

# North Carolina

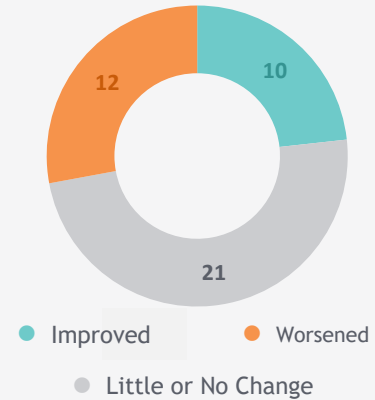


The  
Commonwealth  
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## Ranking Highlights<sup>a</sup>

	National Rank		Rank Among Southeastern States	
	2020	Change from baseline	2020	Change from baseline
Overall	36 of 51	-4	3 of 12	-1
Access & Affordability	39	-4	7	-3
Prevention & Treatment	22	-9	3	-2
Avoidable Use & Cost	18	+2	3	-1
Healthy Lives	36	0	4	0
Income Disparity	46	-2	9	-2

## Carolina Has Changed<sup>b</sup>



Worse-than-average overall performance

Better-than-average overall performance

### Top-Ranked Indicators

Adults without all recommended vaccines  
Primary care spending as share of total, age 65 and older  
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test

### Bottom-Ranked Indicators

Employee insurance costs as a share of median income  
High out-of-pocket medical spending  
Central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)

### Most Improved Indicators

Home health patients without improved mobility  
Children who did not receive needed mental health care  
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test

### Indicators That Worsened the Most

Hospital 30-day mortality  
Children without a medical home  
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	North Carolina could expect the following gains if performance in the state improved to the top level at these national and regional benchmarks:
828,343	535,893	more adults and children would be insured
631,188	157,797	fewer adults would skip needed care because of its cost
283,654	47,276	more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings
10,739	5,370	more children (ages 19–35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines
3,655	1,173	fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care
400,394	201,664	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 rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time <sup>b</sup>
<b>Access &amp; Affordability</b>					<b>2020 Scorecard</b>		<b>Baseline</b>		
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2018	16	12	4	42	2014	19	16	Improved
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2018	5	5	1	24	2014	6	6	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2018	22	23	13	22	2014	24	23	No Change
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	15	13	7	38	2014	16	14	No Change
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2017–18	10.8	8.3	4.8	47	—	—	—	—
Employee insurance costs as a share of median income	2018	8.2	6.8	4.1	45	2014	7.0	6.6	Worsened
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	35	34	24	32	2014	36	36	No Change
<b>Prevention &amp; Treatment</b>					<b>2020 Scorecard</b>		<b>Baseline</b>		
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	30	32	24	17	2014	28	32	Worsened
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2018	60	69	57	3	2014	58	63	No Change
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test	2017	7.8	10.7	6.5	4	2015	13.4	16.9	Improved
Elderly patients who received a high-risk prescription drug	2016	11.2	9.6	4.6	37	—	—	—	—
Children without a medical home	2018	54	52	41	38	2016	46	51	Worsened
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2018	41	42	29	27	—	—	—	—
Children who did not receive needed mental health care	2018	18	18	5	28	2016	30	18	Improved
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2018	22	27	16	10	2014	19	28	Worsened
Hospital 30-day mortality	07/2015 – 06/2018	14.1	13.7	12.5	32	07/2011 – 06/2014	13.2	12.8	Worsened
Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio	2018	0.899	0.739	0.087	50	2015	1.063	0.994	Improved
Hospitals with lower-than-average patient experience ratings	2018	47	46	15	31	—	—	—	—
Home health patients without improved mobility	2018	21	22	17	13	2014	38	37	Improved
Nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2017	13	15	7	7	2013	16	21	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 rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time <sup>b</sup>
<b>Prevention &amp; Treatment (continued)</b>						<b>2020 Scorecard</b>			<b>Baseline</b>
Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need	2016–17	22	22	14	15	2012–14	22	20	No Change
Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment	2016–17	55	57	41	23	2012–14	49	57	Worsened
<b>Avoidable Hospital Use &amp; Cost</b>						<b>2020 Scorecard</b>			<b>Baseline</b>
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2017	163.9	149.5	84.2	38	2015	159.2	159	No Change
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2016	201.5	189.4	140.9	40	2013	192.3	181.4	No Change
Admissions for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2017	6.7	6.8	6	24	2015	4.4	4.6	Worsened
Ages 65–74, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2018	41.9	41.6	20.4	27	2014	43.6	44.7	No Change
30-day hospital readmissions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2017	3	3.2	2.3	12	2015	2.6	2.9	Worsened
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2018	37.2	40	18.5	23	2014	39.1	42	No Change
Skilled nursing facility patients with a hospital readmission	2016	19	19	11	22	2012	20	20	No Change
Long-stay nursing home residents hospitalized within a six-month period	2016	16	15	5	28	2012	18	17	No Change
Home health patients also enrolled in Medicare with a hospital admission	2018	16	16	14	19	2014	16	16	No Change
Adults with inappropriate lower-back imaging	2017	64.9	70.1	57.5	10	2015	65.5	71.1	No Change
Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee	2017	\$4,916	\$5,137	\$3,606	19	2013	\$4,497	\$4,697	Worsened
Medicare spending per beneficiary	2018	\$9,245	\$9,847	\$6,473	21	2014	\$8,448	\$9,025	Worsened
Primary care spending as a share of total health care spending									
Ages 18–64 (employer-insured enrollees)	2018	7.7	6.0	11.3	9	—	—	—	—
Age 65 and older (Medicare beneficiaries)	2017	6.9	5.7	7.2	3	—	—	—	—
<b>Healthy Lives</b>						<b>2020 Scorecard</b>			<b>Baseline</b>
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2016–17	92.5	84.5	54.5	35	2012–13	92.5	83.7	No Change
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2018	20.3	19.7	15.1	28	2014	21	20.6	No Change
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2018	12	12.6	9.1	15	2014	14.4	14.3	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 rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time <sup>b</sup>
Healthy Lives (continued)					2020 Scorecard				Baseline
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population	2018	13.7	14.2	7.5	14	2014	13.1	13	No Change
Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population	2018	9.2	9.9	5.7	18	2014	7.8	8.5	No Change
Drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population	2018	22.4	20.7	6.9	28	2014	13.8	14.7	Worsened
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2017	7	5.8	3.7	39	2013	7	6	No Change
Adults who report fair or poor health	2018	17	17	11	29	2014	17	16	No Change
Adults who smoke	2018	17	16	9	29	2014	19	17	Improved
Adults who are obese	2018	35	32	23	34	2014	31	29	Worsened
Children who are overweight or obese	2018	29	31	19	22	2016	31	31	No Change
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2018	11	9	5	33	2014	13	10	Improved
State-based public health spending per resident	2018	\$15	\$37	\$137	42	2014/15	\$14	\$36	Improved

**Table 2. State Income Disparity Data**

Disparity Indicator	Data year	Low-income rate <sup>d</sup>	Disparity <sup>e</sup>	State rank	Data year	Low-income rate <sup>d</sup>	Disparity <sup>e</sup>	Change over time <sup>f</sup>
2020 Scorecard					Baseline			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2018	30	-25	45	2014	36	-31	Improved
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	27	-21	41	2014	31	-27	Improved
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2017–18	21.3	-17.8	22	—	—	—	—
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	51	-34	41	2014	54	-38	Improved
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	36	-13	34	2014	35	-15	No Change
Children without a medical home	2018	71	-30	40	2016	53	-20	Worsened
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2018	52	-30	47	—	—	—	—
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2018	28	-15	28	2014	23	-5	Worsened
Adults who report fair or poor health	2018	31	-25	39	2014	30	-23	Worsened
Adults who are obese	2018	39	-7	23	2014	35	-7	No Change
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2018	19	-15	36	2014	21	-15	No Change

Table 3. State Race and Ethnicity Disparity Data

	Data year	U.S. average	State White rate	State Black rate	Black-White disparity	State Hispanic rate	Hispanic-White disparity	State Other rate	Other-White disparity
Disparity Indicator									
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2018	12	12	16	-4	44	-32	14	-2
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	13	12	19	-7	27	-15	15	-3
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2018	23	18	22	-4	59	-41	26	-8
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	34	31	40	-9	47	-16	42	-11
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	32	30	33	-3	31	-1	32	-2
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2018	69	57	65	-8	68	-11	66	-9
Adults who smoke	2018	16	18	17	1	11	7	18	0
Adults who are obese	2018	32	31	47	-16	31	0	34	-3
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2016–17	84.5	80.2	149.2	-69	42	38.2	70.5	9.7
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2017	5.8	5.1	12	-6.9	6	-0.9	—	—

**Notes**

(a) The 2020 Scorecard rankings generally reflect 2018 data. The 2020 Scorecard added or revised several performance measures since the June 2019 Scorecard report; rankings are not comparable between reports. Rank change from the baseline period represents states' rank difference from the baseline data year (generally 2013 or 2014). Positive values represent an improvement in rank; negative values are a worsening in rank.

(b) Trend data available for 43 of 49 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 (defined using Bureau of Economic Analysis ([www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)) regions: 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% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

(e) Income 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.