

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

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

May 2024



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 2024 are shown in Cut Point Table 1 (CP Table 1).

Cut Point Table 1
Star Cut Points for Health Inspection Scores - by State - (05-01-2024)

State	Number of facilities	Health Inspection Score							
		1 star	2 stars		3 stars		4 stars		5 stars
			Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	
Alabama	224	>36.667	≤36.667	>22.000	≤22.000	>14.667	≤14.667	>6.000	≤6.000
Alaska	20	>103.333	≤103.333	>75.833	≤75.833	>38.667	≤38.667	>20.000	≤20.000
Arizona	141	>59.333	≤59.333	>39.333	≤39.333	>24.667	≤24.667	>11.333	≤11.333
Arkansas	215	>95.250	≤95.250	>72.667	≤72.667	>52.000	≤52.000	>32.000	≤32.000
California	1,160	>147.750	≤147.750	>98.000	≤98.000	>65.333	≤65.333	>35.333	≤35.333
Colorado	211	>102.500	≤102.500	>62.000	≤62.000	>42.000	≤42.000	>21.333	≤21.333
Connecticut	198	>77.667	≤77.667	>48.667	≤48.667	>33.333	≤33.333	>16.667	≤16.667
D. C.	17	>224.500	≤224.500	>136.000	≤136.000	>70.667	≤70.667	>31.333	≤31.333
Delaware	43	>118.000	≤118.000	>75.333	≤75.333	>53.333	≤53.333	>27.333	≤27.333
Florida	695	>79.667	≤79.667	>42.000	≤42.000	>23.333	≤23.333	>10.000	≤10.000
Georgia	356	>61.333	≤61.333	>31.333	≤31.333	>18.667	≤18.667	>6.000	≤6.000
Guam	1*	>111.333	≤111.333	>58.000	≤58.000	>32.667	≤32.667	>12.667	≤12.667
Hawaii	41	>122.667	≤122.667	>90.000	≤90.000	>56.667	≤56.667	>37.333	≤37.333
Idaho	79	>113.400	≤113.400	>68.000	≤68.000	>42.000	≤42.000	>20.000	≤20.000
Illinois	682	>188.000	≤188.000	>106.667	≤106.667	>61.333	≤61.333	>26.000	≤26.000
Indiana	512	>79.333	≤79.333	>43.333	≤43.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>13.333	≤13.333
Iowa	402	>96.000	≤96.000	>46.000	≤46.000	>20.667	≤20.667	>6.000	≤6.000
Kansas	304	>104.333	≤104.333	>62.000	≤62.000	>41.667	≤41.667	>21.333	≤21.333
Kentucky	268	>72.500	≤72.500	>30.000	≤30.000	>17.333	≤17.333	>7.333	≤7.333
Louisiana	268	>87.833	≤87.833	>47.333	≤47.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>13.333	≤13.333
Maine	82	>63.333	≤63.333	>40.000	≤40.000	>30.000	≤30.000	>12.667	≤12.667
Maryland	221	>136.667	≤136.667	>76.000	≤76.000	>48.000	≤48.000	>23.333	≤23.333
Massachusetts	344	>128.667	≤128.667	>67.333	≤67.333	>46.000	≤46.000	>19.333	≤19.333
Michigan	424	>157.000	≤157.000	>90.667	≤90.667	>56.667	≤56.667	>27.333	≤27.333
Minnesota	346	>88.500	≤88.500	>49.333	≤49.333	>28.000	≤28.000	>12.667	≤12.667
Mississippi	201	>61.667	≤61.667	>30.667	≤30.667	>18.000	≤18.000	>8.667	≤8.667
Missouri	496	>152.000	≤152.000	>78.667	≤78.667	>47.333	≤47.333	>24.500	≤24.500
Montana	60	>112.167	≤112.167	>59.333	≤59.333	>43.333	≤43.333	>16.000	≤16.000
Nebraska	183	>67.333	≤67.333	>39.333	≤39.333	>25.333	≤25.333	>14.000	≤14.000
Nevada	67	>109.333	≤109.333	>66.667	≤66.667	>43.333	≤43.333	>29.333	≤29.333
New Hampshire	73	>34.667	≤34.667	>22.667	≤22.667	>15.333	≤15.333	>7.333	≤7.333

New Jersey	346	>63.333	≤63.333	>34.667	≤34.667	>21.333	≤21.333	>9.333	≤9.333
New Mexico	67	>217.333	≤217.333	>141.333	≤141.333	>103.333	≤103.333	>50.500	≤50.500
New York	603	>42.667	≤42.667	>28.000	≤28.000	>18.000	≤18.000	>9.333	≤9.333
North Carolina	419	>108.500	≤108.500	>48.000	≤48.000	>22.667	≤22.667	>6.000	≤6.000
North Dakota	75	>56.500	≤56.500	>29.333	≤29.333	>19.333	≤19.333	>10.667	≤10.667
Ohio	922	>108.333	≤108.333	>61.333	≤61.333	>38.667	≤38.667	>15.333	≤15.333
Oklahoma	288	>90.000	≤90.000	>54.667	≤54.667	>33.333	≤33.333	>13.333	≤13.333
Oregon	129	>137.500	≤137.500	>80.667	≤80.667	>56.667	≤56.667	>31.333	≤31.333
Pennsylvania	670	>104.000	≤104.000	>52.833	≤52.833	>26.000	≤26.000	>7.333	≤7.333
Puerto Rico	6	>91.667	≤91.667	>88.800	≤88.800	>53.167	≤53.167	>34.667	≤34.667
Rhode Island	74	>153.667	≤153.667	>90.667	≤90.667	>46.000	≤46.000	>18.667	≤18.667
South Carolina	187	>72.667	≤72.667	>38.667	≤38.667	>21.667	≤21.667	>7.333	≤7.333
South Dakota	96	>52.000	≤52.000	>25.333	≤25.333	>14.000	≤14.000	>5.333	≤5.333
Tennessee	302	>83.333	≤83.333	>34.000	≤34.000	>18.000	≤18.000	>8.000	≤8.000
Texas	1,182	>126.167	≤126.167	>60.667	≤60.667	>38.000	≤38.000	>18.667	≤18.667
Utah	98	>97.333	≤97.333	>44.667	≤44.667	>29.333	≤29.333	>8.000	≤8.000
Vermont	34	>112.000	≤112.000	>52.667	≤52.667	>23.333	≤23.333	>2.667	≤2.667
Virginia	287	>121.667	≤121.667	>68.000	≤68.000	>38.667	≤38.667	>20.000	≤20.000
Washington	195	>181.000	≤181.000	>122.000	≤122.000	>78.833	≤78.833	>42.667	≤42.667
West Virginia	121	>130.667	≤130.667	>80.667	≤80.667	>53.333	≤53.333	>31.333	≤31.333
Wisconsin	325	>110.667	≤110.667	>46.500	≤46.500	>24.000	≤24.000	>8.000	≤8.000
Wyoming	35	>73.333	≤73.333	>44.667	≤44.667	>28.000	≤28.000	>13.333	≤13.333

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.