

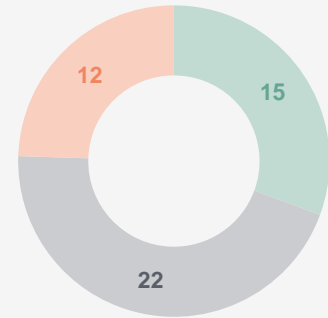
North Carolina

Ranking Highlights^a

	National Rank	Rank Among Southeastern States*
Overall	33 of 51	2 of 12
Reproductive & Women's Health	41	4
Access & Affordability	40	8
Prevention & Treatment	28	2
Avoidable Hospital Use & Cost	15	2
Healthy Lives	30	3
Income Disparity	46	11
Racial & Ethnic Health Equity	24	4

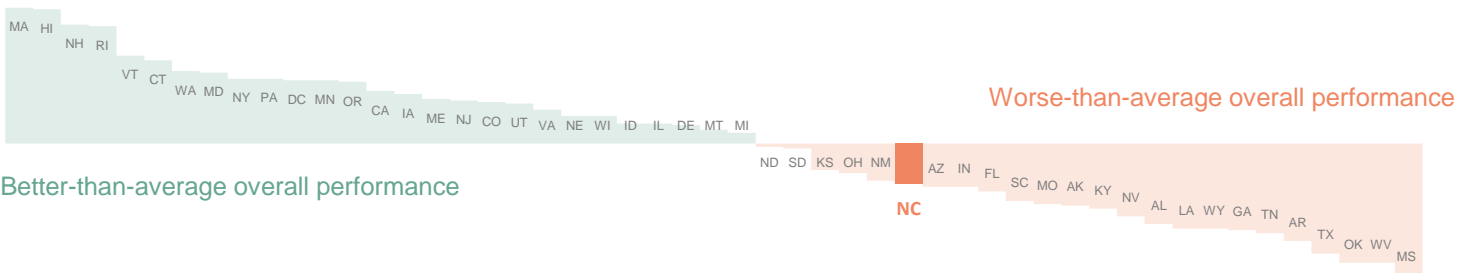
* Southeastern states include AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV

How Health Care Performance Changed in North Carolina^b



- Indicators That Improved
- Indicators That Worsened
- Indicators with Little or No Change

How North Carolina Compares to All States



Better-than-average overall performance

The Best and Worst in North Carolina

Best Performance

- Primary care spending as share of total, age 65 and older
- Hospital 30-day readmission rate ages 18–64
- Primary care spending as share of total, ages 18–64

Improved the Most

- Potentially avoidable emergency department visits ages 18–64
- High out-of-pocket medical spending
- Potentially avoidable emergency department visits age 65 and older

Worst Performance

- People with medical debt
- Self-pay in-hospital births
- Adults vaccinated against COVID-19 with a booster

Worsened the Most

- Drug overdose deaths
- All-cause mortality rate per 100,000 women ages 15–44
- Home health patients with improved mobility

Table 1. State Health System Performance Indicator Data by Dimension

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Best state rate	State rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time ^b
Access & Affordability						2023 Scorecard			Baseline
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2021	15%	12%	3%	43	2019	17%	13%	No Change
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2021	5%	5%	1%	32	2019	6%	6%	No Change
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2021	11%	10%	5%	38	2019	16%	14%	Improved
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2021	17%	17%	9%	32	—	—	—	—
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2020–21	9%	7%	5%	43	2018–19	13%	10%	Improved
Employee total potential out-of-pocket medical costs as a share of state median income	2021	15%	12%	7%	45	2019	14%	12%	No Change
People with medical debt	2021	20%	13%	2%	48	—	—	—	—
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2020	35%	35%	25%	29	2018	35%	34%	No Change
Prevention & Treatment						2023 Scorecard			Baseline
Adults with all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2020	72%	69%	76%	10	2018	70%	68%	Improved
Adults with age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2021	43%	42%	54%	25	2019	47%	41%	Worsened
Adults vaccinated against COVID-19 with a booster	2022	26%	42%	63%	51	—	—	—	—
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test	2021	11%	10%	4%	36	2019	9%	8%	Worsened
Children without all recommended vaccines	2021	21%	28%	12%	8	2019	20%	27%	No Change
Children with a medical home	2020–21	48%	46%	55%	29	2018–19	49%	48%	No Change
Children without a medical and dental preventive care visit	2020–21	34%	38%	26%	16	—	—	—	—
Children who did not receive needed mental health care	2020–21	22%	20%	11%	40	2018–19	19%	18%	Worsened
Adults age 18 and older with any mental illness who did not receive treatment	2019–20	51%	55%	41%	21	—	—	—	—
Youth ages 12–17 with a major depressive episode who did not receive mental health services	2019–20	62%	60%	33%	37	—	—	—	—
Hospitals with better-than-average patient experience ratings	2021	47%	45%	83%	25	2019	44%	48%	No Change
Hospital 30-day mortality	07/2018–12/2021	13%	12%	11%	31	07/2016–06/2019	14%	14%	Improved

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

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Best state rate	State rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time ^b	
Prevention & Treatment (cont.)						2023 Scorecard			Baseline	
Central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI)	2021	1.036	0.921	0.571	42	2019	0.916	0.689	Worsened	
Nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2020	12%	14%	9%	10	2018	12%	15%	No Change	
Home health patients with improved mobility	2019	83%	80%	87%	10	2017	76%	75%	Improved	
Avoidable Hospital Use & Cost						2023 Scorecard			Baseline	
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits										
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2021	138	134	122	39	2019	191	137	Improved	
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2021	139	141	115	26	2019	192	185	Improved	
Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions										
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2021	5	4	4	38	2019	7	7	Improved	
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2021	29	29	16	28	2019	42	41	Improved	
30-day hospital readmissions										
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2021	3	3	2	7	2019	3	3	Improved	
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2021	30	33	16	22	2019	37	40	Improved	
Skilled nursing patients with a successful discharge	2020	59%	57%	69%	17	2018	56%	54%	Improved	
Home health patients with a hospital admission	2019	16%	15%	11%	21	2017	16%	16%	No Change	
Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging	2021	66%	69%	60%	10	2019	65%	68%	No Change	
Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee	2021	\$5,972	\$6,060	\$4,255	25	2019	\$5,291	\$5,354	Worsened	
Medicare spending per beneficiary	2021	\$9,741	\$10,478	\$6,915	18	2019	\$9,564	\$10,180	No Change	
Primary care spending as a share of total health care spending										
Ages 18–64 (employer-insured enrollees)	2021	9.0%	6.9%	10.0%	8	2019	9.5%	7.2%	No Change	
Age 65 and older (Medicare beneficiaries)	2020	6.7%	5.5%	7.6%	5	2018	6.8%	5.7%	No Change	
Healthy Lives						2023 Scorecard			Baseline	
Premature deaths from treatable causes per 100,000 population	2020–21	97	89	59	35	2018–19	90	84	No Change	
Premature deaths from preventable causes per 100,000 population	2020–21	245	232	152	30	2018–19	178	166	Worsened	

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

Dimension and indicator	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Best state rate	State rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time ^b
Healthy Lives (cont.)	2023 Scorecard					Baseline			
Drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population	2021	39	32	11	35	2019	22	22	Worsened
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population	2021	13	14	6	10	2019	13	14	No Change
Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population	2021	13	14	8	20	2019	10	10	No Change
Adults ages 18–64 who report fair or poor health	2021	13%	14%	10%	26	2019	18%	17%	Improved
Adults age 18 and older who smoke	2021	15%	14%	7%	26	2019	19%	15%	Improved
Adults who are obese	2021	37%	34%	25%	35	2019	35%	32%	Worsened
Children who are overweight or obese	2020–21	34%	34%	24%	30	2018–19	31%	31%	Worsened
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2020	10%	9%	5%	38	2018	11%	9%	No Change
Reproductive & Women’s Health	2023 Scorecard					Baseline			
Maternal deaths while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, per 100,000 live births	2019–21	32	26	10	30	—	—	—	—
Severe maternal morbidity rate per 10,000 in-hospital deliveries	2020	85	88	43	29	2018	74	77	Worsened
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2020	6.8	5.4	3.5	43	2018	6.8	5.7	No Change
Share of births born preterm, prior to 37 weeks of pregnancy (gestation)	2021	11%	10%	8%	34	2019	11%	10%	No Change
Breast and cervical cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2021	23	22	16	29	2019	21	22	Worsened
All-cause mortality rate per 100,000 women ages 15–44	2021	152	124	79	39	2019	100	89	Worsened
Share of in-hospital births in state with a self-pay insurance payment source	2021	7.26%	2.74%	0.30%	51	2019	7.08%	3.41%	No Change
Women ages 18–44 without a usual source of care	2021	21%	21%	9%	33	—	—	—	—
Women ages 18–44 without a routine checkup in the past two years	2021	11%	13%	8%	20	2019	14%	13%	Improved
Share of births not beginning prenatal care in first trimester	2021	26%	22%	11%	40	2019	26%	22%	No Change
Share of women with a recent live birth who did not report having a postpartum checkup visit	2020	—	11%	8%	—	2018	7%	9%	—
Women with up-to-date breast and cervical cancer screenings	2020	76%	74%	80%	11	2018	76%	76%	No Change

Table 2. State Income Disparity Data

Disparity Indicator	Data year	Low-income rate ^c	Disparity ^d	State rank	Data year	Low-income rate ^c	Disparity ^d	Change over time ^e
	2023 Scorecard				Baseline			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2021	28%	-22	44	2019	31%	-25	Improved
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2021	7%	-4	21	2019	7%	-4	No Change
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2020–21	23%	-19	42	2018–19	29%	-23	Improved
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2020–21	29%	-17	46	—	—	—	—
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2020–21	20%	-19	33	2018–19	30%	-29	Improved
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018/20	52%	-34	44	2016/18	53%	-34	No Change
Adults with all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018/20	66%	-11	29	2016/18	66%	-13	Improved
Adults with age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2020–21	37%	-17	34	2018–19	37%	-11	No Change
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2021	26%	-7	13	2019	24%	-12	No Change
Children ages 0–17 with all components of a medical home	2020–21	36%	-26	21	2018–19	34%	-28	No Change
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2020–21	42%	-21	24	—	—	—	—
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2020	309	-186	48	2019	410	-246	Improved
Hospital admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2020	75	-50	30	2019	84	-51	Improved
30-day hospital readmissions, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2020	82	-57	39	2019	85	-54	No Change
Primary care spending as share of total health care spending among Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older	2020	5.9%	-1.0	31	2018	6.4%	-0.4	No Change
Adults ages 18–64 who report fair or poor health	2020–21	22%	-17	22	2018–19	30%	-23	Improved
Adults age 18 and older who smoke	2020–21	25%	-15	23	2018–19	28%	-15	Improved
Adults ages 18–64 who are obese (BMI >= 30)	2020–21	42%	-10	44	2018–19	40%	-8	Worsened
Adults ages 18–64 who have lost six or more teeth because of tooth decay, infection, or gum disease	2018/20	18%	-14	33	2016/18	16%	-12	Worsened

Table 3. State Racial and Ethnic Health Equity Performance Summary Data^f

Health System Performance Score & State Rank
Among Population Group

	Percentile Score (1–100)	State Rank Among Population Group
American Indian and Alaska Native people	16	3 of 11 states
Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander people	56	25 of 30 states
Black people	37	14 of 39 states
Hispanic people	13	39 of 48 states
White people ^g	79	3 of 51 states

Performance Score based on methodology used in: *Achieving Racial and Ethnic Equity in U.S. Health Care: A Scorecard of State Performance*, Commonwealth Fund, Nov. 2021, available at: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/scorecard/2021/nov/achieving-racial-ethnic-equity-us-health-care-state-performance>

Table 4. State Racial and Ethnic Health Equity Performance Measure Data^f

	Data year	U.S. total	AIAN people	AANHPI people	Black people	Hispanic people	White people
Health Outcomes							
Deaths before age 75 from health care treatable causes per 100,000 population	2020–21	89	114	44	157	55	85
Deaths before age 75 from preventable causes per 100,000 population	2020–21	232	400	99	309	172	240
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2020–21	13	10	6	16	8	13
Adults age 18 and older who smoke	2020–21	14%	32%	—	17%	9%	16%
Adults ages 18–64 who are obese (BMI >= 30)	2020–21	34%	39%	20%	51%	31%	32%
Adults ages 18–64 who have lost six or more teeth because of tooth decay, infection, or gum disease	2018/20	9%	30%	—	13%	6%	10%
30-day hospital readmissions, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2020	33	—	—	41	—	29
Health Care Access							
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2021	12%	21%	8%	15%	42%	11%
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2021	5%	8%	3%	5%	12%	4%
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2020–21	10%	12%	10%	13%	19%	9%
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2020–21	17%	16%	35%	17%	55%	15%
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2020–21	7%	12%	10%	10%	11%	7%
Health Care Quality and Service Use							
Adult women ages 50–74 who did not receive a mammogram in the past two years	2018/20	22%	16%	36%	19%	31%	20%
Adult women ages 25–64 who did not receive a cervical cancer screening test in the past three years	2018/20	24%	21%	26%	20%	18%	24%
Adults ages 50–74 without a recent colon cancer screening test	2018/20	28%	26%	53%	26%	62%	26%

Table 4. State Racial and Ethnic Health Equity Performance Measure Data (cont.)^f

	Data year	U.S. total	AIAN people	AANHPI people	Black people	Hispanic people	White people
Health Care Quality and Service Use (cont.)							
Adults age 18 and older who did not receive a flu shot in the last year	2020–21	55%	57%	62%	56%	68%	48%
Adults age 65 and older who have never gotten a pneumonia vaccine	2020–21	30%	35%	—	32%	39%	24%
Hospital admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2020	29	—	—	45	—	29
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2020	137	—	—	222	—	131
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018/20	35%	48%	40%	39%	49%	31%
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2021	28%	—	—	20%	28%	19%
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2020–21	38%	—	—	33%	43%	30%
Primary care spending as a share of total health care spending age 65 and older (Medicare beneficiaries)	2020	6%	—	—	6%	—	7%

Table 5. Select Reproductive Care and Women’s Health Measures by Race and Ethnicity

	Data year	U.S. total	AIAN people	AANHPI people	Black people	Hispanic people	White people
Severe maternal morbidity rate per 10,000 in-hospital deliveries	2020	88	—	—	123	82	69
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2019-20	5.4	11.8	4.1	12.1	5.5	4.8
Share of births born preterm, prior to 37 weeks of pregnancy (gestation)	2020-21	10%	11%	8%	15%	10%	10%
Breast and cervical cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2020-21	22	—	9	29	11	21
All-cause mortality rate per 100,000 women ages 15–44	2020-21	124	306	40	184	67	137
Share of births not beginning prenatal care in first trimester	2020-21	22%	29%	26%	32%	36%	19%

- Notes
- (a) The 2023 Scorecard rankings generally reflect 2021 data. The 2023 Scorecard added or revised several performance measures, including the addition of 12 measures specifically related to reproductive care and women’s health and the removal of most measures around state COVID-19 response, since the June 2022 Scorecard report; rankings are not comparable between reports.
 - (b) Trend data available for 50 of 58 total Scorecard indicators. Improved/worsened denotes a change of at least one-half (0.5) standard deviation larger than the indicator’s distribution among all states over the two time points. No change denotes no change in rate or a change of less than one-half standard deviation.
 - (c) Rates are for state’s low-income population, generally those whose household income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).
 - (d) Income disparity is the difference between the state’s low-income and higher-income (generally 400%+ FPL) populations.
 - (e) Improvement indicates that the low-income rate improved and the disparity between low- and higher-income populations narrowed; worsening indicates that the low-income rate worsened and the disparity between low- and higher-income populations widened.
 - (f) Performance data not available for all groups in every state.
 - (g) State not ranked on health system performance for white people in this report; included for comparative purposes. “—” means data not available.

Most data reported here can also be found in the Commonwealth Fund’s online Health System Data Center at <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/datacenter>