

METHODOLOGY

America's Best-in-State Hospitals **2027**

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista  **Newsweek**



Methodology – America's Best-in-State Hospitals 2027

Summary of the project

- Proximity and access are key factors for patients seeking medical care within their state. **Statista and Newsweek** have partnered again to identify the top hospitals at the state level in the U.S.
- The **America's Best-in-State Hospitals 2027** ranking recognizes nation's 800 leading hospitals across the U.S., including all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Hospitals from all US states with a capacity of 50+ beds were considered, excluding the hospitals with 1- and 2-star ratings in Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data.
- The underlying data analysis is based on four data pillars:
 - **Hospital quality metrics:** Quality metrics data from the CMS, patient safety and quality metrics from Leapfrog, and Accreditation data from various sources were considered.
 - **Hospital reputation:** From June to July 2026, a nationwide online survey among medical professionals (doctors, hospital managers and healthcare workers) was conducted in cooperation with Newsweek.
 - **Patient experience:** Data from The Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey; a standardized survey of hospital patients in the U.S. regarding their experiences during a recent procedure or surgery was included.
 - **Statista PROMS implementation survey:** To account for the increasing importance of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs), hospitals that participated in the Statista PROMs implementation survey received a PROMs implementation score, which was incorporated into the overall ranking.

New features and changes in the 2027 edition

- The following list provides a brief overview of all **major changes in this year's edition** compared to the 2026 rankings:
 - **Increased PROMs implementation weighting:** The weight assigned to the PROMs implementation pillar was increased, while the weight assigned to the hospital reputation pillar was reduced.
 - **Eligibility criteria:** To reinforce the ranking's quality standards, the eligibility criteria were tightened so that only hospitals with a CMS Overall Star Rating of three or higher qualified for inclusion in the ranking.
 - **Additional hospital quality metrics data:**
 - For the first time, the ranking incorporates Leapfrog Hospital Safety and Quality Data, including indicators on patient safety, clinical quality, staffing, ethics, and outpatient care.
 - Additional metrics from CMS relevant to hospital harm, and to venous thromboembolism and antithrombotic care have been included.

Hospital evaluation is based on four pillars: hospital quality metrics, hospital reputation, patient experience, and PROMs implementation

Data sources



Available data on hospital quality metrics was analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – Part 1

1 Hospital quality metrics – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- Hospital quality metrics from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) ⁽¹⁾ were available for:
 - Mortality
 - Safety
 - Readmission
 - Timely & effective care
 - Patient-reported outcomes ⁽²⁾
- Hospitals had to report in at least 3 out of the 5 key CMS categories (one of which had to be either mortality or safety) to be eligible for the CMS sub-score.
- Numerical indicators: Hospitals in the 95th percentile or higher received the maximum score of 1 point; hospitals at or below the 10th percentile received a base score of 0.5 points; and all other hospitals continuously scaled between 0.5 and 1 point.

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

Available data on hospital quality metrics was analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – Part 2

1 Hospital quality metrics – Leapfrog Hospital Survey

- Hospital quality metrics from Leapfrog ⁽¹⁾ were available for:
 - Patient rights and ethics
 - Medication safety
 - Adult and pediatric complex surgery
 - Physician and nurse staffing
 - Patient safety practices
 - Managing serious errors
 - Outpatient procedures
- Hospitals received points based on their performance level for each reported Leapfrog measure. These points were aggregated into seven section-level scores.
- The seven section scores were combined using differentiated weights to reflect their respective clinical relevance, evidence base, and impact on patient safety and quality of care.

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

Available data on hospital quality metrics was analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – Part 3

1 Hospital quality metrics - Accreditations & certifications

- Several accreditations and certifications were included in the scoring analysis.
- The following **accreditations and certifications** ⁽¹⁾ reflect a range of structural and/or quality requirements which are relevant for general hospitals:
 - Planetree (Person-Centered Care Certification for Organizations)
 - Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)
 - The Joint Commission (TJC) with the following accredited programs:
 - Hospital
 - Critical Access Hospital
 - Rural Health Clinic
 - The Joint Commission (TJC) with the following certifications: ⁽²⁾
 - Sustainable Healthcare Certification
 - Responsible Use of Health Data
 - Excellent Health Outcomes for All
 - Wound Care
 - Integrated Care Certification
 - Medication Compounding

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY

Medical experts with knowledge about hospitals were invited to the survey

2 Nationwide online survey for peer reputation

From June to July 2026, Statista conducted a nationwide online survey among medical professionals (doctors, hospital managers and other healthcare professionals). The survey was available to the medical experts to participate on Newsweek.com. Additionally, participants were invited via email.



Online survey by state among medical professionals and hospital managers invited via e-mail and the Newsweek platform.

Participants were asked to recommend the top hospitals in their own state (with quality assessment ratings) as well as in other states excluding their own employer.

In-state peer recommendations accounted for 80% of the hospital reputation score, and out-of-state peer recommendations accounted for 20%. The overall score for each hospital was based on weighted recommendations.^{(1) (2)}

RECOMMENDATIONS AS PART OF THE REPUTATION SCORE

8 (1) Participants' profession and experience were also considered in the scoring weight
(2) Last year's recommendations were included at a lower weight

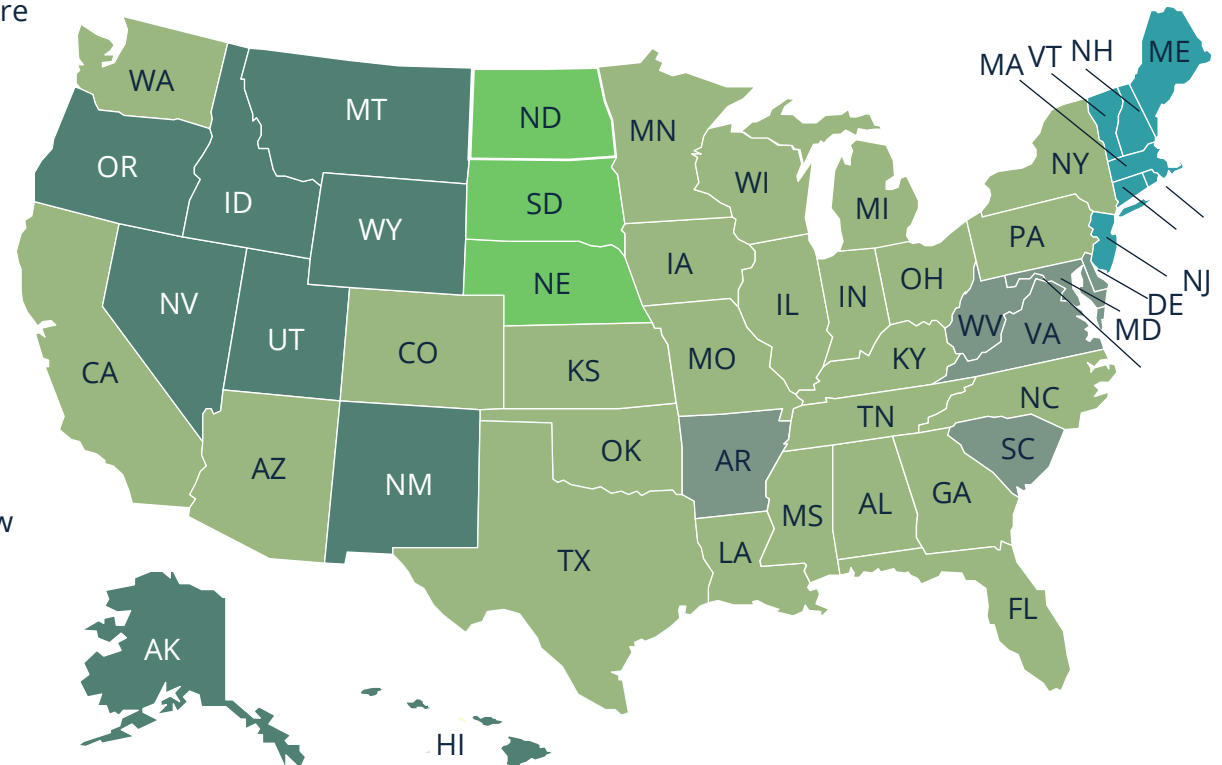
Hospitals from all U.S. states were eligible for the ranking

Geographical distribution

- Hospitals from **the 25 states with the highest number of hospitals** were included in the survey:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| – Alabama | – Kansas | – Ohio |
| – Arizona | – Kentucky | – Oklahoma |
| – California | – Louisiana | – Pennsylvania |
| – Colorado | – Michigan | – Tennessee |
| – Florida | – Minnesota | – Texas |
| – Georgia | – Mississippi | – Washington |
| – Illinois | – Missouri | – Wisconsin |
| – Indiana | – New York | |
| – Iowa | – North Carolina | |

- All remaining states were divided into **4 regions** for the survey:
 - **Northeast:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont
 - **Midwest:** Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
 - **West:** Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming
 - **South:** Arkansas, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia



A quality assessment was calculated for each recommended hospital

Quality assessment based on key quality dimensions

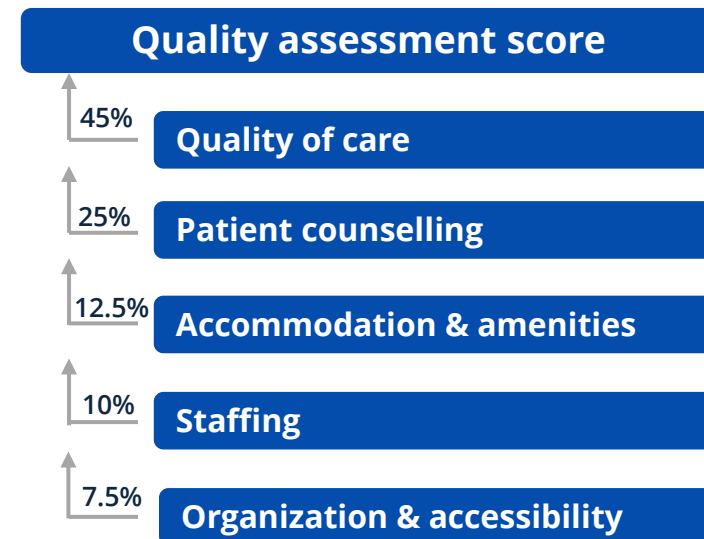


Calculation of quality assessment

- For each recommended hospital participants were asked to assess **five quality dimensions** on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 10 ("Excellent"):
 - **Quality of care** (e.g., effectiveness of treatments/therapies, patient safety)
 - **Patient counselling** (e.g., communication and support from staff, involvement in decision-making, patient education)
 - **Accommodation & amenities** (e.g., size of room, quality of furnishing)
 - **Staffing** (e.g., qualifications & experience)
 - **Organization & accessibility** (e.g., waiting times, efficiency of appointment scheduling, overall hospital organization)
- A quality score was assigned to each hospital based on the **weighted average** of these ratings.



Quality assessment score weights



THE QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCORE AS PART OF THE HOSPITAL REPUTATION SCORE

Publicly available patient experience data on hospitals was analyzed

Patient Experience

3 Patient Experience

- **Publicly available data was used to analyze patient experience.**
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data from the survey of patient experience covers the following topics associated to patient care:
 - Cleanliness of the hospital
 - Communication of the nurses/doctors
 - Communication about medicines
 - Discharge information
 - Quietness
 - Staff responsiveness

3 Patient Experience Award

- Additionally, hospitals with an **outstanding performance** in patient experience are recognized with a **patient experience award**, highlighting their dedication to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.
- To qualify for the award, hospitals must demonstrate exceptional performance across all evaluated metrics:
 - Only hospitals that reported all 8 HCAHPS measures and are within the top 40% per measure were eligible, ensuring a solid baseline of care quality.
 - At least 3 of the 8 measures must be rated in the top 15%, highlighting areas of outstanding achievement.
 - In addition to the above, hospitals must also rank within the top 10% (90th percentile or higher) on at least 4 of the 8 measures, underscoring the hospital's commitment to excellence in critical performance areas.

SCORE FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE

The Statista PROMs Implementation Survey collects data directly from hospitals

PROMs Implementation Survey

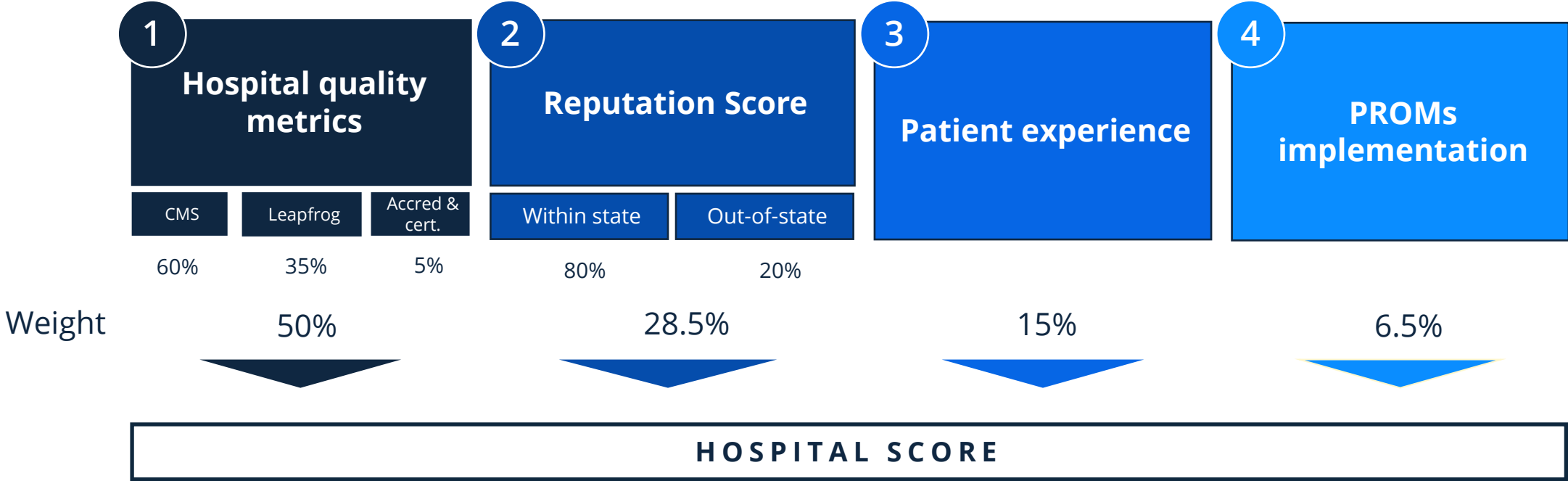
4 Statista PROMs Implementation Survey

- **Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)** are defined as standardized, validated questionnaires completed by patients to measure their perception of their functional well-being and quality of life.
- **Survey cycle:** In fall/winter of each year, Newsweek and Statista conduct the **PROMs Implementation Survey**⁽¹⁾ to determine the status quo of PROMs implementation, auditing and reporting of the data, and whether the PROMs data is used to optimize care process and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.
- Statista has partnered with the **International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement** (ICHOM, www.ichom.org) as a knowledge partner. ICHOM is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the development of standardized measurement of patient-important outcomes (including PROMs). ICHOM promotes the development of the PROMs Implementation Survey, as well as the use of the data from PROMs (and other patient-important outcomes), towards the advancement of value-based healthcare.
- A **grading system** for the different questions was built to determine a **PROMs implementation score** for each participating hospital. Hospitals received a maximum of up to 6.5% towards the total score.
- Future survey cycles will be announced on rankings.statista.com, newsweek.com, and via e-mail to registered participants. Registrations can be submitted to: proms@ranking.statista-research.com or [here](#).

SCORE FOR PROMS IMPLEMENTATION

A score was calculated for each hospital

Scoring model



As a result, the 800 hospitals with the highest total score were awarded

Final ranking by state

California

Rank	Hospital	City	Patient experience award	PROMs
1	Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center	Los Angeles		
2	UCSF Medical Center	San Francisco		
3	Stanford Health Care - Stanford Hospital	Stanford	✓	
4	Keck Hospital of USC	Los Angeles		
5	UCLA Health - Santa Monica Medical Center	Santa Monica		

[...]

Texas

Rank	Hospital	City	Patient experience award	PROMs
1	Houston Methodist Hospital	Houston		
2	UT Southwestern Medical Center	Dallas		
3	Baylor University Medical Center	Dallas		
4	Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center	Houston		
5	Memorial Hermann - Texas Medical Center	Houston		

[...]

LEADING HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED BY STATE

Statista Healthcare and Newsweek comprise the strong partner network behind the America's Best-in-State Hospitals

Partner Network



About Statista Healthcare

Statista Healthcare is a vertical business unit of Statista, the leading data and business intelligence portal, which provides an extensive collection of statistics, reports, and insights across more than 80,000 topics, drawing on 22,500 sources in 170 industries.

Statista Healthcare is focused on making healthcare quality transparent, measurable, and comparable across countries, care settings, and specialties, thereby creating value for both providers and patients. We work with leading healthcare experts and stakeholders worldwide to support data-driven quality measurement and transformation by combining in-depth analytical expertise with scalable technology and communication power. Our offerings span international rankings, ratings, benchmarking studies, and customized projects. Our global healthcare rankings and hospital ratings are published in collaboration with leading media partners worldwide, enabling high visibility and credibility across markets. Learn more about Statista Healthcare: healthcare.statista.com.



About Newsweek

Newsweek is a premier news magazine and website that has been bringing high-quality journalism to readers around the globe for over 80 years.

Newsweek provides the latest news, in-depth analysis and ideas about international issues, technology, business, culture and politics. In addition to its online and mobile presence, Newsweek publishes weekly English print editions in the United States, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia as well as editions in Japanese, Korean, Polish, Serbian and Spanish.

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ICHOM and Leapfrog as core knowledge and data partners behind the America's Best-in-State ranking

Partner Network



About ICHOM

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, www.ichom.org) is the leading non-profit dedicated to transforming healthcare by focusing on what truly matters to patients.

They accomplish this by empowering patient and clinical leaders to standardize important clinical, quality of life, function and experience results for health care, and enabling transparent large-scale use to achieve patient-centric health system transformation.

ICHOM's standardized 'sets' of patient-centred outcomes measures help all actors in healthcare design, deliver and evaluate care based on outcomes that matter to patients. To date, ICHOM has developed 45 outcome measure sets for conditions. The sets are available in IT-ready interoperable formats and have been implemented in 500+ care settings in 42+ countries.



About The Leapfrog Group

The Leapfrog Hospital Survey was created and is administered by The Leapfrog Group (<https://www.leapfroggroup.org/>), a leading independent, national not-for-profit organization advocating for hospital transparency.

They strive to make giant "leaps" forward in the U.S. by promoting transparency through their data collection and public reporting initiatives.

With their goal of saving lives by reducing errors, injuries, accidents, and infections, The Leapfrog Group focuses on measuring and publicly reporting hospital performance through the annual Leapfrog Hospital Survey. The survey is a trusted, transparent and evidence-based national tool in which over 2,400 hospitals voluntarily participate free of charge.

The Leapfrog Group advocates for public access to quality and safety data from all U.S. hospitals.

Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of hospitals that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations and publicly available data sources at the time. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last calendar year. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period 01/08/2025–01/08/2026 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about hospitals or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.