

Alabama

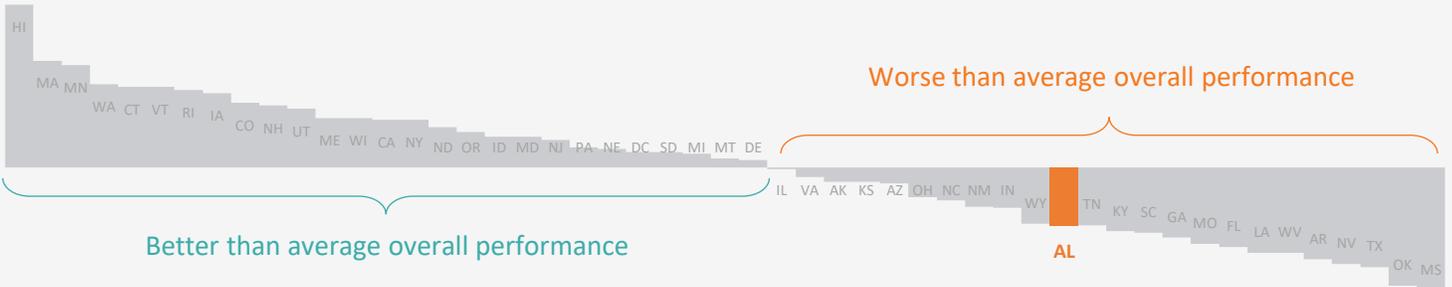
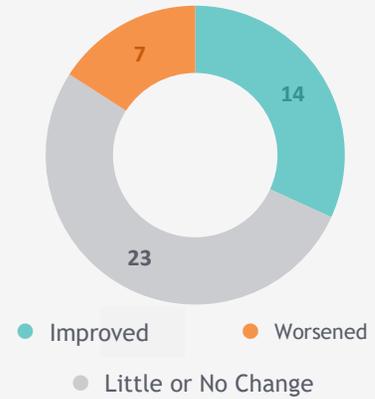


The Commonwealth Fund

Ranking Highlights^a

	National Rank		Rank Among Southeastern States	
	2019	Change from baseline	2019	Change from baseline
Overall	38 of 51	-1	4 of 12	-1
Access & Affordability	35	-3	4	-1
Prevention & Treatment	30	+6	6	+1
Avoidable Use & Cost	34	-3	6	-2
Healthy Lives	46	-2	7	-1
Health Care Disparities	36	-10	4	-3

How Health Care in Alabama Has Changed^b



Top-Ranked Indicators

- Home health patients without improved mobility
- Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging
- Hospital 30-day readmission rate ages 18–64

Bottom-Ranked Indicators

- Preventable hospitalizations ages 18–64
- Central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)
- Infant mortality

Most Improved Indicators

- Home health patients without improved mobility
- Central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)
- Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test

Indicators That Worsened the Most

- Adults who are obese
- Preventable hospitalizations ages 18–64
- Hospital 30-day readmission rate ages 18–64

Estimated Impact of State Improvement^c

Top state in the U.S.	Top state in the Southeast region	Alabama could expect the following gains if performance in the state improved to the top level at these national and regional benchmarks:
343,891	233,440	more adults and children, beyond those who already gained coverage through the ACA, would be insured
335,672	186,484	fewer adults would skip needed care because of its cost
176,534	88,267	more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings
6,904	863	more children (ages 19–35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines
2,515	1,364	fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care
154,490	67,885	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 ^b
Access & Affordability	2019 Scorecard					Baseline			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2017	15	12	4	40	2013	20	20	Improved
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2017	3	5	1	4	2013	5	8	Improved
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2017	21	23	12	22	2013	22	24	No Change
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2017	17	14	8	45	2013	16	16	No Change
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2016-17	12	10	5	40	2013-14	13	11	No Change
Employee insurance costs as a share of median income	2017	6.9	6.9	4.8	30	2013	6.5	6.5	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2016	16	16	10	31	2012	18	15	Improved
Prevention & Treatment	2019 Scorecard					Baseline			
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2016	32	32	24	20	2012	32	31	No Change
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2017	62	62	54	29	2013	62	64	No Change
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test	2016	10.4	12	5.6	18	2015	15.2	16.9	Improved
Elderly patients who received a high-risk prescription drug	2015	15	11	5	47	--	--	--	--
Children without a medical home	2017	50	51	39	24	2016	49	51	No Change
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2017	35	32	18	40	2016	32	32	Worsened
Children who did not receive needed mental health care	2017	12	22	4	20	2016	19	18	Improved
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2016	23	29	15	7	2012	29	32	Improved
Hospital 30-day mortality	2014-17	14.3	13.9	12.8	33	2010-13	13.7	13.2	Worsened
Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio	2016	1.12	0.89	0.36	49	2015	1.41	0.99	Improved
Hospitals with lower-than-average patient experience ratings	2017	38	45	9	20	--	--	--	--
Home health patients without improved mobility	2017	20	25	20	1	2013	35	39	Improved
Nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2017	19	15	7	44	2013	22	21	Improved
Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need	2014-16	17	21	16	2	2009-11	21	21	Improved
Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment	2014-16	59	56	42	41	2009-11	59	59	No Change

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 ^b				
Avoidable Hospital Use & Cost						2019 Scorecard				Baseline			
Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children ages 2–17	2015	--	87.2	21.7	--	2012	--	142.9	--				
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits													
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2016	157.4	142.2	115.9	42	2015	171.5	159.0	Improved				
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2015	199.5	196.9	138.3	33	2012	191.7	187.8	No Change				
Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions													
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2016	7.9	5.3	5.3	48	2015	6.0	4.6	Worsened				
Ages 65–74, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2017	56.4	43.9	21.7	45	2013	55.8	47.7	No Change				
30-day hospital readmissions													
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2016	2.5	3.1	2.4	2	2015	1.2	2.9	Worsened				
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2017	45.5	41	19.7	41	2013	43.9	43.5	No Change				
Skilled nursing facility patients with a hospital readmission	2016	20	19	11	32	2012	22	20	Improved				
Long-stay nursing home residents hospitalized within a six-month period	2016	19	15	5	39	2012	21	17	No Change				
Home health patients also enrolled in Medicare with a hospital admission	2017	17	16	14	40	2013	17	16	No Change				
Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging	2016	57.7	68.9	57.7	1	2015	59.2	71.1	No Change				
Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee	2016	\$3,867	\$4,882	\$3,255	7	2013	\$3,706	\$4,697	No Change				
Medicare spending per beneficiary	2017	\$10,463	\$9,534	\$6,195	46	2013	\$9,479	\$9,081	Worsened				
Healthy Lives						2019 Scorecard				Baseline			
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2014-15	110.4	84.3	54.7	45	2010-11	111.8	85.3	No Change				
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2017	21.3	19.9	15.6	38	2013	21.4	20.8	No Change				
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2017	15.2	12.9	9.3	44	2013	17.7	14.6	Improved				
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population	2017	16.6	14	6.6	28	2013	14.4	12.6	No Change				
Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population	2017	6.8	9.6	5.5	7	2013	4.7	8.2	No Change				
Drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population	2017	18	21.7	8.1	20	2013	12.7	13.8	Worsened				
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2016	9	5.9	3.5	51	2012	8.9	6	No Change				
Adults who report fair or poor health	2017	20	17	9	44	2013	20	16	No Change				
Adults who smoke	2017	21	16	9	41	2013	21	18	No Change				
Adults who are obese	2017	38	31	23	47	2013	33	29	Worsened				
Children who are overweight or obese	2017	33	31	21	35	2016	35	31	No Change				
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	2019 Scorecard			State ranking	Baseline			Change over time ^f
		Low-income rate ^d	Disparity ^e			Data year	Low-income rate ^d	Disparity ^e	
Disparity		2019 Scorecard				Baseline			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2017	27	-22	38	2013	37	-32	Improved	
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2017	4	-2	4	2013	6	-4	Improved	
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2017	24	-8	21	2013	25	-11	Improved	
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2017	27	-20	41	2013	31	-26	Improved	
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2016-17	29	-28	41	2013-14	29	-28	No Change	
Adults age 18 and older 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 age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2017	67	-8	28	2013	62	-8	No Change	
Children without a medical home	2017	66	-29	39	2016	51	-12	Worsened	
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2017	34	1	1	2016	27	0	Worsened	
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2016	27	-14	33	2012	29	0	No Change	
Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children ages 2–17	2015	--	--	--	2012	--	--	--	
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2014	395.8	-226.1	35	2012	350.7	-186.9	Worsened	
Hospital admissions for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2015	118	-65.9	36	2012	116.5	-48.2	Worsened	
30-day hospital readmissions among, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2015	69.3	-36.3	37	2012	84.2	-43.3	Improved	
Adults who report fair or poor health	2017	33	-23	26	2013	35	-27	Improved	
Adults who smoke	2017	33	-20	40	2013	29	-16	Worsened	
Adults who are obese	2017	44	-8	16	2013	40	-8	No Change	
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2016	22	-15	29	2012	29	-23	Improved	

Notes

(a) The 2019 Scorecard rankings generally reflect 2017 data. The 2019 Scorecard added or revised several performance measures since the May 2018 Scorecard report; rankings are not comparable between reports. Rank change from the baseline period 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.

(b) Trend data available for 45 of 47 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) 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 region (www.bea.gov: Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, New England, Plains, Rocky Mountains, Southeast, Southwest, 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.

(d) Rates are for states' low income population, generally those whose household income is under 200% FPL.

(e) Disparity is the difference between the states' low-income and higher-income (400%+ FPL) populations.

(f) 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.