Alabama

1918 2018 | The Commonwealth Fund

Ranking Highlights

	2018 Rank[a]	Change[b]
Overall	**43**	**-3**
Access & Affordability	38	-7
Prevention & Treatment	34	+1
Avoidable Use & Cost	42	-3
Healthy Lives	44	0
Disparity	34	+7

How Health Care in Alabama Has Changed[c]

- Greatly Improved — 3
- Improved — 7
- Little or No Change — 19
- Worsened — 4
- Greatly Worsened — 3

Worse Than Average Overall Performance

Better Than Average Overall Performance
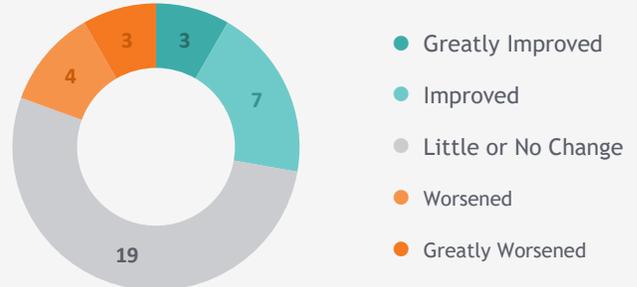
Top Ranked Indicators

30-day readmissions, ages 18-64

Home health patients without improved mobility

Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee

Bottom Ranked Indicators

Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging

Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI), SIR

High out-of-pocket medical spending

Most Improved Indicators

Home health patients without improved mobility

Colorectal cancer deaths

Medicare beneficiaries received a high-risk drug

Indicators That Worsened the Most

Adults who are obese

High out-of-pocket medical spending

Hospital 30-day mortality

Estimated Impact of State Improvement[d]

Top State in the U.S.	Top State in the South	Alabama could expect the following gains if performance in the state improved to the top level at these national and regional benchmarks:
336,462	261,692	fewer adults would skip needed care because of its cost
178,999	160,190	more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings
6,844	731	more children (ages 19–35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines
36,368	23,143	fewer Medicare beneficiaries would receive an unsafe medication
2,527	1,370	fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care
129,732	70,210	fewer employer-insured adults and elderly Medicare beneficiaries would seek care in emergency departments for nonemergent or primary-care-treatable conditions

Table 1. State Health System Performance Indicator Data by Dimension

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Best state rate	State ranking	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time (e)
Access & Affordability	**2018 Scorecard**					**Baseline**			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2016	14	12	4	37	2013	20	20	Improved
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2016	3	5	1	5	2013	5	8	Improved
Adults without a usual source of care	2016	21	22	11	23	2013	22	24	No Change
Adults who went without care because of cost	2016	16	13	7	43	2013	16	16	No Change
Individuals with high out-of-pocket medical spending	2015-16	19	14	9	51	2013-14	16	15	Worsened
Employee health insurance contributions as a share of median income	2016	7	6	4	35	2013	6	6	Worsened
Adults without a dental visit in past year	2016	16	16	10	31	2012	18	15	Improved
Prevention & Treatment	**2018 Scorecard**					**Baseline**			
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2016	32	32	24	20	2012	32	31	No Change
Adults without all age-appropriate recommended vaccines	2016	65	63	54	34	2013	62	64	Worsened
Diabetic adults ages 18–64 without a hemoglobin A1c test	2015	15	17	11	9	--	--	--	--
Medicare beneficiaries received a high-risk drug	2014	18	13	7	48	2012	24	17	Improved
Children without all components of a medical home	2016	49	51	40	24	--	--	--	--
Children without both a medical and dental preventive care visit in the past year	2016	32	32	20	26	--	--	--	--
Children who did not receive needed mental health treatment	2016	19	18	5	35	--	--	--	--
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2016	23	29	15	7	2013	23	30	No Change
Hospital 30-day mortality	2013 - 2016	14.6	14.1	13	35	2010 - 2013	13.7	13.2	Worsened
Central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)	2015	1.41	0.99	0.32	50	--	--	--	--
Hospital patients discharged without instructions for home recovery	2016	14	13	9	37	2013	15	14	No Change
Hospital patients who did not receive patient-centered care	2016	30	32	27	12	2013	31	32	No Change
Home health patients who did not get better at walking or moving around	2016	24	29	23	2	2013	35	39	Improved
Nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2016	19	16	8	42	2013	22	21	Improved
Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need	2013-2015	20	20	14	18	2009-2011	21	21	No Change
Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment	2013-2015	54	56	41	22	2009-2011	59	59	Improved

Table 1. State Health System Performance Indicator Data by Dimension (continued)

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Best state rate	State ranking	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time (e)
Avoidable Hospital Use & Cost			**2018 Scorecard**				**Baseline**		
Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children	2014	--	106	22	--	2012	--	143	--
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2015	171	159	130	36	--	--	--	--
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2015	200	197	138	36	2012	192	188	No Change
Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2015	6	5	3	47	--	--	--	--
Ages 65–74, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2015	35	26	14	47	2012	38	29	No Change
Age 75 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2015	76	66	33	47	2012	82	70	No Change
30-day hospital readmissions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2015	1.2	2.9	1.2	7	--	--	--	--
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2015	45	42	21	7	2012	50	49	No Change
Short-stay nursing home residents with a 30-day readmission to the hospital	2014	20	19	11	29	2012	22	20	Improved
Long-stay nursing home residents with a hospital admission	2014	19	16	5	35	2012	21	17	No Change
Home health patients with a hospital admission	2016	18	16.4	14	49	2013	17	16	Worsened
Adults ages 18–50 with low back pain who had an imaging study at diagnosis	2015	41	29	16	49	--	--	--	--
Total employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee	2015	$3,706	$4,736	$3,347	4	2013	$3,706	$4,697	No Change
Total Medicare (Parts A & B) reimbursements per enrollee	2015	$9,623	$9,025	$5,586	44	2012	$9,344	$8,854	No Change
Healthy Lives			**2018 Scorecard**				**Baseline**		
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2014-15	110.4	84.3	54.7	45	2012-13	111.3	83.7	No Change
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2016	21.1	20.1	13.6	32	2013	21.4	20.8	No Change
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2016	14.3	13.1	10.1	38	2013	17.7	14.6	Improved
Deaths from suicide, alcohol, and drug use per 100,000 population	2016	44.7	43.2	28.5	21	2013	36.7	35.6	Worsened
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 births	2015	8.3	5.9	4.1	48	2012	8.9	6	No Change
Adults who report fair/poor health	2016	20	16	10	46	2013	20	16	No Change
Adults who smoke	2016	21	16	9	42	2013	21	18	No Change
Adults who are obese	2016	37	30	22	47	2013	33	29	Worsened
Children who are overweight or obese	2016	35	31	19	45	--	--	--	--
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2016	15	10	6	47	2012	17	10	Improved

Table 2. State Disparity Indicator Data

Dimension and indicator	Data year	Low-income rate (f)	Disparity (g)	State ranking	Data year	Low-income rate (f)	Disparity (g)	Change over time (h)
Disparity		**2018 Scorecard**				**Baseline**		
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2016	27	-23	41	2013	37	-32	Improved
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2016	4	-3	13	2013	6	-4	Improved
Adults without a usual source of care	2016	26	-11	31	2013	25	-11	No Change
Adults who went without care because of cost	2016	33	-28	51	2013	31	-26	Worsened
Adults without a dental visit in past year	2016	25	-13	24	2012	25	-14	Improved
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2016	37	-13	37	2012	37	-15	Improved
Adults without all age-appropriate recommended vaccines	2016	71	-9	27	2013	62	-8	Worsened
Children without all components of a medical home	2016	51	-12	2	--	--	--	--
Children without both a medical and dental preventive care visit in the past year	2016	27	0	1	--	--	--	--
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2016	27	-14	33	2013	21	-4	Worsened
Medicare beneficiaries received a high-risk drug	2014	22	-5	29	2012	29	-7	Improved
Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children	2014	--	--	--	2012	--	--	#N/A
Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions, Medicare duals age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2015	118	-66	36	2012	116	-48	Worsened
30-day hospital readmissions, Medicare dual eligibles age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2015	69	-36	35	2012	84	-43	Improved
Potentially avoidable ED visits, Medicare dual eligibles age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2015	396	-226	35	2012	351	-187	Worsened
Adults who smoke	2016	31	-16	27	2013	29	-16	No Change
Adults who are obese	2016	46	-9	21	2013	40	-8	Worsened
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2016	22	-15	29	2012	29	-23	Improved
Adults who report fair/poor health	2016	34	-25	40	2013	35	-27	Improved

Notes. (a) The 2018 Scorecard rankings reflect 2015 or 2016 data. The 2018 Scorecard added or revised several performance measures since the March 2017 Scorecard report; rankings are not comparable between reports. **(b)** Change represents states' rank difference from the baseline data year (generally 2012 or 2013). Positive values represent an improvement in rank; negative values are a worsening in rank. **(c)** Trend data available for 37 of 43 total Scorecard indicators. Greatly improved/worsened denotes a change of at least one full (1.0) standard deviation larger than the indicator's distribution among all states over the two time points; improved/worsened denotes a change of at least one-half (0.5) standard deviation. No change denotes no change in rate or a change of less than one-half standard deviation. **(d)** Estimated impact if this state's performance improved to the rate of two benchmark levels—a national benchmark set at the level of the best-performing state and a regional benchmark set at the level of the top performing state in same census region (Midwest, Northeast, South, or West). Benchmark states have an estimated impact of zero (0). Equivalent estimated impact based on national and regional benchmarks indicate that the best observed rate in the region was equal to the best observed rate nationally. Impact based on national and regional benchmarks should not be interpreted as cumulative. **(e)** Change (improvement or worsening) refers to a change between the baseline and current time periods of at least 0.5 standard deviations. **(f)** Rates are for the states' low income population, generally those whose household income is under 200% FPL. **(g)** Disparity is the difference between the states' low-income and higher-income (400%+ FPL) populations. **(h)** Improvement indicates that the low-income rate improved and the disparity between low- and higher-income populations narrowed; worsening indicates the low-income rate worsened and the disparity between low- and higher-income populations widened.