

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

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

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

Cut Point Table 1
Star Cut Points for Health Inspection Scores - by State - (08-01-2020)

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	>14.000	≤14.000	>6.000	≤6.000
Alaska	18	>130.000	≤130.000	>102.667	≤102.667	>59.333	≤59.333	>43.333	≤43.333
Arizona	145	>61.333	≤61.333	>30.000	≤30.000	>18.000	≤18.000	>8.667	≤8.667
Arkansas	219	>122.167	≤122.167	>73.333	≤73.333	>47.333	≤47.333	>27.333	≤27.333
California	1,183	>113.833	≤113.833	>75.333	≤75.333	>50.667	≤50.667	>26.667	≤26.667
Colorado	223	>92.667	≤92.667	>49.333	≤49.333	>33.333	≤33.333	>15.333	≤15.333
Connecticut	211	>59.667	≤59.667	>40.667	≤40.667	>26.667	≤26.667	>16.000	≤16.000
D. C.	18	>165.167	≤165.167	>107.333	≤107.333	>64.000	≤64.000	>28.000	≤28.000
Delaware	46	>130.667	≤130.667	>82.000	≤82.000	>52.000	≤52.000	>15.333	≤15.333
Florida	681	>56.000	≤56.000	>34.000	≤34.000	>22.667	≤22.667	>12.000	≤12.000
Georgia	357	>41.333	≤41.333	>23.333	≤23.333	>14.000	≤14.000	>4.000	≤4.000
Guam	1*	>90.667	≤90.667	>48.667	≤48.667	>27.000	≤27.000	>10.667	≤10.667
Hawaii	43	>97.667	≤97.667	>50.667	≤50.667	>38.667	≤38.667	>24.667	≤24.667
Idaho	81	>124.833	≤124.833	>78.000	≤78.000	>48.000	≤48.000	>21.333	≤21.333
Illinois	714	>100.667	≤100.667	>62.667	≤62.667	>38.667	≤38.667	>18.667	≤18.667
Indiana	532	>83.500	≤83.500	>48.667	≤48.667	>31.333	≤31.333	>14.667	≤14.667
Iowa	431	>46.000	≤46.000	>26.000	≤26.000	>14.667	≤14.667	>4.667	≤4.667
Kansas	328	>96.667	≤96.667	>62.000	≤62.000	>39.333	≤39.333	>14.000	≤14.000
Kentucky	284	>80.833	≤80.833	>31.333	≤31.333	>17.333	≤17.333	>8.000	≤8.000
Louisiana	275	>58.500	≤58.500	>30.000	≤30.000	>15.333	≤15.333	>4.000	≤4.000
Maine	93	>38.667	≤38.667	>18.667	≤18.667	>10.667	≤10.667	>6.000	≤6.000
Maryland	225	>115.333	≤115.333	>75.333	≤75.333	>48.000	≤48.000	>18.000	≤18.000
Massachusetts	375	>86.667	≤86.667	>47.333	≤47.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>13.333	≤13.333
Michigan	438	>159.333	≤159.333	>102.000	≤102.000	>66.667	≤66.667	>32.000	≤32.000
Minnesota	366	>80.000	≤80.000	>45.333	≤45.333	>28.000	≤28.000	>14.000	≤14.000
Mississippi	203	>47.333	≤47.333	>24.667	≤24.667	>14.667	≤14.667	>4.667	≤4.667
Missouri	516	>90.667	≤90.667	>50.667	≤50.667	>31.333	≤31.333	>16.000	≤16.000
Montana	70	>104.250	≤104.250	>59.333	≤59.333	>39.333	≤39.333	>18.667	≤18.667
Nebraska	196	>78.667	≤78.667	>48.667	≤48.667	>32.000	≤32.000	>18.667	≤18.667
Nevada	61	>86.500	≤86.500	>68.667	≤68.667	>50.000	≤50.000	>37.333	≤37.333
New Hampshire	74	>19.333	≤19.333	>8.000	≤8.000	>4.000	≤4.000	>0.667	≤0.667

New Jersey	362	>32.667	≤32.667	>18.667	≤18.667	>12.000	≤12.000	>5.333	≤5.333
New Mexico	69	>193.667	≤193.667	>138.000	≤138.000	>99.333	≤99.333	>36.000	≤36.000
New York	616	>40.667	≤40.667	>24.000	≤24.000	>14.667	≤14.667	>5.333	≤5.333
North Carolina	427	>66.333	≤66.333	>32.000	≤32.000	>16.000	≤16.000	>5.333	≤5.333
North Dakota	80	>43.667	≤43.667	>28.000	≤28.000	>20.667	≤20.667	>10.000	≤10.000
Ohio	946	>87.333	≤87.333	>47.333	≤47.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>12.000	≤12.000
Oklahoma	295	>110.333	≤110.333	>62.667	≤62.667	>39.333	≤39.333	>18.667	≤18.667
Oregon	130	>140.000	≤140.000	>80.000	≤80.000	>46.000	≤46.000	>24.333	≤24.333
Pennsylvania	689	>88.167	≤88.167	>50.000	≤50.000	>28.000	≤28.000	>11.333	≤11.333
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	>16.000	≤16.000	>7.333	≤7.333	>1.667	≤1.667
South Carolina	185	>84.083	≤84.083	>46.333	≤46.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>11.200	≤11.200
South Dakota	104	>46.667	≤46.667	>28.800	≤28.800	>19.333	≤19.333	>10.000	≤10.000
Tennessee	314	>38.667	≤38.667	>21.333	≤21.333	>11.333	≤11.333	>4.000	≤4.000
Texas	1,194	>110.000	≤110.000	>66.000	≤66.000	>39.333	≤39.333	>17.333	≤17.333
Utah	97	>96.000	≤96.000	>62.667	≤62.667	>42.667	≤42.667	>14.000	≤14.000
Vermont	35	>68.667	≤68.667	>28.667	≤28.667	>19.333	≤19.333	>8.000	≤8.000
Virginia	284	>104.667	≤104.667	>66.000	≤66.000	>41.333	≤41.333	>22.667	≤22.667
Washington	203	>220.000	≤220.000	>140.500	≤140.500	>86.000	≤86.000	>42.667	≤42.667
West Virginia	122	>126.500	≤126.500	>70.667	≤70.667	>48.667	≤48.667	>24.000	≤24.000
Wisconsin	351	>80.667	≤80.667	>40.000	≤40.000	>21.333	≤21.333	>6.667	≤6.667
Wyoming	36	>71.333	≤71.333	>56.667	≤56.667	>40.000	≤40.000	>34.000	≤34.000

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.