

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

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

**February 2014**



## 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 February 2014 are shown in Cut Point Table 1 (CP Table 1).

**Cut Point Table 1**  
**Star Cut Points for Health Inspection Scores - by State - (02-01-2014)**

State	Number of facilities	Health Inspection Score							
		1 star	2 stars		3 stars		4 stars		5 stars
			Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	
Alabama	228	>40.000	≤40.000	>26.000	≤26.000	>16.667	≤16.667	>8.667	≤8.667
Alaska	16	>174.667	≤174.667	>108.000	≤108.000	>48.000	≤48.000	>13.333	≤13.333
Arizona	144	>63.333	≤63.333	>38.667	≤38.667	>28.667	≤28.667	>13.333	≤13.333
Arkansas	227	>143.167	≤143.167	>79.500	≤79.500	>51.667	≤51.667	>32.000	≤32.000
California	1,221	>83.667	≤83.667	>57.333	≤57.333	>39.333	≤39.333	>20.667	≤20.667
Colorado	206	>116.000	≤116.000	>64.000	≤64.000	>49.333	≤49.333	>22.667	≤22.667
Connecticut	229	>75.333	≤75.333	>51.333	≤51.333	>34.667	≤34.667	>16.667	≤16.667
D. C.	19	>245.333	≤245.333	>80.000	≤80.000	>62.000	≤62.000	>32.000	≤32.000
Delaware	44	>127.333	≤127.333	>88.000	≤88.000	>66.667	≤66.667	>28.667	≤28.667
Florida	681	>50.667	≤50.667	>32.667	≤32.667	>22.667	≤22.667	>12.000	≤12.000
Georgia	355	>40.667	≤40.667	>22.667	≤22.667	>14.000	≤14.000	>4.667	≤4.667
Guam	1	>76.083	≤76.083	>43.333	≤43.333	>25.333	≤25.333	>10.000	≤10.000
Hawaii	39	>58.667	≤58.667	>44.000	≤44.000	>32.667	≤32.667	>12.000	≤12.000
Idaho	76	>112.667	≤112.667	>78.667	≤78.667	>61.333	≤61.333	>32.667	≤32.667
Illinois	763	>80.000	≤80.000	>44.667	≤44.667	>27.333	≤27.333	>12.667	≤12.667
Indiana	508	>75.333	≤75.333	>46.667	≤46.667	>28.667	≤28.667	>12.667	≤12.667
Iowa	443	>60.000	≤60.000	>32.667	≤32.667	>20.000	≤20.000	>8.667	≤8.667
Kansas	335	>113.667	≤113.667	>64.333	≤64.333	>43.333	≤43.333	>22.667	≤22.667
Kentucky	283	>91.000	≤91.000	>43.333	≤43.333	>24.000	≤24.000	>12.000	≤12.000
Louisiana	280	>106.833	≤106.833	>52.667	≤52.667	>30.000	≤30.000	>12.000	≤12.000
Maine	107	>44.000	≤44.000	>27.333	≤27.333	>19.333	≤19.333	>9.333	≤9.333
Maryland	227	>78.667	≤78.667	>51.333	≤51.333	>32.000	≤32.000	>13.333	≤13.333
Massachusetts	421	>45.333	≤45.333	>23.333	≤23.333	>12.000	≤12.000	>3.333	≤3.333
Michigan	425	>106.500	≤106.500	>71.333	≤71.333	>48.667	≤48.667	>24.667	≤24.667
Minnesota	378	>58.667	≤58.667	>38.667	≤38.667	>27.333	≤27.333	>12.667	≤12.667
Mississippi	203	>83.333	≤83.333	>45.333	≤45.333	>29.333	≤29.333	>17.333	≤17.333
Missouri	509	>68.000	≤68.000	>47.333	≤47.333	>29.667	≤29.667	>13.333	≤13.333
Montana	83	>71.333	≤71.333	>46.667	≤46.667	>30.667	≤30.667	>16.000	≤16.000
Nebraska	216	>64.000	≤64.000	>37.333	≤37.333	>21.333	≤21.333	>10.667	≤10.667
Nevada	51	>92.667	≤92.667	>72.000	≤72.000	>49.333	≤49.333	>29.333	≤29.333
New Hampshire	76	>32.000	≤32.000	>15.333	≤15.333	>8.667	≤8.667	>2.667	≤2.667

<b>New Jersey</b>	364	>49.333	≤49.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>14.667	≤14.667	>6.667	≤6.667
<b>New Mexico</b>	70	>119.583	≤119.583	>39.333	≤39.333	>19.333	≤19.333	>6.333	≤6.333
<b>New York</b>	628	>47.333	≤47.333	>26.667	≤26.667	>17.333	≤17.333	>6.667	≤6.667
<b>North Carolina</b>	414	>36.667	≤36.667	>18.000	≤18.000	>10.000	≤10.000	>2.667	≤2.667
<b>North Dakota</b>	81	>44.667	≤44.667	>28.000	≤28.000	>17.333	≤17.333	>10.667	≤10.667
<b>Ohio</b>	942	>51.333	≤51.333	>29.333	≤29.333	>18.000	≤18.000	>6.667	≤6.667
<b>Oklahoma</b>	306	>161.667	≤161.667	>105.833	≤105.833	>63.333	≤63.333	>32.667	≤32.667
<b>Oregon</b>	135	>60.333	≤60.333	>39.333	≤39.333	>30.000	≤30.000	>12.000	≤12.000
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	701	>44.667	≤44.667	>26.000	≤26.000	>16.000	≤16.000	>6.667	≤6.667
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	7	>212.000	≤212.000	>106.667	≤106.667	>82.333	≤82.333	>68.000	≤68.000
<b>Rhode Island</b>	84	>23.333	≤23.333	>12.000	≤12.000	>4.667	≤4.667	>1.333	≤1.333
<b>South Carolina</b>	187	>80.667	≤80.667	>38.000	≤38.000	>18.000	≤18.000	>5.333	≤5.333
<b>South Dakota</b>	110	>51.667	≤51.667	>34.000	≤34.000	>22.667	≤22.667	>9.333	≤9.333
<b>Tennessee</b>	314	>58.000	≤58.000	>36.000	≤36.000	>23.333	≤23.333	>10.667	≤10.667
<b>Texas</b>	1,187	>112.667	≤112.667	>64.000	≤64.000	>40.000	≤40.000	>17.333	≤17.333
<b>Utah</b>	96	>99.500	≤99.500	>69.333	≤69.333	>37.333	≤37.333	>12.000	≤12.000
<b>Vermont</b>	38	>66.000	≤66.000	>43.333	≤43.333	>23.333	≤23.333	>6.667	≤6.667
<b>Virginia</b>	282	>75.333	≤75.333	>46.667	≤46.667	>28.000	≤28.000	>12.667	≤12.667
<b>Washington</b>	224	>102.000	≤102.000	>60.667	≤60.667	>36.667	≤36.667	>19.333	≤19.333
<b>West Virginia</b>	125	>152.000	≤152.000	>77.667	≤77.667	>52.000	≤52.000	>27.333	≤27.333
<b>Wisconsin</b>	388	>84.500	≤84.500	>48.000	≤48.000	>32.000	≤32.000	>13.333	≤13.333
<b>Wyoming</b>	38	>103.500	≤103.500	>80.000	≤80.000	>56.000	≤56.000	>20.667	≤20.667

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: ≤10<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 4 stars: >10<sup>th</sup> percentile and ≤ 33.33<sup>rd</sup> percentile
- 3 stars: >33.33<sup>rd</sup> percentile and ≤ 56.667<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 2 stars: >56.667<sup>th</sup> percentile and ≤ 80<sup>th</sup> percentile
- 1 star: >80<sup>th</sup> 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.