

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

**State-Level Health Inspection Cut Point
Table**

May 2017



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 recalibrated 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 May 2017 are shown in Cut Point Table 1 (CP Table 1).

Cut Point Table 1
Star Cut Points for Health Inspection Scores - by State - (05-01-2017)

State	Number of facilities	Health Inspection Score							
		1 star	2 stars		3 stars		4 stars		5 stars
			Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	
Alabama	226	>47.333	≤47.333	>32.667	≤32.667	>20.000	≤20.000	>10.667	≤10.667
Alaska	18	>208.000	≤208.000	>115.333	≤115.333	>58.667	≤58.667	>36.667	≤36.667
Arizona	147	>55.333	≤55.333	>33.333	≤33.333	>20.000	≤20.000	>6.667	≤6.667
Arkansas	226	>104.000	≤104.000	>57.000	≤57.000	>33.333	≤33.333	>18.667	≤18.667
California	1,200	>106.667	≤106.667	>68.667	≤68.667	>47.333	≤47.333	>24.000	≤24.000
Colorado	217	>86.667	≤86.667	>53.333	≤53.333	>36.000	≤36.000	>21.333	≤21.333
Connecticut	223	>74.667	≤74.667	>46.667	≤46.667	>32.000	≤32.000	>17.333	≤17.333
D. C.	18	>133.333	≤133.333	>76.000	≤76.000	>45.333	≤45.333	>29.333	≤29.333
Delaware	45	>102.833	≤102.833	>72.000	≤72.000	>52.000	≤52.000	>24.667	≤24.667
Florida	686	>52.667	≤52.667	>34.000	≤34.000	>23.333	≤23.333	>11.333	≤11.333
Georgia	355	>35.167	≤35.167	>18.667	≤18.667	>10.667	≤10.667	>4.000	≤4.000
Guam	1	>82.667	≤82.667	>44.667	≤44.667	>26.000	≤26.000	>10.000	≤10.000
Hawaii	45	>73.333	≤73.333	>49.667	≤49.667	>31.333	≤31.333	>16.667	≤16.667
Idaho	77	>117.333	≤117.333	>73.333	≤73.333	>52.000	≤52.000	>30.000	≤30.000
Illinois	739	>76.667	≤76.667	>46.667	≤46.667	>32.000	≤32.000	>15.333	≤15.333
Indiana	541	>69.333	≤69.333	>41.333	≤41.333	>26.000	≤26.000	>12.667	≤12.667
Iowa	438	>62.000	≤62.000	>34.000	≤34.000	>18.667	≤18.667	>7.333	≤7.333
Kansas	336	>146.333	≤146.333	>88.667	≤88.667	>60.000	≤60.000	>30.667	≤30.667
Kentucky	290	>83.750	≤83.750	>37.333	≤37.333	>22.000	≤22.000	>8.000	≤8.000
Louisiana	277	>48.000	≤48.000	>27.333	≤27.333	>17.333	≤17.333	>6.667	≤6.667
Maine	101	>29.333	≤29.333	>18.000	≤18.000	>11.333	≤11.333	>4.667	≤4.667
Maryland	227	>98.667	≤98.667	>56.667	≤56.667	>36.000	≤36.000	>16.667	≤16.667
Massachusetts	408	>52.000	≤52.000	>30.000	≤30.000	>17.333	≤17.333	>6.000	≤6.000
Michigan	443	>116.167	≤116.167	>71.333	≤71.333	>47.333	≤47.333	>24.000	≤24.000
Minnesota	377	>57.333	≤57.333	>36.000	≤36.000	>22.667	≤22.667	>10.667	≤10.667
Mississippi	203	>41.333	≤41.333	>26.000	≤26.000	>16.667	≤16.667	>8.000	≤8.000
Missouri	509	>73.333	≤73.333	>44.000	≤44.000	>28.667	≤28.667	>12.000	≤12.000
Montana	77	>145.000	≤145.000	>71.000	≤71.000	>46.000	≤46.000	>28.000	≤28.000
Nebraska	212	>63.333	≤63.333	>40.667	≤40.667	>26.000	≤26.000	>11.333	≤11.333
Nevada	56	>66.667	≤66.667	>46.000	≤46.000	>32.667	≤32.667	>24.000	≤24.000
New Hampshire	75	>16.667	≤16.667	>9.333	≤9.333	>6.000	≤6.000	>2.000	≤2.000

New Jersey	364	>39.333	≤39.333	>25.333	≤25.333	>14.667	≤14.667	>6.000	≤6.000
New Mexico	73	>238.000	≤238.000	>117.500	≤117.500	>63.000	≤63.000	>13.333	≤13.333
New York	622	>48.000	≤48.000	>26.000	≤26.000	>13.333	≤13.333	>4.000	≤4.000
North Carolina	423	>50.000	≤50.000	>26.667	≤26.667	>13.333	≤13.333	>4.000	≤4.000
North Dakota	80	>57.667	≤57.667	>38.000	≤38.000	>26.000	≤26.000	>16.667	≤16.667
Ohio	949	>56.667	≤56.667	>32.000	≤32.000	>18.667	≤18.667	>7.333	≤7.333
Oklahoma	302	>131.333	≤131.333	>82.667	≤82.667	>53.333	≤53.333	>26.667	≤26.667
Oregon	137	>72.000	≤72.000	>48.000	≤48.000	>30.000	≤30.000	>14.000	≤14.000
Pennsylvania	700	>81.583	≤81.583	>45.333	≤45.333	>28.000	≤28.000	>12.667	≤12.667
Puerto Rico	5	>377.917	≤377.917	>340.000	≤340.000	>265.000	≤265.000	>96.000	≤96.000
Rhode Island	84	>16.667	≤16.667	>8.667	≤8.667	>4.667	≤4.667	>0.667	≤0.667
South Carolina	188	>60.000	≤60.000	>38.000	≤38.000	>22.000	≤22.000	>7.333	≤7.333
South Dakota	109	>58.000	≤58.000	>39.167	≤39.167	>26.000	≤26.000	>11.333	≤11.333
Tennessee	313	>58.667	≤58.667	>30.667	≤30.667	>16.667	≤16.667	>6.667	≤6.667
Texas	1,201	>154.000	≤154.000	>80.000	≤80.000	>47.333	≤47.333	>16.667	≤16.667
Utah	97	>72.333	≤72.333	>45.333	≤45.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>8.667	≤8.667
Vermont	37	>45.333	≤45.333	>27.333	≤27.333	>16.667	≤16.667	>3.333	≤3.333
Virginia	284	>80.667	≤80.667	>51.333	≤51.333	>32.667	≤32.667	>16.667	≤16.667
Washington	220	>125.333	≤125.333	>76.667	≤76.667	>44.000	≤44.000	>21.333	≤21.333
West Virginia	126	>110.333	≤110.333	>70.000	≤70.000	>41.333	≤41.333	>20.500	≤20.500
Wisconsin	382	>89.833	≤89.833	>50.000	≤50.000	>31.333	≤31.333	>14.000	≤14.000
Wyoming	38	>87.000	≤87.000	>60.667	≤60.667	>52.000	≤52.000	>22.667	≤22.667
Alabama	226	>47.333	≤47.333	>32.667	≤32.667	>20.000	≤20.000	>10.667	≤10.667

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.