

# Massachusetts

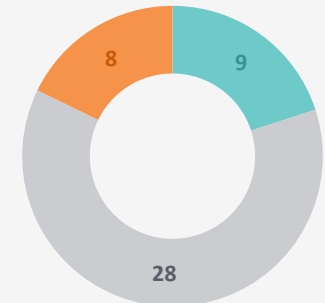


The  
Commonwealth  
Fund

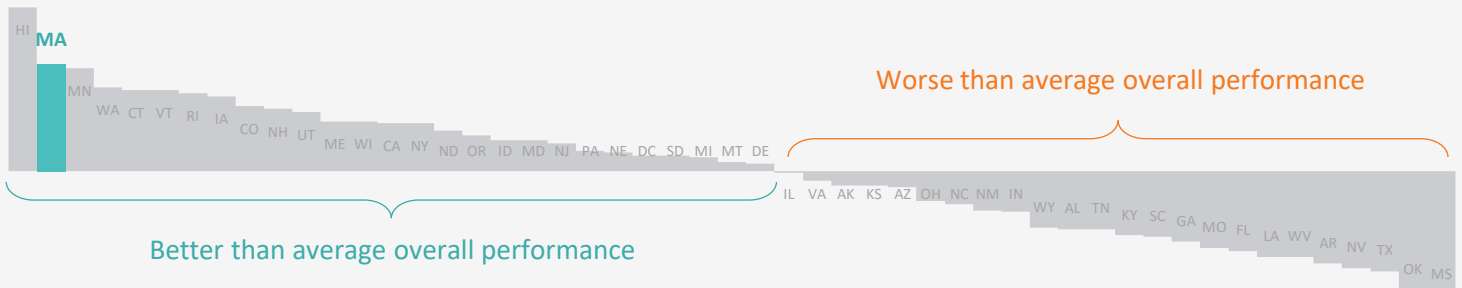
## Ranking Highlights<sup>a</sup>

	National Rank		Rank Among New England States	
	2019	Change from baseline	2019	Change from baseline
Overall	2 of 51	0	1 of 6	0
Access & Affordability	1	0	1	0
Prevention & Treatment	1	0	1	0
Avoidable Use & Cost	31	-2	6	0
Healthy Lives	4	-2	2	0
Health Care Disparities	7	-5	1	+1

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



● Improved ● Worsened ● Little or No Change



### Top-Ranked Indicators

Children without all recommended vaccines  
Uninsured children  
Hospital 30-day mortality

### Bottom-Ranked Indicators

Drug poisoning deaths  
Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older  
Hospital 30-day readmission rate age 65 and older

### Most Improved Indicators

Children without all recommended vaccines  
Home health patients without improved mobility  
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test

### Indicators That Worsened the Most

Adults without all recommended vaccines  
Drug poisoning deaths  
Preventable hospitalizations ages 18–64

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

Top state in the U.S.	Top state in the New England region	Massachusetts could expect the following gains if performance in the state improved to the top level at these national and regional benchmarks:
0	0	more adults and children, beyond those who already gained coverage through the ACA, would be insured
54,735	0	fewer adults would skip needed care because of its cost
66,358	66,358	more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings
0	0	more children (ages 19–35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines
335	142	fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care
90,022	23,099	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	4	12	4	1	2013	5	20	No Change
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2017	1	5	1	1	2013	2	8	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2017	14	23	12	5	2013	12	24	No Change
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2017	9	14	8	4	2013	9	16	No Change
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2016-17	8	10	5	5	2013-14	7	11	No Change
Employee insurance costs as a share of median income	2017	5.4	6.9	4.8	6	2013	5.5	6.5	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2016	12	16	10	4	2012	11	15	No Change
<b>Prevention &amp; Treatment</b>	<b>2019 Scorecard</b>					<b>Baseline</b>			
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2016	26	32	24	3	2012	21	31	Worsened
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2017	59	62	54	19	2013	53	64	Worsened
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test	2016	10	12	5.6	12	2015	16.3	16.9	Improved
Elderly patients who received a high-risk prescription drug	2015	7	11	5	2	--	--	--	--
Children without a medical home	2017	40	51	39	2	2016	42	51	No Change
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2017	21	32	18	2	2016	22	32	No Change
Children who did not receive needed mental health care	2017	11	22	4	15	2016	13	18	No Change
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2016	15	29	15	1	2012	26	32	Improved
Hospital 30-day mortality	2014-17	12.8	13.9	12.8	1	2010-13	12.4	13.2	Worsened
Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio	2016	0.76	0.89	0.36	12	2015	0.75	0.99	No Change
Hospitals with lower-than-average patient experience ratings	2017	47	45	9	33	--	--	--	--
Home health patients without improved mobility	2017	24	25	20	13	2013	37	39	Improved
Nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2017	18	15	7	40	2013	22	21	Improved
Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need	2014-16	19	21	16	9	2009-11	21	21	Improved
Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment	2014-16	49	56	42	8	2009-11	49	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 <sup>b</sup>
Avoidable Hospital Use & Cost						2019 Scorecard			Baseline
Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children ages 2–17	2015	97.7	87.2	21.7	27	2012	141.1	142.9	Improved
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2016	125.6	142.2	115.9	6	2015	142.1	159.0	Improved
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2015	207.9	196.9	138.3	36	2012	208.9	187.8	No Change
Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2016	6.1	5.3	5.3	4	2015	4.0	4.6	Worsened
Ages 65–74, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2017	52.1	43.9	21.7	44	2013	53.1	47.7	No Change
30-day hospital readmissions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2016	3	3.1	2.4	9	2015	2.8	2.9	No Change
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2017	48.3	41	19.7	47	2013	45.6	43.5	No Change
Skilled nursing facility patients with a hospital readmission	2016	20	19	11	32	2012	19	20	No Change
Long-stay nursing home residents hospitalized within a six-month period	2016	13	15	5	14	2012	14	17	No Change
Home health patients also enrolled in Medicare with a hospital admission	2017	17	16	14	40	2013	16	16	Worsened
Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging	2016	70.9	68.9	57.7	36	2015	73.2	71.1	No Change
Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee	2016	\$4,603	\$4,882	\$3,255	18	2013	\$4,659	\$4,697	No Change
Medicare spending per beneficiary	2017	\$9,545	\$9,534	\$6,195	33	2013	\$9,165	\$9,081	No Change
Healthy Lives						2019 Scorecard			Baseline
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2014-15	59.9	84.3	54.7	4	2010-11	63.7	85.3	No Change
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2017	18.5	19.9	15.6	16	2013	18.4	20.8	No Change
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2017	10.7	12.9	9.3	6	2013	13.1	14.6	Improved
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population	2017	9.5	14	6.6	4	2013	8.2	12.6	No Change
Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population	2017	8.4	9.6	5.5	16	2013	6.2	8.2	No Change
Drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population	2017	31.8	21.7	8.1	42	2013	16	13.8	Worsened
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2016	3.9	5.9	3.5	3	2012	4.2	6	No Change
Adults who report fair or poor health	2017	14	17	9	12	2013	12	16	Worsened
Adults who smoke	2017	14	16	9	5	2013	17	18	Improved
Adults who are obese	2017	26	31	23	7	2013	24	29	Worsened
Children who are overweight or obese	2017	26	31	21	11	2016	27	31	No Change
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2016	8	10	6	12	2012	9	10	No Change

**Table 2. State Disparity Indicator Data**

Dimension and indicator	Data year	Low-income rate <sup>d</sup>	Disparity <sup>e</sup>	State ranking	Data year	Low-income rate <sup>d</sup>	Disparity <sup>e</sup>	Change over time <sup>f</sup>
Disparity	2019 Scorecard				Baseline			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2017	7	-5	2	2013	11	-9	Improved
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2017	2	-1	1	2013	2	-1	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2017	20	-12	32	2013	15	-10	Worsened
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2017	14	-8	6	2013	17	-14	Improved
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2016-17	27	-26	29	2013-14	27	-26	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2016	17	-9	7	2012	18	-11	Improved
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2016	33	-11	29	2012	27	-10	Worsened
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2017	59	-3	5	2013	54	-6	No Change
Children without a medical home	2017	54	-23	23	2016	56	-24	Improved
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2017	30	-13	21	2016	27	-8	Worsened
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2016	19	-7	16	2012	28	-5	No Change
Hospital admissions for pediatric asthma, per 100,000 children ages 2–17	2015	205.7	-154.3	25	2012	247	-151.2	No Change
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2014	342.7	-153.8	7	2012	328.5	-138.8	Worsened
Hospital admissions for ambulatory care-sensitive conditions, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2015	96.9	-44.2	14	2012	85.5	-22.7	Worsened
30-day hospital readmissions among, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2015	62.9	-24.2	21	2012	71.2	-25.8	Improved
Adults who report fair or poor health	2017	31	-27	44	2013	27	-22	Worsened
Adults who smoke	2017	22	-13	15	2013	23	-13	No Change
Adults who are obese	2017	31	-7	10	2013	33	-11	Improved
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2016	16	-12	19	2012	18	-12	No Change

**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.