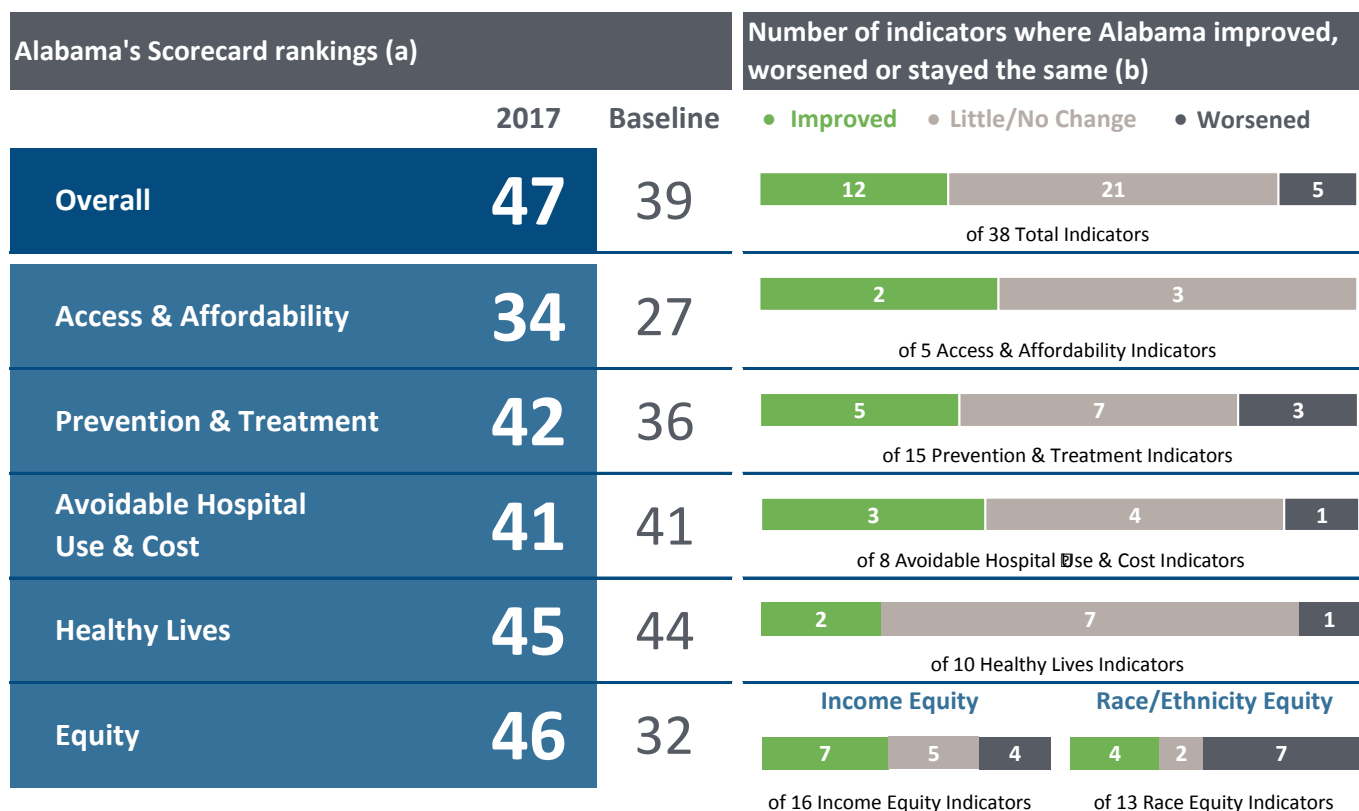
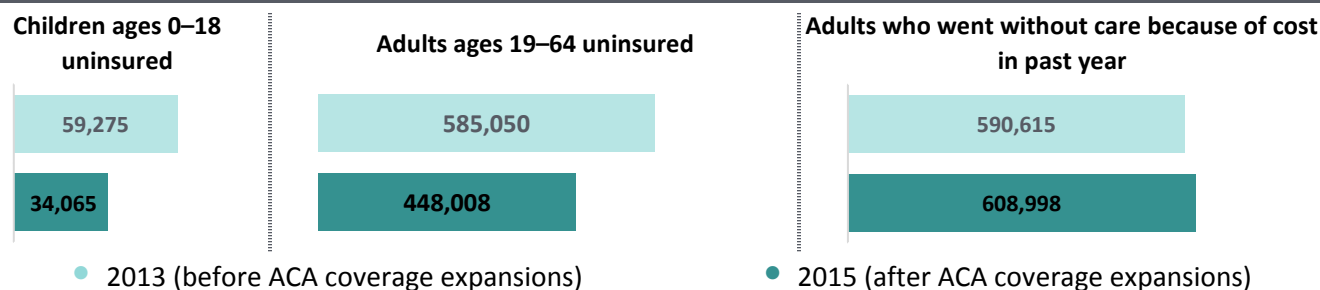


## Alabama



## Before and after implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage expansions



## Estimated impact of state improvement (c)

If Alabama improved to the level of the best-performing state for this indicator, then:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>373,024</b> | more adults (age 18 and older) would have a usual source of care to help ensure that care is coordinated and accessible when needed           |
| <b>225,317</b> | more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate recommended cancer screenings   |
| <b>8,404</b>   | more children (ages 19-35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines  |
| <b>36,368</b>  | fewer Medicare beneficiaries would receive an unsafe medication   |
| <b>2,598</b>   | fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care |
| <b>29,121</b>  | fewer emergency department visits for nonemergent or primary-care-treatable conditions would occur among Medicare beneficiaries               |

# Commonwealth Fund Scorecard on State Health System Performance, 2017

**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 | Substantial change over time (a) |
|---|-----------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>ACCESS &amp; AFFORDABILITY</b>   | <b>2017 Scorecard</b> |            |              |                 |               | <b>Baseline</b>   |            |              |                                  |
| Adults ages 19–64 uninsured   | 2015                  | 16         | 13           | 4               | 37            | 2013              | 20         | 20           | Improved                         |
| Children ages 0–18 uninsured  | 2015                  | 3          | 5            | 1               | 3             | 2013              | 5          | 8            | Improved                         |
| Adults who went without care because of cost in past year   | 2015                  | 17         | 13           | 7               | 48            | 2013              | 16         | 16           | No Change                        |
| Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income  | 2014-15               | 17         | 14           | 10              | 41            | --                | --         | --           | --                               |
| At-risk adults without a routine doctor visit in past two years   | 2015                  | 12         | 13           | 6               | 19            | 2013              | 12         | 14           | No Change                        |
| Adults without a dental visit in past year  | 2014                  | 18         | 16           | 11              | 41            | 2012              | 18         | 15           | No Change                        |
| <b>PREVENTION &amp; TREATMENT</b>   | <b>2017 Scorecard</b> |            |              |                 |               | <b>Baseline</b>   |            |              |                                  |
| Adults with a usual source of care  | 2015                  | 79         | 78           | 89              | 24            | 2013              | 78         | 76           | No Change                        |
| Adults with age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings   | 2014                  | 67         | 68           | 77              | 28            | 2012              | 68         | 69           | No Change                        |
| Adults with age-appropriate vaccines  | 2015                  | 38         | 38           | 51              | 30            | 2013              | 38         | 36           | No Change                        |
| Children with a medical home  | 2011/12               | 54         | 54           | 69              | 38            | --                | --         | --           | --                               |
| Children with a medical and dental preventive care visit in the past year   | 2011/12               | 70         | 68           | 81              | 18            | --                | --         | --           | --                               |
| Children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental problems who received needed mental health care in the past year  | 2011/12               | 54         | 61           | 86              | 42            | --                | --         | --           | --                               |
| Children ages 19–35 months who received all recommended doses of seven key vaccines   | 2015                  | 71         | 72           | 81              | 31            | 2013              | 77         | 70           | Worsened                         |
| Medicare beneficiaries who received at least one drug that should be avoided in the elderly   | 2014                  | 18         | 13           | 7               | 48            | 2012              | 24         | 17           | Improved                         |
| Medicare beneficiaries with dementia, hip/pelvic fracture, or chronic renal failure who received a prescription drug that is contraindicated for that condition               | 2014                  | 23         | 18           | 10              | 50            | 2012              | 28         | 21           | Improved                         |
| Medicare fee-for-service patients whose health provider always listens, explains, shows respect, and spends enough time with them   | 2014                  | 74         | 76           | 80              | 38            | 2013              | 74         | 76           | No Change                        |
| Risk-adjusted 30-day mortality among Medicare beneficiaries hospitalized for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, or stroke  | 07/2012 - 06/2015     | 15.0       | 14.5         | 13.1            | 38            | 07/2010 - 06/2013 | 13.7       | 13.2         | Worsened                         |
| Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio   | 2014                  | 0.71       | 0.50         | 0.23            | 48            | 2013              | 0.67       | 0.54         | No Change                        |
| Hospitalized patients given information about what to do during their recovery at home  | 2015                  | 86         | 87           | 90              | 35            | 2013              | 85         | 86           | Improved                         |
| Patients who reported hospital staff always managed pain well, responded when needed help to get to bathroom or pressed call button, and explained medicines and side effects | 2015                  | 69         | 68           | 74              | 18            | 2013              | 69         | 68           | No Change                        |
| Home health patients who get better at walking or moving around   | 2015                  | 72         | 66           | 72              | 1             | 2013              | 65         | 61           | Improved                         |
| Home health patients whose wounds improved or healed after an operation   | 2015                  | 91         | 90           | 95              | 10            | 2013              | 91         | 89           | No Change                        |
| High-risk nursing home residents with pressure sores  | 2015 (Q2-Q4)          | 6          | 6            | 3               | 26            | 2013 (Q2-Q4)      | 5          | 6            | Worsened                         |
| Long-stay nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication   | 2015 (Q2-Q4)          | 20         | 17           | 8               | 41            | 2013 (Q2-Q4)      | 22         | 21           | Improved                         |

# Commonwealth Fund Scorecard on State Health System Performance, 2017

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 | Substantial change over time (a) |
|--|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| AVOIDABLE HOSPITAL USE & COST  |           |            |              |                 | 2017 Scorecard |           | Baseline   |              |                                  |
| Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children   | 2013      | *          | 107          | 27              | *              | 2011      | *          | 107          | *                                |
| Hospital admissions among Medicare beneficiaries for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, ages 65–74, per 1,000 beneficiaries (b)       | 2014      | 35         | 27           | 12              | 44             | 2012      | 38         | 29           | No Change                        |
| Hospital admissions among Medicare beneficiaries for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, age 75 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries (b) | 2014      | 75         | 66           | 35              | 40             | 2012      | 82         | 70           | Improved                         |
| Medicare 30-day hospital readmissions, rate per 1,000 beneficiaries  | 2014      | 33         | 27           | 10              | 39             | 2012      | 39         | 34           | Improved                         |
| Short-stay nursing home residents readmitted within 30 days of hospital discharge to nursing home  | 2014      | 20         | 19           | 11              | 29             | 2012      | 22         | 20           | Improved                         |
| Long-stay nursing home residents hospitalized within a six-month period  | 2014      | 19         | 16           | 5               | 35             | 2012      | 21         | 17           | No Change                        |
| Home health patients also enrolled in Medicare with a hospital admission   | 2015      | 17.5       | 16.2         | 13.9            | 48             | 2013      | 17.0       | 16.0         | Worsened                         |
| Potentially avoidable emergency department visits among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries                                  | 2014      | 187        | 185          | 129             | 29             | 2012      | 192        | 188          | No Change                        |
| Total reimbursements per enrollee (ages 18–64) with employer-sponsored insurance   | 2014      | \$3,677    | \$4,569      | \$3,217         | 7              | 2013      | \$3,634    | \$4,489      | No Change                        |
| Total Medicare (Parts A & B) reimbursements per beneficiary  | 2014      | \$9,228    | \$8,819      | \$5,592         | 43             | 2012      | \$9,344    | \$8,854      | No Change                        |
| HEALTHY LIVES  |           |            |              |                 | 2017 Scorecard |           | Baseline   |              |                                  |
| Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population   | 2013-14   | 110.7      | 84.2         | 54.3            | 45             | 2011-12   | 109.7      | 84.0         | No Change                        |
| Years of potential life lost before age 75   | 2014      | 9,361      | 6,447        | 4,892           | 49             | 2012      | 9,324      | 6,412        | No Change                        |
| Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population   | 2014      | 20.9       | 20.6         | 14.2            | 27             | 2012      | 22.9       | 21.4         | Improved                         |
| Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population  | 2014      | 15.5       | 14.3         | 10.9            | 36             | 2012      | 16.7       | 14.9         | Improved                         |
| Suicide deaths per 100,000 population  | 2014      | 14.5       | 13.0         | 7.8             | 28             | 2012      | 14.7       | 12.6         | No Change                        |
| Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births   | 2013      | 8.6        | 6.0          | 4.2             | 49             | 2012      | 8.9        | 6.0          | No Change                        |
| Adults ages 18–64 who report fair/poor health or activity limitations because of physical, mental, or emotional problems                 | 2015      | 32         | 26           | 20              | 48             | 2013      | 31         | 26           | No Change                        |
| Adults who smoke   | 2015      | 21         | 17           | 9               | 40             | 2013      | 21         | 18           | No Change                        |
| Adults ages 18–64 who are obese (BMI >= 30)  | 2015      | 37         | 29           | 20              | 48             | 2013      | 33         | 29           | Worsened                         |
| Children ages 10–17 who are overweight or obese (BMI >= 85th percentile)   | 2011/12   | 35         | 31           | 22              | 42             | --        | --         | --           | --                               |
| Adults ages 18–64 who have lost six or more teeth because of tooth decay, infection, or gum disease                                      | 2014      | 17         | 10           | 6               | 47             | 2012      | 17         | 10           | No Change                        |

# Commonwealth Fund Scorecard on State Health System Performance, 2017

**Table 2. State Equity Indicator Data**

The Equity profile displays gaps in performance for vulnerable populations for selected indicators. An equity gap is defined as the difference between the U.S. national average for a particular indicator and the rate for the state's most vulnerable group by income and race/ethnicity. For all equity indicators, lower rates are better; therefore, a positive or negative gap value indicates that the state's most vulnerable group is better or worse than the U.S. average for a particular indicator.

| Equity Type and Indicator   | Data year      | Vulnerable |              |         | State ranking | Data year | Vulnerable |              |         | Change in vulnerable group rate (b) |
|---|----------------|------------|--------------|---------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
|   |                | group rate | U.S. average | Gap (a) |               |           | group rate | U.S. average | Gap (a) |                                     |
| LOW-INCOME  | 2017 Scorecard |            |              |         |               | Baseline  |            |              |         |                                     |
| Uninsured ages 19–64  | 2015           | 30         | 13           | -17     | 42            | 2013      | 37         | 20           | -17     | No Change                           |
| Adults who went without care because of cost in past year                                 | 2015           | 33         | 13           | -20     | 50            | 2013      | 31         | 16           | -15     | Worsened                            |
| At risk adults without a doctor visit   | 2015           | 14         | 13           | -1      | 20            | 2013      | 14         | 14           | 0       | No Change                           |
| Adults without a dental visit in past year  | 2014           | 26         | 16           | -10     | 33            | 2012      | 25         | 15           | -10     | No Change                           |
| Adults without a usual source of care   | 2015           | 26         | 22           | -4      | 29            | 2013      | 25         | 24           | -1      | Worsened                            |
| Adults without age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings                              | 2014           | 37         | 32           | -5      | 28            | 2012      | 37         | 31           | -6      | No Change                           |
| Adults without age-appropriate vaccines   | 2015           | 62         | 62           | 0       | 19            | 2013      | 62         | 64           | 2       | No Change                           |
| Children without a medical home   | 2011/12        | 58         | 46           | -12     | 38            | --        | --         | --           | --      | --                                  |
| Children without a medical and dental preventive care visit in the past year              | 2011/12        | 37         | 32           | -5      | 20            | --        | --         | --           | --      | --                                  |
| Children ages 19–35 months without all recommended vaccines (c)                           | 2014           | 22         | 28           | 6       | 3             | 2012      | 29         | 32           | 3       | Improved                            |
| Elderly patients who received a high-risk prescription drug                               | 2014           | 22         | 13           | -9      | 46            | 2012      | 29         | 17           | -12     | Improved                            |
| Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children                            | 2013           | *          | 107          | *       | *             | 2012      | *          | 143          | *       | *                                   |
| Medicare admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions (d)                          | 2014           | 106        | 44           | -62     | 42            | 2012      | 116        | 48           | -68     | Improved                            |
| Medicare 30-day hospital readmissions, per 1,000 beneficiaries (d)                        | 2014           | 69         | 35           | -34     | 33            | 2012      | 84         | 43           | -41     | Improved                            |
| Potentially avoidable ED visits among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries (d) | 2014           | 360        | 185          | -175    | 31            | 2012      | 351        | 188          | -163    | Worsened                            |
| Adults with poor health-related quality of life   | 2015           | 46         | 26           | -20     | 44            | 2013      | 48         | 26           | -22     | Improved                            |
| Adults who smoke  | 2015           | 27         | 17           | -10     | 23            | 2013      | 29         | 18           | -11     | Improved                            |
| Adults who are obese  | 2015           | 46         | 29           | -17     | 48            | 2013      | 40         | 29           | -11     | Worsened                            |
| Adults who have lost six or more teeth  | 2014           | 28         | 10           | -18     | 49            | 2012      | 29         | 10           | -19     | Improved                            |
| RACE/ETHNICITY (e)  | 2017 Scorecard |            |              |         |               | Baseline  |            |              |         |                                     |
| Uninsured ages 19–64 (Hispanic ethnicity)   | 2015           | 45         | 13           | -32     | 41            | 2013      | 59         | 20           | -39     | Improved                            |
| Adults who went without care because of cost in past year (Hispanic ethnicity)            | 2015           | 30         | 13           | -17     | 48            | 2013      | 22         | 16           | -6      | Worsened                            |
| At risk adults without a doctor visit (other race)  | 2015           | 16         | 13           | -3      | 11            | 2013      | 10         | 14           | 4       | Worsened                            |
| Adults without a dental visit in past year (black race)                                   | 2014           | 20         | 16           | -4      | 10            | 2012      | 22         | 15           | -7      | Improved                            |
| Adults without a usual source of care (Hispanic ethnicity)                                | 2015           | 47         | 22           | -25     | 43            | 2013      | 29         | 24           | -5      | Worsened                            |
| Adults without age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings (other race)                 | 2014           | 43         | 32           | -11     | 42            | 2012      | 32         | 31           | -1      | Worsened                            |
| Adults without age-appropriate vaccines (Hispanic ethnicity)                              | 2015           | 70         | 62           | -8      | 31            | 2013      | 49         | 64           | 15      | Worsened                            |
| Children without a medical home (Hispanic ethnicity)                                      | 2011/12        | 62         | 46           | -16     | 29            | --        | --         | --           | --      | --                                  |

# Commonwealth Fund Scorecard on State Health System Performance, 2017

**Table 2. State Equity Indicator Data (continued)**

The Equity profile displays gaps in performance for vulnerable populations for selected indicators. An equity gap is defined as the difference between the U.S. national average for a particular indicator and the rate for the state's most vulnerable group by income and race/ethnicity. For all equity indicators, lower rates are better; therefore, a positive or negative gap value indicates that the state's most vulnerable group is better or worse than the U.S. average for a particular indicator.

| Equity Type and Indicator   | Data year | Vulnerable     |              |         | State ranking | Data year | Vulnerable |              |         | Change in vulnerable group rate (b) |
|---|-----------|----------------|--------------|---------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
|   |           | group rate     | U.S. average | Gap (a) |               |           | group rate | U.S. average | Gap (a) |                                     |
| RACE/ETHNICITY (continued)  |           | 2017 Scorecard |              |         |               | Baseline  |            |              |         |                                     |
| Children without a medical and dental preventive care visit in the past year (Hispanic ethnicity) | 2011/12   | 39             | 32           | -7      | 21            | --        | --         | --           | --      | --                                  |
| Children ages 19–35 months without all recommended vaccines (Hispanic ethnicity) (c)              | 2014      | 26             | 28           | 2       | 8             | 2012      | *          | 32           | *       | *                                   |
| Mortality amenable to health care (black race)  | 2013-14   | 165            | 84.2         | -81.2   | 39            | 2011-12   | 166.2      | 84.0         | -82.20  | Improved                            |
| Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births (black race)                                       | 2012-13   | 13.0           | 6.0          | -7.0    | 41            | 2010-11   | 13.0       | 6.5          | -6.5    | No Change                           |
| Adults with poor health-related quality of life (black race)                                      | 2015      | 33             | 26           | -7      | 24            | 2013      | 33         | 26           | -7      | No Change                           |
| Adults who smoke (other race)   | 2015      | 25             | 17           | -8      | 25            | 2013      | 17         | 18           | 1       | Worsened                            |
| Adults who are obese (black race)   | 2015      | 46             | 29           | -17     | 49            | 2013      | 41         | 29           | -12     | Worsened                            |
| Adults who have lost six or more teeth (black race)   | 2014      | 20             | 10           | -10     | 46            | 2012      | 21         | 10           | -11     | Improved                            |

**Table 3. Summary of Equity Indicator Change**

|                         | 2017 Scorecard rankings | Indicators with trends | CHANGE IN EQUITY GAP |   |  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---|--|
|                         |                         |                        | No change in gap     | Gap narrowed/ vulnerable group improved | Gap widened/ vulnerable group worsened |
| <b>Equity Dimension</b> | 46                      | 29                     | 7                    | 11                                      | 11                                     |
| Low Income              | 44                      | 16                     | 5                    | 7                                       | 4                                      |
| Race/Ethnicity          | 45                      | 13                     | 2                    | 4                                       | 7                                      |

## Notes:

**Cover Page.** (a) The 2017 Scorecard rankings generally reflect 2014 or 2015 data; Baseline rankings generally reflect 2012 or 2013 data. The Baseline rankings generally align with Baseline rankings reported in the December 2015 State Scorecard report. The 2017 State Scorecard added or revised several performance measures relative to what was reported in the December 2015 Scorecard report; overall and dimension rankings are not strictly comparable between these reports. (b) Improved or worsened denotes a change of at least one-half (0.5) of a standard deviation (a statistical measure of variation) 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 of a standard deviation. The Equity dimension is separated into two subdimensions, Income and Race/Ethnicity. For interpretation of changes in the Equity dimension, see Table 2, note (b) below. (c) The table shows the estimated impact if this state's performance improved to the rate of the best-performing state for selected Scorecard indicators. Benchmark states, those with the best rate, have an estimated impact of zero (0).

**Table 1.** (\*) Data not available for this state. (--) Historical data not available or not comparable over time. (a) Substantial change (improvement or worsening) refers to a change between the baseline and current time periods of at least 0.5 standard deviations. (b) Hospital admissions among Medicare beneficiaries for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions are displayed here separately for two age ranges, but counted as a single indicator in tallies of improvement.

**Table 2.** (\*) Data not available for this state. (--) Historic data not available or not comparable over time. (a) Gaps measure the difference between the most vulnerable group in this state, by income or race/ethnicity, and the U.S. national average for each indicator. (b) Improvement indicates that the gap between this state's vulnerable population and the U.S. average has narrowed AND that the vulnerable group rate in this state has improved. Worsening indicates that the gap between this state's vulnerable population and the U.S. average has widened AND that the vulnerable group rate in this state has worsened. No change indicates that either the gap narrowed but the vulnerable group rate worsened, or the vulnerable group rate improved but the gap widened. (c) Different data years were used in the equity analysis than were reported for the entire state population rate. (d) Measures constructed from 20% Medicare sample for the equity analysis. Data for equity analysis provided by A. Jha, Harvard School of Public health. Refer to the 2017 State Scorecard report appendix for source information for entire state population rate. (e) Gaps are based on the state's nonwhite population with the largest observed difference from the U.S. average. The racial/ethnic minority with the largest gap is noted for each indicator. Race/ethnicity is generally defined as white race (non-Hispanic), black race (non-Hispanic), Hispanic ethnicity (can include individuals of any race), and other race (non-Hispanic) which includes individuals who self-identify as being some race/ethnicity not otherwise categorized.