMs
1	Stanford Health Care - Stanford Hospital	Stanford	✓	
2	Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center	Los Angeles		
3	UCSF Medical Center	San Francisco	✓	
4	Keck Hospital of USC	Los Angeles		
5	Jacobs Medical Center at UC San Diego Health	San Diego		

[...]

Texas

Rank	Hospital	City	Patient experience award	PROMs
1	Houston Methodist Hospital	Houston	✓	
2	UT Southwestern Medical Center	Dallas	✓	
3	Baylor University Medical Center	Dallas		
4	Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital	The Woodlands		
5	Memorial Hermann - Texas Medical Center	Houston		

[...]

LEADING HOSPITALS ARE AWARDED BY STATE

Statista R, Newsweek, and ICHOM comprise the strong partner network behind the America's Best In-State Hospitals

Partner Network



About Statista R

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](https://www.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.

About Newsweek

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

Newsweek provides the latest news, in-depth analysis and ideas about international issues, technology, business, culture and politics. In addition to its online and mobile presence, Newsweek publishes weekly English print editions in the United States, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia as well as editions in Japanese, Korean, Polish, Serbian and Spanish.

[newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com)

The ICHOM logo, featuring the letters "ICHOM" in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

About ICHOM

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, www.ichom.org) is the leading non-profit dedicated to transforming healthcare by focusing on what truly matters to patients. They accomplish this by empowering patient and clinical leaders to standardize important clinical, quality of life, function and experience results for health care, and enabling transparent large-scale use to achieve patient-centric health system transformation. ICHOM's standardized 'sets' of patient-centred outcomes measures help all actors in healthcare design, deliver and evaluate care based on outcomes that matter to patients. To date, ICHOM has developed 45 outcome measure sets for conditions. The sets are available in IT-ready interoperable formats and have been implemented in 500+ care settings in 42+ countries.

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Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of hospitals that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations and publicly available data sources at the time. 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 calendar year. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period 09/01/2024–09/01/2025 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included 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 hospitals or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.