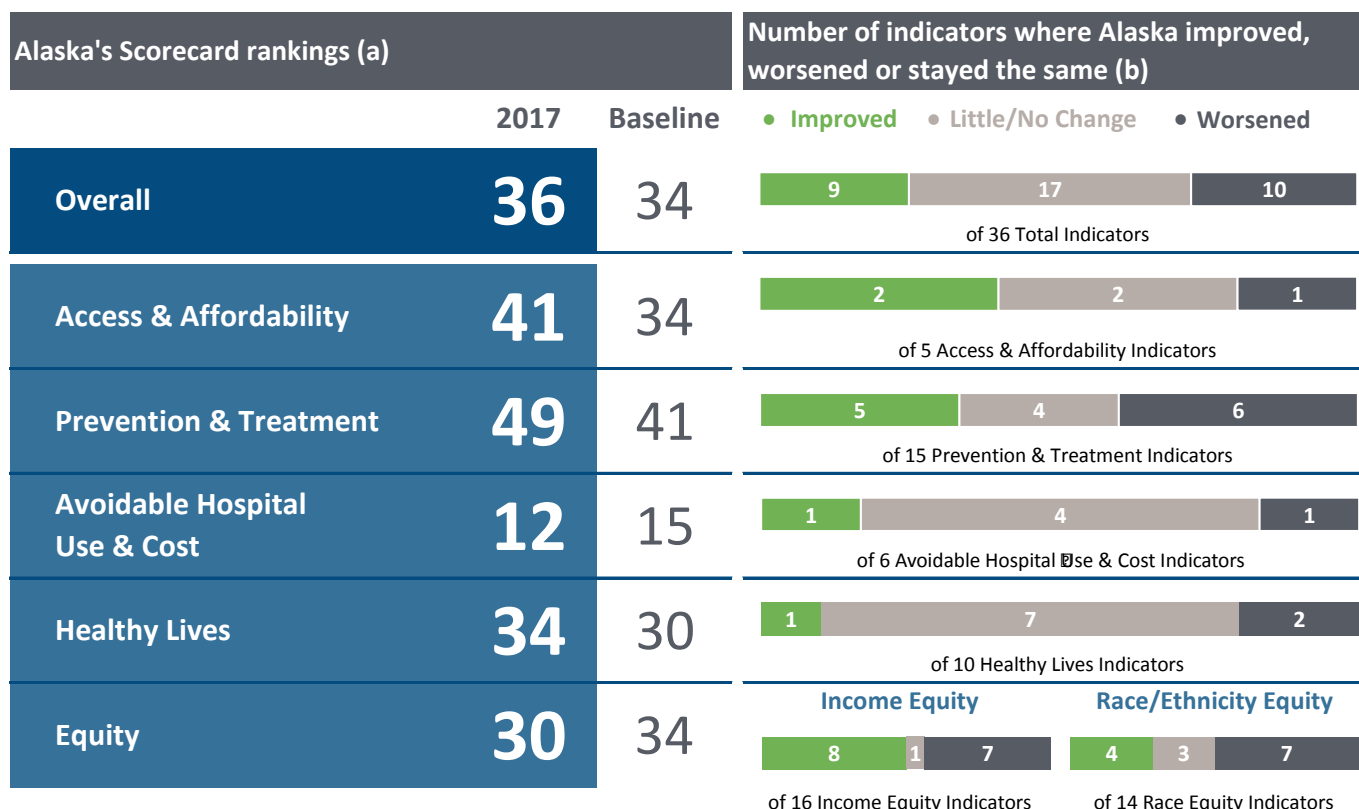
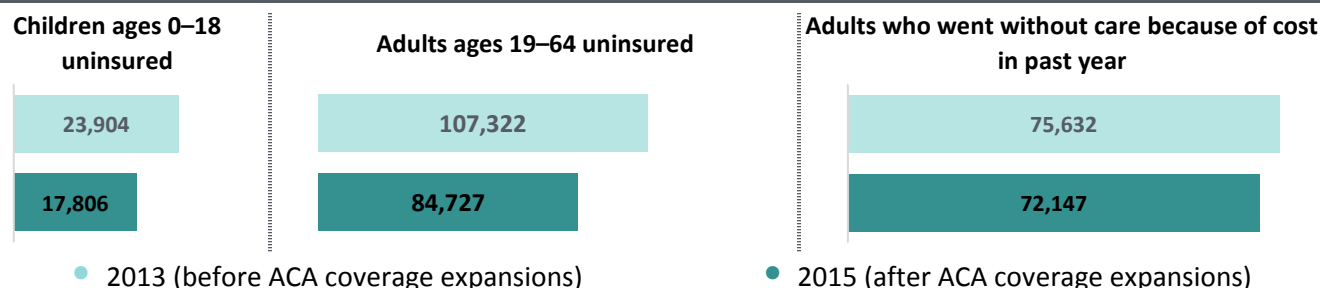


Alaska



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



Estimated impact of state improvement (c)

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

123,979	more adults (age 18 and older) would have a usual source of care to help ensure that care is coordinated and accessible when needed
45,463	more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate recommended cancer screenings
2,297	more children (ages 19-35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines
1,041	fewer Medicare beneficiaries would receive an unsafe medication
123	fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care
4,309	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)
ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY					2017 Scorecard		Baseline		
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2015	19	13	4	46	2013	24	20	Improved
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2015	9	5	1	45	2013	12	8	Improved
Adults who went without care because of cost in past year	2015	14	13	7	33	2013	14	16	No Change
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2014-15	13	14	10	15	--	--	--	--
At-risk adults without a routine doctor visit in past two years	2015	24	13	6	51	2013	23	14	No Change
Adults without a dental visit in past year	2014	16	16	11	27	2012	14	15	Worsened
PREVENTION & TREATMENT					2017 Scorecard		Baseline		
Adults with a usual source of care	2015	65	78	89	51	2013	67	76	No Change
Adults with age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2014	62	68	77	47	2012	63	69	No Change
Adults with age-appropriate vaccines	2015	34	38	51	44	2013	33	36	No Change
Children with a medical home	2011/12	52	54	69	42	--	--	--	--
Children with a medical and dental preventive care visit in the past year	2011/12	59	68	81	48	--	--	--	--
Children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental problems who received needed mental health care in the past year	2011/12	63	61	86	25	--	--	--	--
Children ages 19–35 months who received all recommended doses of seven key vaccines	2015	66	72	81	49	2013	64	70	No Change
Medicare beneficiaries who received at least one drug that should be avoided in the elderly	2014	12	13	7	21	2012	17	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	12	18	10	3	2012	17	21	Improved
Medicare fee-for-service patients whose health provider always listens, explains, shows respect, and spends enough time with them	2014	75	76	80	30	2013	76	76	Worsened
Risk-adjusted 30-day mortality among Medicare beneficiaries hospitalized for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, or stroke	07/2012 - 06/2015	15.4	14.5	13.1	48	07/2010 - 06/2013	13.7	13.2	Worsened
Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio	2014	0.65	0.50	0.23	47	2013	0.28	0.54	Worsened
Hospitalized patients given information about what to do during their recovery at home	2015	89	87	90	6	2013	88	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	67	68	74	33	2013	70	68	Worsened
Home health patients who get better at walking or moving around	2015	54	66	72	51	2013	49	61	Improved
Home health patients whose wounds improved or healed after an operation	2015	77	90	95	51	2013	80	89	Worsened
High-risk nursing home residents with pressure sores	2015 (Q2-Q4)	3	6	3	1	2013 (Q2-Q4)	6	6	Improved
Long-stay nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2015 (Q2-Q4)	15	17	8	13	2013 (Q2-Q4)	13	21	Worsened

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	46	107	*
Hospital admissions among Medicare beneficiaries for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, ages 65–74, per 1,000 beneficiaries (b)	2014	16	27	12	5	2012	*	29	*
Hospital admissions among Medicare beneficiaries for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, age 75 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries (b)	2014	48	66	35	8	2012	52	70	No Change
Medicare 30-day hospital readmissions, rate per 1,000 beneficiaries	2014	23	27	10	13	2012	29	34	Improved
Short-stay nursing home residents readmitted within 30 days of hospital discharge to nursing home	2014	11	19	11	1	2012	*	20	*
Long-stay nursing home residents hospitalized within a six-month period	2014	11	16	5	7	2012	*	17	*
Home health patients also enrolled in Medicare with a hospital admission	2015	14.2	16.2	13.9	2	2013	14.0	16.0	No Change
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2014	204	185	129	41	2012	205	188	No Change
Total reimbursements per enrollee (ages 18–64) with employer-sponsored insurance	2014	\$7,982	\$4,569	\$3,217	50	2013	\$7,733	\$4,489	No Change
Total Medicare (Parts A & B) reimbursements per beneficiary	2014	\$6,110	\$8,819	\$5,592	2	2012	\$5,399	\$8,854	Worsened
HEALTHY LIVES					2017 Scorecard		Baseline		
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2013-14	72.4	84.2	54.3	20	2011-12	72	84.0	No Change
Years of potential life lost before age 75	2014	7,408	6,447	4,892	38	2012	7,194	6,412	No Change
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2014	23.8	20.6	14.2	48	2012	17.6	21.4	Worsened
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2014	15.8	14.3	10.9	39	2012	15.6	14.9	No Change
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population	2014	22.0	13.0	7.8	50	2012	23.1	12.6	No Change
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2013	5.8	6.0	4.2	21	2012	5.1	6.0	Worsened
Adults ages 18–64 who report fair/poor health or activity limitations because of physical, mental, or emotional problems	2015	24	26	20	17	2013	24	26	No Change
Adults who smoke	2015	19	17	9	32	2013	23	18	Improved
Adults ages 18–64 who are obese (BMI >= 30)	2015	29	29	20	18	2013	28	29	No Change
Children ages 10–17 who are overweight or obese (BMI >= 85th percentile)	2011/12	30	31	22	21	--	--	--	--
Adults ages 18–64 who have lost six or more teeth because of tooth decay, infection, or gum disease	2014	9	10	6	17	2012	9	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	32	13	-19	44	2013	46	20	-26	Improved
Adults who went without care because of cost in past year	2015	29	13	-16	46	2013	23	16	-7	Worsened
At risk adults without a doctor visit	2015	32	13	-19	51	2013	32	14	-18	No Change
Adults without a dental visit in past year	2014	23	16	-7	17	2012	18	15	-3	Worsened
Adults without a usual source of care	2015	39	22	-17	49	2013	38	24	-14	Worsened
Adults without age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2014	51	32	-19	51	2012	39	31	-8	Worsened
Adults without age-appropriate vaccines	2015	68	62	-6	41	2013	71	64	-7	Improved
Children without a medical home	2011/12	57	46	-11	35	--	--	--	--	--
Children without a medical and dental preventive care visit in the past year	2011/12	48	32	-16	48	--	--	--	--	--
Children ages 19–35 months without all recommended vaccines (c)	2014	39	28	-11	39	2012	48	32	-16	Improved
Elderly patients who received a high-risk prescription drug	2014	13	13	0	8	2012	19	17	-2	Improved
Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children	2013	*	107	*	*	2012	*	143	*	*
Medicare admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions (d)	2014	73	44	-29	13	2012	83	48	-35	Improved
Medicare 30-day hospital readmissions, per 1,000 beneficiaries (d)	2014	34	35	1	6	2012	43	43	0	Improved
Potentially avoidable ED visits among Medicare beneficiaries, per 1,000 beneficiaries (d)	2014	476	185	-291	51	2012	442	188	-254	Worsened
Adults with poor health-related quality of life	2015	32	26	-6	4	2013	31	26	-5	Worsened
Adults who smoke	2015	37	17	-20	47	2013	34	18	-16	Worsened
Adults who are obese	2015	31	29	-2	4	2013	34	29	-5	Improved
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2014	17	10	-7	23	2012	18	10	-8	Improved
RACE/ETHNICITY (e)	2017 Scorecard					Baseline				
Uninsured ages 19–64 (other race)	2015	31	13	-18	26	2013	38	20	-18	No Change
Adults who went without care because of cost in past year (Hispanic ethnicity)	2015	18	13	-5	6	2013	26	16	-10	Improved
At risk adults without a doctor visit (other race)	2015	28	13	-15	43	2013	29	14	-15	No Change
Adults without a dental visit in past year (Hispanic ethnicity)	2014	19	16	-3	9	2012	14	15	1	Worsened
Adults without a usual source of care (other race)	2015	43	22	-21	35	2013	34	24	-10	Worsened
Adults without age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings (other race)	2014	41	32	-9	37	2012	34	31	-3	Worsened
Adults without age-appropriate vaccines (other race)	2015	68	62	-6	25	2013	70	64	-6	No Change
Children without a medical home (other race)	2011/12	56	46	-10	10	--	--	--	--	--

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 (other race)	2011/12	44	32	-12	38	--	--	--	--	--
Children ages 19–35 months without all recommended vaccines (other race) (c)	2014	38	28	-10	28	2012	46	32	-14	Improved
Mortality amenable to health care (other race)	2013-14	113	84.2	-28.9	11	2011-12	106.8	84.0	-22.80	Worsened
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births (other race)	2012-13	7.7	6.0	-1.7	3	2010-11	10.8	6.5	-4.3	Improved
Adults with poor health-related quality of life (other race)	2015	26	26	0	2	2013	23	26	3	Worsened
Adults who smoke (black race)	2015	28	17	-11	37	2013	32	18	-14	Improved
Adults who are obese (other race)	2015	34	29	-5	13	2013	31	29	-2	Worsened
Adults who have lost six or more teeth (other race)	2014	13	10	-3	19	2012	12	10	-2	Worsened

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
Equity Dimension	30	30	4	12	14
Low Income	41	16	1	8	7
Race/Ethnicity	17	14	3	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.