

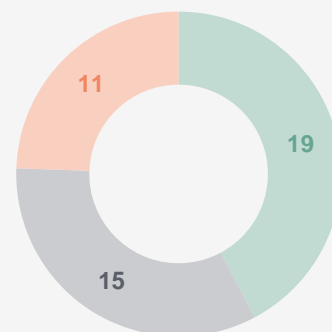
# Alabama

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

	National Rank	Rank Among Southeastern States*
<b>Overall</b>	<b>46</b> of 51	<b>7</b> of 12
COVID-19	51	12
Access & Affordability	34	4
Prevention & Treatment	33	6
Avoidable Hospital Use & Cost	28	5
Healthy Lives	45	6
Income Disparity	49	11
Racial & Ethnic Equity	31	7

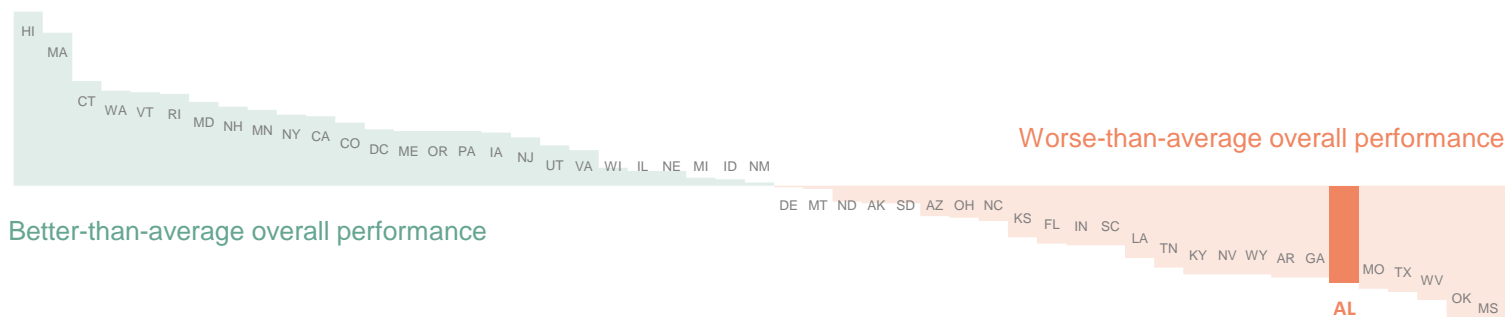
\* Southeastern states include AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV

## How Health Care Performance Changed in Alabama<sup>b</sup>



- Indicators that Improved
- Indicators that Worsened
- Indicators with Little or No Change

## How Alabama Compares to All States



## The Best and Worst in Alabama

### Top-Ranked Indicators

- Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging
- Home health patients with improved mobility
- Hospital 30-day readmission rate ages 18–64

### Most Improved Indicators

- High out-of-pocket medical spending
- Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older
- Hospital 30-day mortality

### Bottom-Ranked Indicators

- Adults vaccinated against COVID-19 with a booster
- Days of high ICU stress during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Days of hospital staffing shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic

### Indicators That Worsened the Most

- Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need
- Home health patients with improved mobility
- Hospital 30-day readmission rate ages 18–64

**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>
Access & Affordability						2022 Scorecard			Baseline
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2020	15%	12%	4%	40	2016	14%	12%	No Change
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2020	3%	5%	2%	9	2016	3%	5%	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2020	22%	23%	12%	22	2016	21%	22%	No Change
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2020	13%	11%	6%	46	2016	16%	13%	Improved
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2019–20	8%	7%	3%	26	2016–17	11%	9%	Improved
Employee total potential out-of-pocket medical costs as a share of state median income	2020	12%	12%	8%	32	2016	11%	11%	No Change
People with medical debt	2020	19%	15%	2%	42	—	—	—	—
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2020	39%	35%	25%	39	2016	38%	34%	No Change
Prevention & Treatment						2022 Scorecard			Baseline
Adults with all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2020	71%	69%	76%	14	2016	68%	68%	Improved
Adults with age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2020	39%	44%	54%	45	2016	35%	37%	Improved
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test	2019	12%	8%	8%	26	2015	15%	17%	Improved
Children with a medical home	2019–20	48%	47%	57%	34	2016–17	51%	49%	Worsened
Children without a medical and dental preventive care visit	2019–20	38%	34%	23%	43	—	—	—	—
Children who did not receive needed mental health care	2019–20	11%	19%	10%	3	2016–17	15%	20%	Improved
Children without all recommended vaccines	2020	26%	27%	14%	20	2016	23%	29%	Worsened
Hospital 30-day mortality	07/2016–06/2019	14%	14%	12%	36	07/2012–06/2015	15%	15%	Improved
Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio	2020	0.97	0.857	0.419	46	2016	1.121	0.891	Improved
Hospitals with overall patient experience ratings higher than the national median	2020	55%	48%	76%	18	2017	62%	55%	No Change
Home health patients with improved mobility	2019	87%	80%	87%	1	2016	76%	71%	Improved
Nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2020	20%	14%	9%	49	2016	19%	16%	No Change

**Table 1. State Health System Performance Indicator Data by Dimension (cont.)**

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 (cont.)</b>	<b>2022 Scorecard</b>					<b>Baseline</b>			
Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need	2018–19	27%	25%	15%	34	2013–15	20%	20%	Worsened
Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment	2018–19	57%	56%	43%	35	2013–15	54%	56%	Worsened
<b>Avoidable Hospital Use &amp; Cost</b>	<b>2022 Scorecard</b>					<b>Baseline</b>			
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2019	155	137	73	33	2015	172	159	Improved
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2020	143	137	112	35	2016	181	185	Improved
Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2019	8	7	6	47	2015	6	5	Worsened
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2020	36	29	16	47	2016	52	43	Improved
30-day hospital readmissions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2019	3	3	3	1	2015	1	3	Worsened
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2020	37	33	17	40	2016	42	40	Improved
Skilled nursing facility patients with a hospital readmission	2016	20%	19%	11%	32	2012	22%	20%	Improved
Long-stay nursing home residents hospitalized within a six-month period	2016	19%	15%	5%	39	2012	21%	17%	No Change
Home health patients also enrolled in Medicare with a hospital admission	2019	16%	15%	11%	21	2016	18%	16%	Improved
Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging	2019	57%	68%	57%	1	2015	59%	71%	No Change
Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee	2019	\$4,702	\$5,354	\$4,082	9	2015	\$3,706	\$4,736	Worsened
Medicare spending per beneficiary	2020	\$10,770	\$9,677	\$6,256	46	2016	\$9,896	\$9,342	Worsened
Primary care spending as a share of total health care spending									
Ages 18–64 (employer-insured enrollees)	2019	8%	7%	11%	15	2018	7%	6%	Improved
Age 65 and older (Medicare beneficiaries)	2020	6%	6%	8%	13	2016	6%	6%	Worsened
<b>Healthy Lives</b>	<b>2022 Scorecard</b>					<b>Baseline</b>			
Premature deaths from treatable causes per 100,000 population	2019–20	111	86	60	44	2018–19	109	84	No Change
Premature deaths from preventable causes per 100,000 population	2019–20	219	173	131	42	2018–19	213	166	No Change

**Table 1. State Health System Performance Indicator Data by Dimension (cont.)**

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 (cont.)						2022 Scorecard			Baseline
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2019	8	6	3	48	2015	8	6	Improved
Maternal deaths while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, per 100,000 live births	2019–2020	36	22	10	32	—	—	—	—
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population	2020	16	14	6	27	2016	16	14	No Change
Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population	2020	10	13	8	7	2016	7	10	No Change
Drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population	2020	22	28	10	21	2016	16	20	No Change
Adults who report fair or poor health	2020	17%	12%	9%	47	2016	20%	16%	Improved
Adults who smoke	2020	19%	14%	8%	43	2016	21%	16%	Improved
Adults who are obese	2020	40%	33%	24%	49	2016	37%	30%	Worsened
Children who are overweight or obese	2019–20	37%	32%	23%	43	2016–17	34%	31%	Worsened
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2020	14%	9%	5%	47	2016	15%	10%	No Change
State-based public health spending per resident	2019	\$55	\$40	\$366	13	—	—	—	—
COVID-19 <sup>c</sup>						2022 Scorecard			Baseline
Adults age 18 and older who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and who have a booster dose	2022	22%	37%	55%	50	—	—	—	—
Number of days until 70 percent of the state's population age 12 and older was fully vaccinated against COVID-19	2022	—	354	182	31	—	—	—	—
Days of high ICU stress during the COVID-19 pandemic	2022	517	112	0	50	—	—	—	—
Days of hospital staffing shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic	2022	516	50	0	51	—	—	—	—
Hospital admissions for confirmed COVID-19 cases, per 100,000 population	2022	1,974	1,443	564	47	—	—	—	—
Excess deaths associated with COVID-19, per 100,000 population	2022	503	345	110	49	—	—	—	—
Deaths from COVID-19 among nursing home residents, per 1,000 beds	2022	96	94	19	30	—	—	—	—

**Table 2. State Income Disparity Data**

	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>
Disparity Indicator	2022 Scorecard				Baseline			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2020	28%	-22	40	2016	27%	-23	No Change
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2020	4%	-2	9	2016	4%	-3	No Change
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2019–20	32%	-27	50	2015–16	30%	-26	Worsened
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2019–20	18%	-18	29	2016–17	25%	-23	Improved
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018/20	56%	-35	46	2014/16	56%	-36	No Change
Adults with all recommended cancer screenings	2018/20	65%	-11	32	2014/16	60%	-14	Improved
Adults with age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2019–20	29%	-15	31	2015–16	33%	-11	Worsened
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2019–20	45%	-21	37	—	—	—	—
Children without all recommended vaccines	2020	30%	-11	14	2016	27%	-14	No Change
Adults who report fair or poor health	2019–20	29%	-23	47	2015–16	31%	-23	Improved
Adults who smoke	2019–20	31%	-19	36	2015–16	30%	-18	Worsened
Adults who are obese	2019–20	43%	-7	30	2015–16	42%	-7	No Change
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2019–20	22%	-16	40	2015–16	24%	-16	Improved

**Table 3. State Racial and Ethnic Health Equity Performance Summary Data<sup>9</sup>**

Health System Performance Score & State Rank Among Population Group reproduced here from the 2021 State Equity Scorecard		
	Percentile Score (1–100)	State Rank Among Population Group
American Indian and Alaska Native People	—	—
Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander People	—	—
Black People	19	27 of 38 states
Latinx/Hispanic People	28	26 of 42 states
White People <sup>h</sup>	60	—

From: *Achieving Racial and Ethnic Equity in U.S. Health Care: A Scorecard of State Performance*, Commonwealth Fund, Nov. 2021.

**Table 4. State Racial and Ethnic Health Equity Performance Measure Data<sup>9</sup>**

	Data year	U.S. total	AIAN people	AANHPI people	Black people	Latinx/ Hispanic people	White people
<b>Health Outcomes</b>							
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2019–20	87	44	40	172	48	102
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2018–19	6	—	—	11	6	6
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2019–20	19	—	—	26	—	19
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2019–20	13	—	—	19	—	14
30-day hospital readmissions among Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2019	38	—	—	55	—	39
Adults ages 18 and older who smoke	2019–20	15%	34%	—	19%	21%	19%
Adults ages 18–64 who are obese (BMI >= 30)	2019–20	32%	39%	—	49%	37%	36%
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2018/20	9%	25%	—	14%	7%	14%
<b>Health Care Access</b>							
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2020	12%	15%	19%	17%	39%	13%
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2020	5%	—	—	3%	8%	3%
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2019–20	12%	24%	—	18%	23%	14%
Insured individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2019–20	6%	—	—	6%	8%	6%
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2019–20	23%	34%	41%	23%	51%	20%
<b>Health Care Quality and Service Use</b>							
Hospital admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2019	39	—	—	59	—	50

**Table 4. State Racial and Ethnic Health Equity Performance Measure Data (cont.)<sup>g</sup>**

	Data year	U.S. total	AIAN people	AANHPI people	Black people	Latinx/ Hispanic people	White people
<b>Health Care Quality and Service Use (cont.)</b>							
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits, Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older, per 1,000 beneficiaries	2019	185	—	—	325	—	184
Adult women ages 50–74 who received a mammogram in the past two years	2018/20	79%	83%	77%	87%	81%	77%
Adult women ages 25–64 who received a cervical cancer screening test in the past three years	2018/20	77%	76%	83%	84%	76%	73%
Adults ages 50–74 with a recent colon cancer screening test	2018/20	70%	—	79%	70%	77%	74%
Adults age 18 and older who received a flu shot in the last year	2019–20	45%	24%	41%	35%	38%	45%
Adults age 65 and older who have ever gotten a pneumonia vaccine	2019–20	71%	66%	68%	58%	72%	72%
Children without a medical and dental preventive care visit	2019–20	34%	—	—	45%	49%	32%
Children without all recommended vaccines	2020	27%	—	—	32%	—	22%
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018/20	35%	41%	45%	45%	37%	37%
Primary care spending as share of total health care spending among Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older	2020	6%	—	—	5%	—	6%

#### Notes

- (a) The 2022 Scorecard rankings generally reflect 2020 data. The 2022 Scorecard added or revised several performance measures, including the addition of seven measures specifically related to performance during the COVID-19 pandemic, since the September 2020 Scorecard report; rankings are not comparable between reports.
- (b) Trend data available for 45 of 56 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) All COVID-19 measures are current through the end of March 2022.
- (d) Rates are for states' low-income population, generally those whose household income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- (e) Income disparity is the difference between the states' low-income and higher-income (generally 400%+ FPL) populations.
- (f) Improvement indicates that the low-income rate improved and the disparity between low- and higher-income populations narrowed; worsening indicates that the low-income rate worsened and the disparity between low- and higher-income populations widened.
- (g) Performance data not available for all groups in every state. While scores from the 2021 Equity Scorecard report are used for ranking states, certain data indicators presented in Table 4 may be more recent than those used in the 2021 report due to updates during the past six months. Certain cancer screening indicators in Table 4 are specific to the Equity Scorecard report.
- (h) States not ranked on health system performance for white people in this report; included for comparative purposes.
- “—” means data not available.

Data reported here can also be found in the Commonwealth Fund's online Health System Data Center  
<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/datacenter>