

# Kentucky

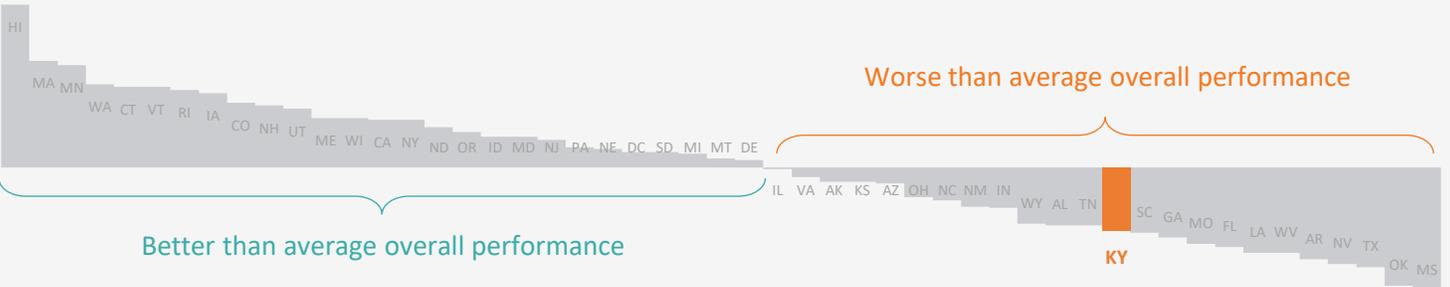
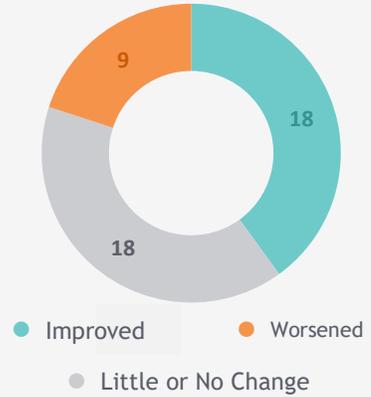


The Commonwealth Fund

## Ranking Highlights<sup>a</sup>

|                         | National Rank |                      | Rank Among Southeastern States |                      |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
|                         | 2019          | Change from baseline | 2019                           | Change from baseline |
| Overall                 | 40 of 51      | +4                   | 6 of 12                        | +1                   |
| Access & Affordability  | 23            | +10                  | 1                              | +3                   |
| Prevention & Treatment  | 20            | +5                   | 3                              | +2                   |
| Avoidable Use & Cost    | 48            | -2                   | 9                              | 0                    |
| Healthy Lives           | 49            | -4                   | 10                             | -3                   |
| Health Care Disparities | 40            | +1                   | 8                              | 0                    |

## How Health Care in Kentucky Has Changed<sup>b</sup>



### Top-Ranked Indicators

- Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test
- Home health patients without improved mobility
- Uninsured adults

### Bottom-Ranked Indicators

- Adults who smoke
- Adults who report fair or poor health
- Children who are overweight or obese

### Most Improved Indicators

- Uninsured adults
- Adults who went without care because of cost
- Home health patients without improved mobility

### Indicators That Worsened the Most

- Drug poisoning deaths
- Hospital 30-day mortality
- Preventable hospitalizations ages 18–64

## Estimated Impact of State Improvement<sup>c</sup>

| Top state in the U.S. | Top state in the Southeast region | Kentucky could expect the following gains if performance in the state improved to the top level at these national and regional benchmarks:                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 108,982               | 10,577                            | more adults and children, beyond those who already gained coverage through the ACA, would be insured   |
| 136,534               | 0                                 | fewer adults would skip needed care because of its cost  |
| 174,435               | 96,909                            | more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings  |
| 7,851                 | 2,355                             | more children (ages 19–35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines   |
| 2,211                 | 1,165                             | fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care                  |
| 95,811                | 20,232                            | 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 <sup>b</sup> |
|--|-----------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Access &amp; Affordability</b>  | <b>2019 Scorecard</b> |            |              |                 |               | <b>Baseline</b> |            |              |                               |
| Adults ages 19–64 uninsured  | 2017                  | 7          | 12           | 4               | 8             | 2013            | 21         | 20           | Improved                      |
| Children ages 0–18 uninsured   | 2017                  | 4          | 5            | 1               | 18            | 2013            | 6          | 8            | Improved                      |
| Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care   | 2017                  | 18         | 23           | 12              | 13            | 2013            | 22         | 24           | Improved                      |
| Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year                               | 2017                  | 12         | 14           | 8               | 18            | 2013            | 19         | 16           | Improved                      |
| Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income | 2016-17               | 9          | 10           | 5               | 14            | 2013-14         | 12         | 11           | Improved                      |
| Employee insurance costs as a share of median income   | 2017                  | 7.3        | 6.9          | 4.8             | 36            | 2013            | 7.4        | 6.5          | No Change                     |
| Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year  | 2016                  | 18         | 16           | 10              | 43            | 2012            | 16         | 15           | Worsened                      |
| <b>Prevention &amp; Treatment</b>  | <b>2019 Scorecard</b> |            |              |                 |               | <b>Baseline</b> |            |              |                               |
| Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings   | 2016                  | 33         | 32           | 24              | 24            | 2012            | 35         | 31           | No Change                     |
| Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines  | 2017                  | 61         | 62           | 54              | 23            | 2013            | 62         | 64           | No Change                     |
| Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test  | 2016                  | 8.9        | 12           | 5.6             | 4             | 2015            | 14.4       | 16.9         | Improved                      |
| Elderly patients who received a high-risk prescription drug  | 2015                  | 14         | 11           | 5               | 44            | --              | --         | --           | --                            |
| Children without a medical home  | 2017                  | 48         | 51           | 39              | 18            | 2016            | 46         | 51           | No Change                     |
| Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year              | 2017                  | 31         | 32           | 18              | 22            | 2016            | 33         | 32           | No Change                     |
| Children who did not receive needed mental health care   | 2017                  | 17         | 22           | 4               | 28            | 2016            | 18         | 18           | No Change                     |
| Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines                                  | 2016                  | 25         | 29           | 15              | 15            | 2012            | 32         | 32           | Improved                      |
| Hospital 30-day mortality  | 2014-17               | 14.3       | 13.9         | 12.8            | 33            | 2010-13         | 13.3       | 13.2         | Worsened                      |
| Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio                    | 2016                  | 0.77       | 0.89         | 0.36            | 14            | 2015            | 1.07       | 0.99         | Improved                      |
| Hospitals with lower-than-average patient experience ratings   | 2017                  | 38         | 45           | 9               | 20            | --              | --         | --           | --                            |
| Home health patients without improved mobility   | 2017                  | 22         | 25           | 20              | 7             | 2013            | 36         | 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               | 20         | 21           | 16              | 14            | 2009-11         | 19         | 21           | No Change                     |
| Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment   | 2014-16               | 51         | 56           | 42              | 9             | 2009-11         | 55         | 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 <sup>b</sup> |
|--|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Avoidable Hospital Use &amp; Cost</b>                                 |           |            |              |                 |               | <b>2019 Scorecard</b> |            | <b>Baseline</b> |                               |
| Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children ages 2–17 | 2015      | 85.3       | 87.2         | 21.7            | 21            | 2012                  | 151.8      | 142.9           | Improved                      |
| Potentially avoidable emergency department visits                        |           |            |              |                 |               |                       |            |                 |                               |
| Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees                         | 2016      | 136.4      | 142.2        | 115.9           | 18            | 2015                  | 151.2      | 159.0           | Improved                      |
| Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries                       | 2015      | 236.3      | 196.9        | 138.3           | 46            | 2012                  | 218.7      | 187.8           | Worsened                      |
| Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions                      |           |            |              |                 |               |                       |            |                 |                               |
| Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees                         | 2016      | 7.6        | 5.3          | 5.3             | 46            | 2015                  | 5.4        | 4.6             | Worsened                      |
| Ages 65–74, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries                             | 2017      | 60.1       | 43.9         | 21.7            | 49            | 2013                  | 72.4       | 47.7            | Improved                      |
| 30-day hospital readmissions   |           |            |              |                 |               |                       |            |                 |                               |
| Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees                         | 2016      | 3.4        | 3.1          | 2.4             | 39            | 2015                  | 3          | 2.9             | Worsened                      |
| Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries                       | 2017      | 50.7       | 41           | 19.7            | 49            | 2013                  | 57.2       | 43.5            | Improved                      |
| Skilled nursing facility patients with a hospital readmission            | 2016      | 21         | 19           | 11              | 43            | 2012                  | 22         | 20              | No Change                     |
| Long-stay nursing home residents hospitalized within a six-month period  | 2016      | 21         | 15           | 5               | 46            | 2012                  | 24         | 17              | Improved                      |
| Home health patients also enrolled in Medicare with a hospital admission | 2017      | 17         | 16           | 14              | 40            | 2013                  | 18         | 16              | Improved                      |
| Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging                             | 2016      | 66.6       | 68.9         | 57.7            | 17            | 2015                  | 67.1       | 71.1            | No Change                     |
| Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee                       | 2016      | \$4,134    | \$4,882      | \$3,255         | 9             | 2013                  | \$4,393    | \$4,697         | No Change                     |
| Medicare spending per beneficiary  | 2017      | \$9,900    | \$9,534      | \$6,195         | 42            | 2013                  | \$9,553    | \$9,081         | No Change                     |
| <b>Healthy Lives</b>   |           |            |              |                 |               | <b>2019 Scorecard</b> |            | <b>Baseline</b> |                               |
| Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population         | 2014-15   | 108.6      | 84.3         | 54.7            | 44            | 2010-11               | 106.6      | 85.3            | No Change                     |
| Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population                       | 2017      | 21.4       | 19.9         | 15.6            | 39            | 2013                  | 21.1       | 20.8            | No Change                     |
| Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population                          | 2017      | 16         | 12.9         | 9.3             | 48            | 2013                  | 17.1       | 14.6            | Improved                      |
| Suicide deaths per 100,000 population                                    | 2017      | 16.9       | 14           | 6.6             | 30            | 2013                  | 15.5       | 12.6            | No Change                     |
| Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population                            | 2017      | 9.6        | 9.6          | 5.5             | 23            | 2013                  | 6.6        | 8.2             | Worsened                      |
| Drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population                             | 2017      | 37.2       | 21.7         | 8.1             | 47            | 2013                  | 23.7       | 13.8            | Worsened                      |
| Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births                           | 2016      | 6.8        | 5.9          | 3.5             | 37            | 2012                  | 7.2        | 6               | No Change                     |
| Adults who report fair or poor health                                    | 2017      | 23         | 17           | 9               | 50            | 2013                  | 21         | 16              | Worsened                      |
| Adults who smoke   | 2017      | 25         | 16           | 9               | 50            | 2013                  | 26         | 18              | No Change                     |
| Adults who are obese   | 2017      | 35         | 31           | 23              | 42            | 2013                  | 34         | 29              | No Change                     |
| Children who are overweight or obese                                     | 2017      | 40         | 31           | 21              | 50            | 2016                  | 34         | 31              | Worsened                      |
| Adults who have lost six or more teeth                                   | 2016      | 17         | 10           | 6               | 49            | 2012                  | 16         | 10              | No Change                     |

**Table 2. State Disparity Indicator Data**

| Dimension and indicator  | Data year      | Low-                     | Disparity <sup>e</sup> | State ranking | Data year | Low-                     | Disparity <sup>e</sup> | Change over time <sup>f</sup> |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  |                | income rate <sup>d</sup> |                        |               |           | income rate <sup>d</sup> |                        |                               |
| Disparity  | 2019 Scorecard |                          |                        |               | Baseline  |                          |                        |                               |
| Adults ages 19–64 uninsured  | 2017           | 12                       | -9                     | 5             | 2013      | 38                       | -32                    | Improved                      |
| Children ages 0–18 uninsured   | 2017           | 5                        | -4                     | 15            | 2013      | 8                        | -6                     | Improved                      |
| Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care   | 2017           | 16                       | -1                     | 1             | 2013      | 23                       | -9                     | Improved                      |
| Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year   | 2017           | 17                       | -10                    | 10            | 2013      | 34                       | -25                    | Improved                      |
| Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income                       | 2016-17        | 24                       | -22                    | 12            | 2013-14   | 24                       | -22                    | No Change                     |
| Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year  | 2016           | 24                       | -13                    | 24            | 2012      | 22                       | -12                    | Worsened                      |
| Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings   | 2016           | 38                       | -14                    | 39            | 2012      | 40                       | -14                    | No Change                     |
| Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines  | 2017           | 66                       | -12                    | 49            | 2013      | 68                       | -15                    | Improved                      |
| Children without a medical home  | 2017           | 59                       | -28                    | 36            | 2016      | 52                       | -23                    | Worsened                      |
| Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year                                    | 2017           | 35                       | -16                    | 32            | 2016      | 36                       | -8                     | No Change                     |
| Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines  | 2016           | 23                       | 4                      | 3             | 2012      | 37                       | -11                    | Improved                      |
| Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children ages 2–17   | 2015           | 106.9                    | -83.2                  | 16            | 2012      | 202.5                    | -146.9                 | Improved                      |
| Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries            | 2014           | 426.6                    | -224.5                 | 34            | 2012      | 405.5                    | -221.3                 | Worsened                      |
| Hospital admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries | 2015           | 145.8                    | -87.5                  | 51            | 2012      | 144.9                    | -59                    | Worsened                      |
| 30-day hospital readmissions among, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries                           | 2015           | 79.7                     | -43.5                  | 49            | 2012      | 95.6                     | -48.7                  | Improved                      |
| Adults who report fair or poor health  | 2017           | 40                       | -28                    | 47            | 2013      | 37                       | -29                    | No Change                     |
| Adults who smoke   | 2017           | 40                       | -23                    | 45            | 2013      | 37                       | -19                    | Worsened                      |
| Adults who are obese   | 2017           | 45                       | -11                    | 28            | 2013      | 41                       | -11                    | No Change                     |
| Adults who have lost six or more teeth   | 2016           | 33                       | -25                    | 51            | 2012      | 27                       | -18                    | Worsened                      |

**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](http://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.