

METHODOLOGY

America's Best Home Health Agencies 2026

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista 

Newsweek



Methodology – *America's Best Home Health Agencies 2026*

Summary of the project

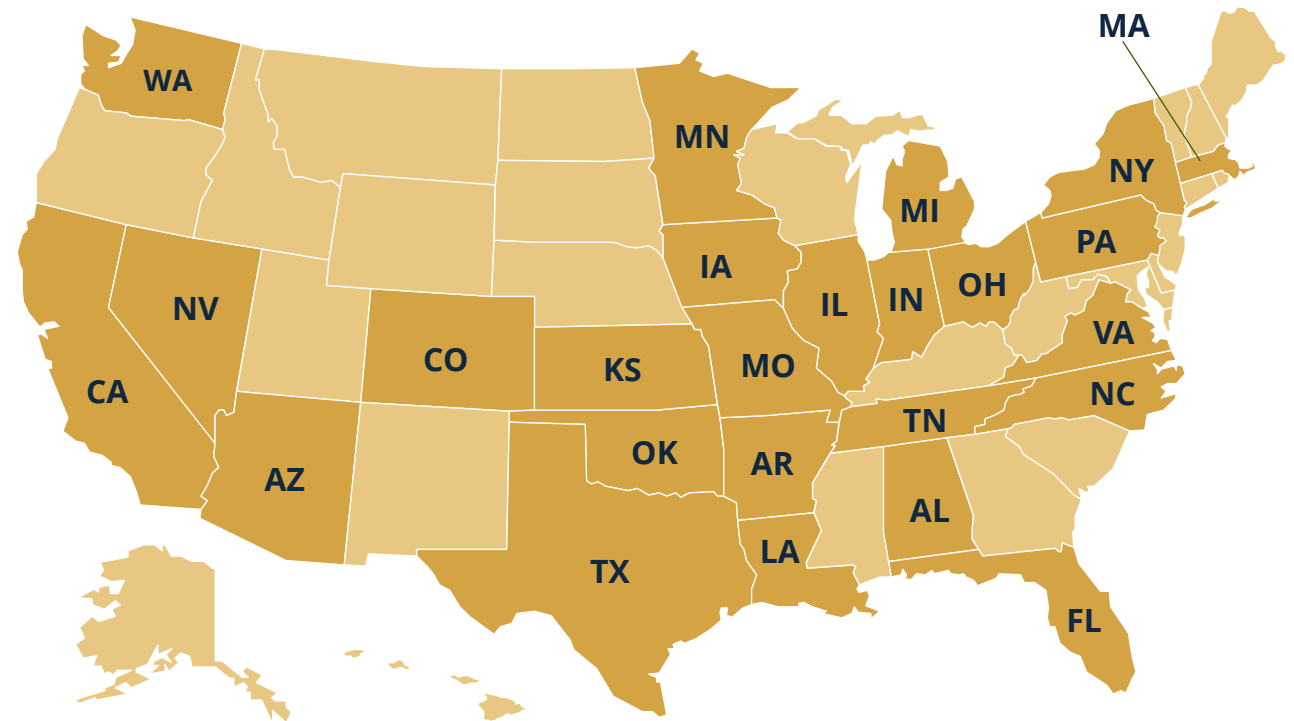
- Home health agencies play a **key role in healthcare**, delivering **skilled nursing and other therapeutic services** (such as physical and occupational therapy, medical social services, and home health aid) to patients in their homes under the supervision of physicians and/or registered professional nurses.⁽¹⁾
- To provide patients with a comprehensive resource for informed decision-making, Statista and *Newsweek* have partnered to award **America's Best Home Health Agencies** for the first time, recognizing 300 top providers across 25 states.
- The ranking focuses on home health agencies, as defined by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).⁽¹⁾
- The list is based on **four data sources**:
 1. **Quality metrics data** for home health agencies published by CMS
 2. **National online survey** collecting recommendations from healthcare professionals and managers/administrators working in home health agencies, used to calculate reputation score
 3. **Results from patient experience surveys**, sourced from **Home Health Care CAHPS (HHCAHPS)** published by CMS
 4. **Accreditation data** on home health agencies provided by The Joint Commission (TJC), Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC), and Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP)
- Facilities with a 1-star CMS rating were not eligible for the ranking.

Home health agencies from 25 states were eligible for the ranking

Geographical distribution

- Home health agencies from the **25 states with the highest number of facilities⁽¹⁾** were included in the survey:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Alabama | • Michigan |
| • Arizona | • Minnesota |
| • Arkansas | • Missouri |
| • California | • Nevada |
| • Colorado | • New York |
| • Florida | • North Carolina |
| • Georgia | • Ohio |
| • Illinois | • Oklahoma |
| • Indiana | • Pennsylvania |
| • Iowa | • Tennessee |
| • Kansas | • Texas |
| • Louisiana | • Virginia |
| • Massachusetts | |



Facility evaluation is based on four pillars, ranging from peer evaluations and accreditations to care quality metrics and patient experience

Data sources



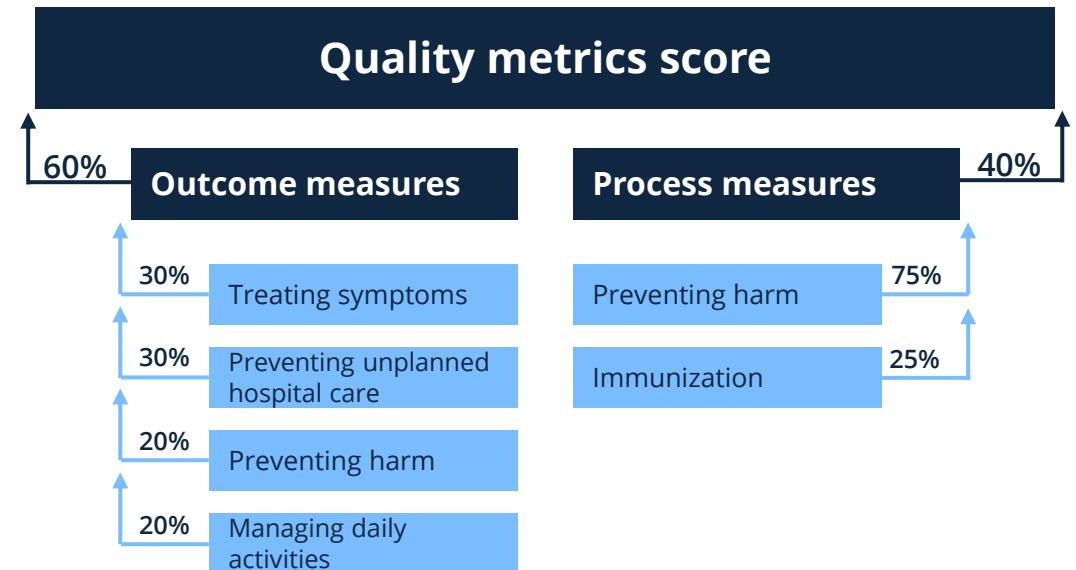
A quality metrics score was calculated for each facility

Home health-specific performance indicators

1 Quality metrics score

- Quality metrics data for home health agencies, published by CMS (U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)⁽¹⁾, were evaluated.
- Sixteen available quality metrics were divided into subgroups across two general categories: **Outcome measures** and **Process measures**.⁽²⁾
- For each of the **quality metrics**, a subscore was calculated.⁽²⁾ The facility achieving the best result in a given measure was assigned a value of 100% for that subscore, with the remaining facilities' subscores scaled proportionally.
- The **weighted subscores** were aggregated to produce the **overall quality metrics score**.

1 Quality metrics weights



QUALITY METRICS SCORE

Healthcare professionals with knowledge about home health agencies were surveyed about the best facilities

Recommendations from peers

2 National online survey

From July to August 2025, Statista conducted a nationwide online survey among **healthcare professionals** (e.g., nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, medical doctors) and managers/administrators working in home health agencies. The survey was available on newsweek.com.



A **nationwide online survey** was conducted among healthcare professionals and managers/administrators working in home health.



Participants were asked to recommend notable home health agencies **in their state** and had the option to recommend agencies in **another state**. Recommendations for their own employer were not allowed.



The order in which the recommendations were given was considered for the weighting of each. Additionally, the professional experience of the participant was taken into account. A **score was assigned to each facility** based on the number of weighted recommendations.

REPUTATION SCORE

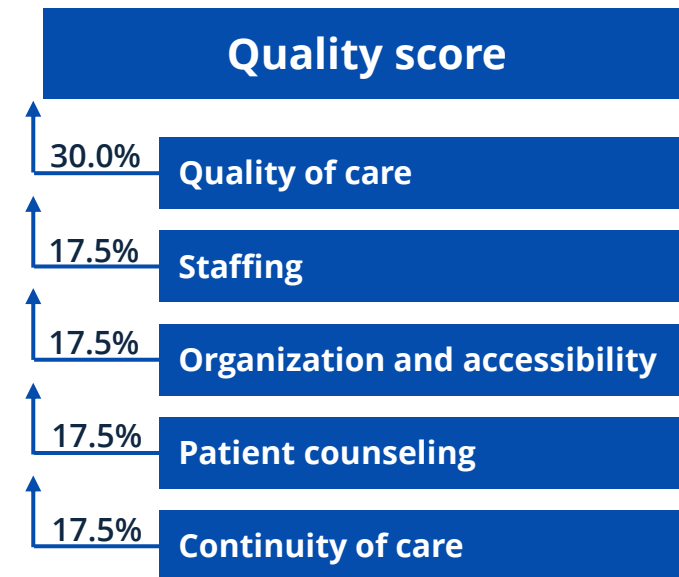
A quality score was calculated for each recommended home health agency

Quality score

2 Quality assessment

- For each within-state recommendation, participants rated the recommended agency across **five quality dimensions** on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 10 ("Excellent"), from which a quality score was derived.
- The following quality dimensions were evaluated:
 - **Quality of care** (e.g., effectiveness of treatment plans, evidence-based care)
 - **Staffing** (e.g., qualifications & experience)
 - **Organization and accessibility** (e.g., timely visits, appointment scheduling)
 - **Patient counseling** (e.g., communication of staff, patient education)
 - **Continuity of care** (e.g., consistency of staff visits, follow-through)
- A quality score was assigned to each facility based on the weighted average of these ratings.

2 Quality assessment weights



REPUTATION SCORE

Publicly available data on patient experience in home health agencies was analyzed

Patient experience data

3 Patient experience

- Publicly available data from patient surveys by the **Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HHAHPS)** were used to analyze patient experience.⁽¹⁾
- The following were survey topics associated with **patient care**:
 - How often the home health team gave care in a professional way
 - How well the home health team communicated with patients
 - How well the home health team discussed medicines, pain, and home safety with patients
 - How patients rate the overall care from the home health agency
 - Whether patients would recommend the home health agency to friends and family

SCORE FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Available accreditation data for home health agencies was taken into account

Accreditation score

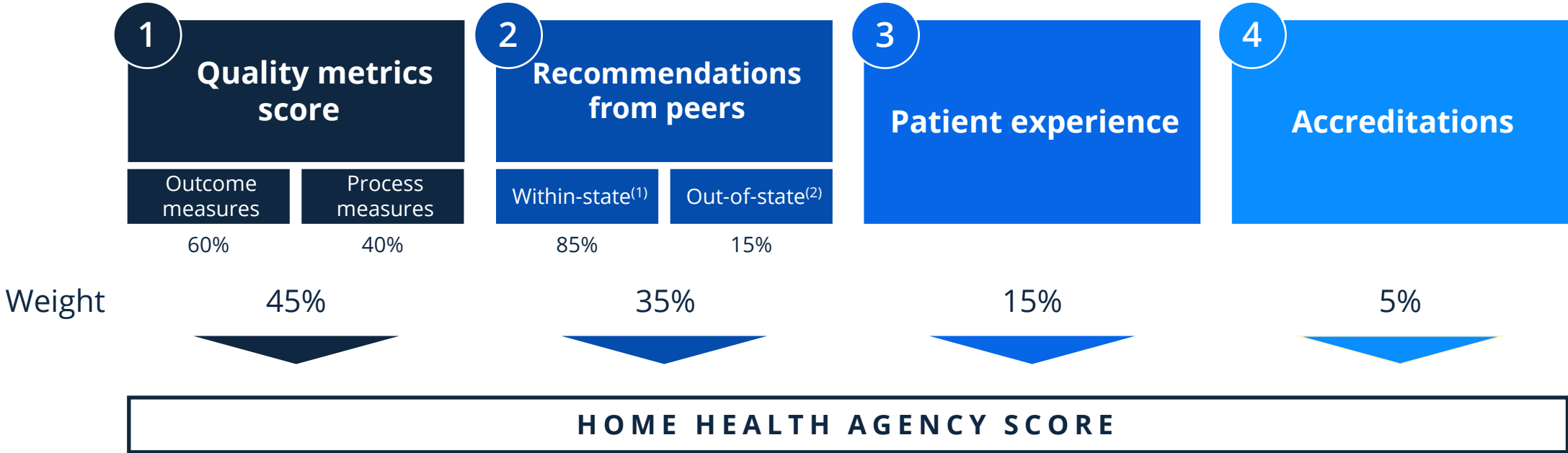
4 Accreditations

- The ranking model incorporates home health-specific accreditations that reflect structural and quality standards. These credentials were included in the scoring to highlight agency quality and recognized expertise in home health care.
- Accreditations from the following organizations were considered⁽¹⁾:
 - **Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)**
 - Home Health Accreditation
 - **Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP)**
 - Home Health Accreditation
 - **The Joint Commission (TJC)**
 - Home Care Accreditation
- Each accreditation was allocated equal weight within the scoring model.

ACCREDITATION SCORE

An overall score was calculated for each home health agency

Scoring model



The total home health agency score is based on the four pillars and their respective weights, as listed above.

10 (1) Recommendations from peers residing within the respective state
(2) Recommendations from peers residing in other states

As a result, the 300 home health agencies with the highest scores were awarded

Final home health agency ranking

California

Rank	Facility	City
1	Hoag at Home	Newport Beach
2	AVG Home Health Care	Glendale
3	So Cal HHA	North Hollywood
4	AccentCare Home Health - Greater Sacramento	Sacramento
5	ACA Home Health Care	Thousand Oaks

[...]

Florida

Rank	Facility	City
1	Sarasota Home Health Care Agency - Sarasota Branch	Osprey
2	Firstat Nursing Services - West Palm Beach	West Palm Beach
3	BayCare HomeCare - Tampa	Tampa
4	United Care Home Health Services LLC	Davie
5	Sarasota Home Health Care Agency - Manatee Branch	Sarasota

[...]

THE LEADING HOME HEALTH AGENCIES WERE AWARDED

America's Best Home Health Agencies partner network

Overview of the involved parties

The Newsweek logo, featuring the word "Newsweek" in white, bold, sans-serif font on a 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 Statista R logo, featuring the word "statista" in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized orange "R" inside a circle.

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Legal disclaimer for the ranking *America's Best Home Health Agencies*

Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of home health agencies 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, reflects the last calendar year only. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period 09/04/2024–09/03/2025 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated with 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 home health agencies or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of agencies that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.

Appendix

Home health quality metrics used

Outcome measures:

- a. Treating symptoms
 - How often patients' breathing improved
 - How often patients had pressure ulcers/pressure injuries that were new or worsened
- b. Preventing unplanned hospital care
 - How often patients remained in the community after discharge from home health
 - How often patients were readmitted to the hospital for a potentially preventable condition after discharge from home health
 - How often patients were admitted to the hospital for a potentially preventable condition while receiving home health care
- c. Preventing harm
 - How often patients got better at taking their drugs correctly by mouth
 - How often patients experienced one or more falls with major injury
- d. Managing daily activities
 - How often patients got better at walking or moving around
 - How often patients got better at getting in and out of bed

- How often patients got better at bathing
- How often patients were at or above an expected ability to care for themselves and move around at discharge

Process measures:

- a. Preventing harm
 - How often the home health team began their patients' care in a timely manner
 - How often physician-recommended actions to address medication issues were completed in a timely manner
 - How often the home health agency reviewed and provided a medication list to the patient, family, and/or caregiver at final discharge
 - How often the home health agency reviewed and provided a medication list to the next healthcare setting
- b. Immunization
 - How often the home health team made sure that their patients received a flu shot for the current flu season