

Nursing Home Compare
**Five-Star Quality Rating System:
Technical Users' Guide**

**State-Level Health Inspection Cut Point
Table**

November 2013



Introduction

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has enhanced its *Nursing Home Compare* public reporting site to include a set of quality ratings for each nursing home that participates in Medicare or Medicaid. The ratings take the form of several “star” ratings for each nursing home. The primary goal in launching this rating system is to provide residents and their families with an easy way to understand assessment of nursing home quality, making meaningful distinctions between high and low performing nursing homes.

The rating system features an overall five-star rating based on facility performance for three types of performance measures, each of which has its own associated five-star rating. These domains are: Health Inspections (measures based on outcomes from State health inspection surveys), Staffing (measures based on nursing home staffing levels reported at the time of State health inspection), and Quality Measures (measures based on the CMS Minimum Data Set (MDS)). The Five Star Quality Rating System: Technical Users’ Guide provides detailed information about the content and scoring of each domain, as well as the overall star rating.

This document - Five Star Quality Rating System Technical Users’ Guide: State Level Health Inspection Cut Point Table - provides the data for the state-level cut points for the star ratings included in the health inspection domain. Cut points for the staffing ratings and for the QM ratings have been fixed and do not vary monthly. Data tables giving the cut points for those ratings are included in the [Five Star Quality Rating System: Technical Users’ Guide](#).

CMS’ Five-Star quality ratings for the health inspection domain are based on the relative performance of facilities within a State. This approach helps to control for variation between States. Facility ratings are determined using these criteria:

- The top 10 percent (lowest 10 percent in terms of health inspection deficiency score) in each State receive a five-star rating.
- The middle 70 percent of facilities receive a rating of two, three, or four stars, with an equal number (approximately 23.33 percent) in each rating category.
- The bottom 20 percent receive a one-star rating.

This distribution is based on CMS experience and input from the Project’s TEP. The cut points are recalibrated each month so that the distribution of star ratings within States remains relatively constant over time in an effort to reduce the likelihood that the rating process affects the health inspection process. In the rare case that a State or territory has fewer than 5 facilities upon which to generate the cut points, the national distribution is used. Cut points for the health inspection ratings by state for the month of November 2013 are shown in Cut Point Table 1 (CP Table 1).

Cut Point Table 1
Star Cut Points for Health Inspection Scores - by State - (11-01-2013)

State	Number of facilities	Health Inspection Score							
		1 star	2 stars		3 stars		4 stars		5 stars
			Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	Lower	
Alabama	228	>40.000	≤40.000	>26.000	≤26.000	>16.000	≤16.000	>8.000	≤8.000
Alaska	16	>174.667	≤174.667	>102.667	≤102.667	>39.167	≤39.167	>13.333	≤13.333
Arizona	142	>62.667	≤62.667	>38.000	≤38.000	>28.667	≤28.667	>13.333	≤13.333
Arkansas	225	>149.750	≤149.750	>87.333	≤87.333	>53.500	≤53.500	>32.000	≤32.000
California	1,221	>82.667	≤82.667	>56.000	≤56.000	>38.667	≤38.667	>20.000	≤20.000
Colorado	208	>124.000	≤124.000	>68.000	≤68.000	>49.333	≤49.333	>23.333	≤23.333
Connecticut	231	>75.333	≤75.333	>50.667	≤50.667	>34.000	≤34.000	>16.667	≤16.667
D. C.	19	>188.667	≤188.667	>84.000	≤84.000	>62.000	≤62.000	>32.000	≤32.000
Delaware	45	>121.500	≤121.500	>94.667	≤94.667	>67.333	≤67.333	>31.333	≤31.333
Florida	681	>52.333	≤52.333	>33.333	≤33.333	>22.400	≤22.400	>12.000	≤12.000
Georgia	355	>38.667	≤38.667	>22.667	≤22.667	>14.000	≤14.000	>5.333	≤5.333
Guam	1	>76.000	≤76.000	>43.333	≤43.333	>25.333	≤25.333	>10.000	≤10.000
Hawaii	41	>55.333	≤55.333	>42.000	≤42.000	>32.667	≤32.667	>16.000	≤16.000
Idaho	76	>115.000	≤115.000	>74.667	≤74.667	>60.667	≤60.667	>32.000	≤32.000
Illinois	762	>80.667	≤80.667	>44.000	≤44.000	>27.333	≤27.333	>12.000	≤12.000
Indiana	507	>77.667	≤77.667	>48.000	≤48.000	>31.333	≤31.333	>12.667	≤12.667
Iowa	444	>54.667	≤54.667	>32.000	≤32.000	>19.333	≤19.333	>8.667	≤8.667
Kansas	334	>112.000	≤112.000	>64.667	≤64.667	>43.333	≤43.333	>22.667	≤22.667
Kentucky	282	>88.667	≤88.667	>42.667	≤42.667	>24.000	≤24.000	>14.000	≤14.000
Louisiana	280	>108.500	≤108.500	>54.667	≤54.667	>32.667	≤32.667	>14.000	≤14.000
Maine	107	>44.833	≤44.833	>26.667	≤26.667	>19.333	≤19.333	>6.667	≤6.667
Maryland	226	>74.667	≤74.667	>47.333	≤47.333	>29.333	≤29.333	>12.000	≤12.000
Massachusetts	420	>42.667	≤42.667	>21.333	≤21.333	>12.000	≤12.000	>4.000	≤4.000
Michigan	423	>106.833	≤106.833	>70.500	≤70.500	>48.667	≤48.667	>25.333	≤25.333
Minnesota	377	>60.000	≤60.000	>38.667	≤38.667	>27.667	≤27.667	>12.667	≤12.667
Mississippi	203	>82.667	≤82.667	>45.000	≤45.000	>31.333	≤31.333	>17.333	≤17.333
Missouri	510	>68.667	≤68.667	>47.333	≤47.333	>28.667	≤28.667	>12.667	≤12.667
Montana	83	>71.333	≤71.333	>44.000	≤44.000	>30.000	≤30.000	>14.667	≤14.667
Nebraska	217	>60.000	≤60.000	>36.000	≤36.000	>22.667	≤22.667	>11.333	≤11.333
Nevada	51	>92.667	≤92.667	>72.000	≤72.000	>52.000	≤52.000	>31.333	≤31.333
New Hampshire	76	>32.667	≤32.667	>16.667	≤16.667	>10.000	≤10.000	>2.667	≤2.667

New Jersey	364	>50.000	≤50.000	>28.000	≤28.000	>16.000	≤16.000	>6.667	≤6.667
New Mexico	71	>117.833	≤117.833	>47.333	≤47.333	>20.500	≤20.500	>6.667	≤6.667
New York	630	>46.000	≤46.000	>26.667	≤26.667	>16.667	≤16.667	>7.000	≤7.000
North Carolina	415	>38.333	≤38.333	>18.667	≤18.667	>10.000	≤10.000	>2.667	≤2.667
North Dakota	81	>49.667	≤49.667	>26.667	≤26.667	>16.667	≤16.667	>8.000	≤8.000
Ohio	945	>52.000	≤52.000	>30.000	≤30.000	>18.000	≤18.000	>7.333	≤7.333
Oklahoma	308	>161.500	≤161.500	>102.000	≤102.000	>64.800	≤64.800	>30.667	≤30.667
Oregon	135	>60.333	≤60.333	>38.667	≤38.667	>25.333	≤25.333	>11.333	≤11.333
Pennsylvania	702	>44.667	≤44.667	>26.000	≤26.000	>16.000	≤16.000	>6.000	≤6.000
Puerto Rico	7	>184.667	≤184.667	>128.000	≤128.000	>123.333	≤123.333	>75.333	≤75.333
Rhode Island	84	>24.667	≤24.667	>12.667	≤12.667	>5.333	≤5.333	>1.333	≤1.333
South Carolina	188	>82.667	≤82.667	>35.333	≤35.333	>17.333	≤17.333	>5.333	≤5.333
South Dakota	110	>49.667	≤49.667	>32.000	≤32.000	>21.333	≤21.333	>9.333	≤9.333
Tennessee	316	>57.333	≤57.333	>34.000	≤34.000	>22.667	≤22.667	>10.667	≤10.667
Texas	1,185	>109.333	≤109.333	>63.333	≤63.333	>38.400	≤38.400	>17.333	≤17.333
Utah	95	>96.000	≤96.000	>67.333	≤67.333	>37.333	≤37.333	>16.000	≤16.000
Vermont	38	>66.000	≤66.000	>38.667	≤38.667	>24.000	≤24.000	>6.667	≤6.667
Virginia	282	>76.667	≤76.667	>46.000	≤46.000	>26.667	≤26.667	>10.000	≤10.000
Washington	224	>103.333	≤103.333	>62.667	≤62.667	>35.333	≤35.333	>19.333	≤19.333
West Virginia	124	>156.667	≤156.667	>80.667	≤80.667	>52.000	≤52.000	>26.000	≤26.000
Wisconsin	386	>85.333	≤85.333	>48.000	≤48.000	>32.000	≤32.000	>12.667	≤12.667
Wyoming	38	>105.333	≤105.333	>76.667	≤76.667	>52.667	≤52.667	>24.000	≤24.000

Notes: A higher score indicates worse performance on health inspections. The cut points are based on facility health inspection scores and are set separately for each state to achieve this distribution:

- 5 stars: ≤10th percentile
- 4 stars: >10th percentile and ≤ 33.33rd percentile
- 3 stars: >33.33rd percentile and ≤ 56.667th percentile
- 2 stars: >56.667th percentile and ≤ 80th percentile
- 1 star: >80th percentile

Due to the small number of facilities, the cut points for Guam and the Virgin Islands are based on the national distribution of health inspection scores.