

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

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

March 2020



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 March 2020 are shown in Cut Point Table 1 (CP Table 1).

Cut Point Table 1
Star Cut Points for Health Inspection Scores - by State - (03-01-2020)

State	Number of facilities	Health Inspection Score							
		1 star	2 stars		3 stars		4 stars		5 stars
			Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	
Alabama	227	>30.667	≤30.667	>22.000	≤22.000	>14.667	≤14.667	>6.667	≤6.667
Alaska	18	>130.000	≤130.000	>102.667	≤102.667	>64.000	≤64.000	>43.333	≤43.333
Arizona	145	>58.000	≤58.000	>29.333	≤29.333	>17.333	≤17.333	>8.000	≤8.000
Arkansas	223	>128.167	≤128.167	>77.000	≤77.000	>48.500	≤48.500	>27.333	≤27.333
California	1,187	>112.667	≤112.667	>75.167	≤75.167	>50.667	≤50.667	>26.000	≤26.000
Colorado	225	>94.333	≤94.333	>48.000	≤48.000	>32.000	≤32.000	>16.800	≤16.800
Connecticut	215	>62.000	≤62.000	>40.667	≤40.667	>26.667	≤26.667	>16.000	≤16.000
D. C.	18	>201.333	≤201.333	>122.000	≤122.000	>64.000	≤64.000	>28.000	≤28.000
Delaware	46	>133.333	≤133.333	>82.667	≤82.667	>53.333	≤53.333	>19.333	≤19.333
Florida	687	>54.667	≤54.667	>34.000	≤34.000	>22.000	≤22.000	>12.000	≤12.000
Georgia	357	>42.667	≤42.667	>23.333	≤23.333	>14.000	≤14.000	>4.000	≤4.000
Guam	1*	>90.333	≤90.333	>48.667	≤48.667	>26.667	≤26.667	>10.667	≤10.667
Hawaii	44	>97.667	≤97.667	>49.333	≤49.333	>38.667	≤38.667	>24.667	≤24.667
Idaho	81	>126.167	≤126.167	>78.000	≤78.000	>51.333	≤51.333	>19.200	≤19.200
Illinois	722	>100.667	≤100.667	>63.333	≤63.333	>38.667	≤38.667	>18.667	≤18.667
Indiana	533	>82.333	≤82.333	>48.667	≤48.667	>30.000	≤30.000	>14.667	≤14.667
Iowa	431	>46.000	≤46.000	>26.667	≤26.667	>15.333	≤15.333	>4.667	≤4.667
Kansas	329	>98.667	≤98.667	>61.833	≤61.833	>40.000	≤40.000	>14.000	≤14.000
Kentucky	283	>78.667	≤78.667	>32.667	≤32.667	>17.333	≤17.333	>8.000	≤8.000
Louisiana	276	>52.000	≤52.000	>30.000	≤30.000	>14.000	≤14.000	>4.000	≤4.000
Maine	93	>38.667	≤38.667	>20.000	≤20.000	>12.000	≤12.000	>6.000	≤6.000
Maryland	225	>114.667	≤114.667	>74.667	≤74.667	>48.000	≤48.000	>18.000	≤18.000
Massachusetts	377	>86.667	≤86.667	>46.667	≤46.667	>28.000	≤28.000	>13.333	≤13.333
Michigan	441	>154.833	≤154.833	>101.333	≤101.333	>66.000	≤66.000	>32.000	≤32.000
Minnesota	369	>79.833	≤79.833	>45.167	≤45.167	>26.000	≤26.000	>14.000	≤14.000
Mississippi	203	>47.333	≤47.333	>24.667	≤24.667	>14.667	≤14.667	>5.333	≤5.333
Missouri	517	>87.833	≤87.833	>48.667	≤48.667	>31.333	≤31.333	>15.333	≤15.333
Montana	71	>111.333	≤111.333	>61.333	≤61.333	>40.667	≤40.667	>23.333	≤23.333
Nebraska	203	>80.667	≤80.667	>48.000	≤48.000	>32.000	≤32.000	>18.667	≤18.667
Nevada	62	>84.000	≤84.000	>68.000	≤68.000	>48.667	≤48.667	>32.000	≤32.000
New Hampshire	74	>18.000	≤18.000	>8.000	≤8.000	>4.000	≤4.000	>0.667	≤0.667

New Jersey	363	>32.667	≤32.667	>18.667	≤18.667	>12.000	≤12.000	>4.667	≤4.667
New Mexico	70	>195.833	≤195.833	>138.000	≤138.000	>99.333	≤99.333	>37.000	≤37.000
New York	618	>42.000	≤42.000	>23.333	≤23.333	>14.667	≤14.667	>5.333	≤5.333
North Carolina	428	>66.667	≤66.667	>32.667	≤32.667	>16.000	≤16.000	>5.333	≤5.333
North Dakota	80	>41.667	≤41.667	>28.000	≤28.000	>20.667	≤20.667	>9.333	≤9.333
Ohio	952	>84.000	≤84.000	>47.333	≤47.333	>28.000	≤28.000	>12.000	≤12.000
Oklahoma	295	>112.667	≤112.667	>65.500	≤65.500	>40.667	≤40.667	>20.000	≤20.000
Oregon	130	>136.000	≤136.000	>79.333	≤79.333	>48.000	≤48.000	>24.000	≤24.000
Pennsylvania	694	>88.667	≤88.667	>50.667	≤50.667	>27.333	≤27.333	>11.200	≤11.200
Puerto Rico	6	>114.000	≤114.000	>80.000	≤80.000	>52.000	≤52.000	>32.667	≤32.667
Rhode Island	80	>29.250	≤29.250	>15.333	≤15.333	>6.667	≤6.667	>1.333	≤1.333
South Carolina	187	>79.333	≤79.333	>44.000	≤44.000	>27.333	≤27.333	>10.000	≤10.000
South Dakota	104	>51.333	≤51.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>20.000	≤20.000	>10.000	≤10.000
Tennessee	315	>39.000	≤39.000	>22.000	≤22.000	>11.333	≤11.333	>4.000	≤4.000
Texas	1,202	>108.667	≤108.667	>65.333	≤65.333	>39.333	≤39.333	>17.333	≤17.333
Utah	99	>94.667	≤94.667	>63.333	≤63.333	>38.667	≤38.667	>14.000	≤14.000
Vermont	36	>63.333	≤63.333	>30.667	≤30.667	>19.333	≤19.333	>8.000	≤8.000
Virginia	285	>104.667	≤104.667	>65.333	≤65.333	>41.333	≤41.333	>21.333	≤21.333
Washington	206	>214.500	≤214.500	>135.333	≤135.333	>85.000	≤85.000	>42.667	≤42.667
West Virginia	123	>123.500	≤123.500	>76.833	≤76.833	>51.333	≤51.333	>22.000	≤22.000
Wisconsin	360	>82.250	≤82.250	>38.000	≤38.000	>21.333	≤21.333	>6.667	≤6.667
Wyoming	37	>72.667	≤72.667	>56.000	≤56.000	>40.000	≤40.000	>21.333	≤21.333

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.