

# Alabama

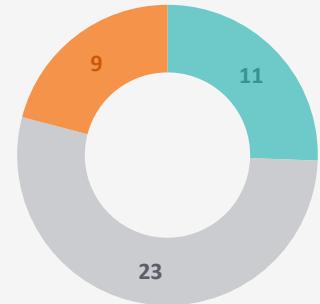


The Commonwealth Fund

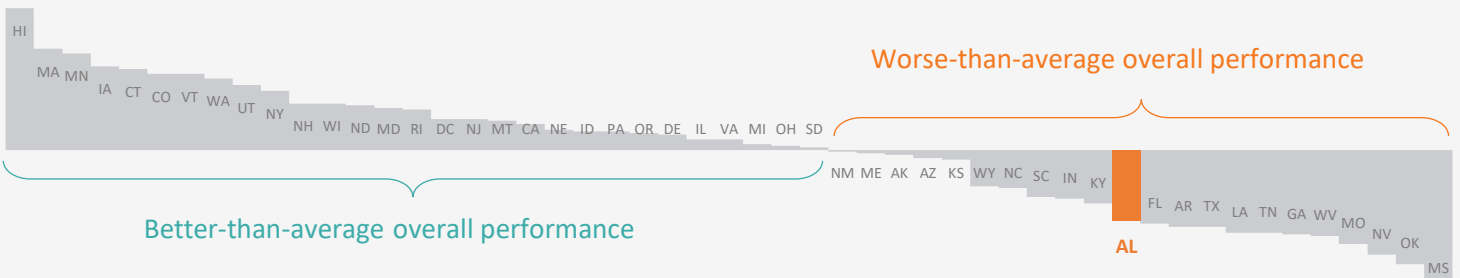
## Ranking Highlights<sup>a</sup>

	National Rank		Rank Among Southeastern States	
	2020	Change from baseline	2020	Change from baseline
Overall	40 of 51	-3	5 of 12	-2
Access & Affordability	41	-5	9	-4
Prevention & Treatment	29	-2	5	0
Avoidable Use & Cost	27	+3	5	-1
Healthy Lives	42	+2	6	0
Income Disparity	49	-16	11	-6

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



● Improved ● Worsened ● Little or No Change



### Top-Ranked Indicators

- Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need
- Adults with inappropriate lower back imaging
- Hospital 30-day readmission rate ages 18–64

### Bottom-Ranked Indicators

- Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment
- High out-of-pocket medical spending
- Preventable hospitalizations ages 18–64

### Most Improved Indicators

- Central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)
- Home health patients without improved mobility
- Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need

### Indicators That Worsened the Most

- Preventable hospitalizations ages 18–64
- Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment
- Hospital 30-day readmission rate ages 18–64

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

Top state in the U.S.	Top state in the Southeast region	Alabama could expect the following gains if performance in the state improved to the top level at these national and regional benchmarks:
375,826	238,970	more adults and children would be insured
335,347	111,782	fewer adults would skip needed care because of its cost
156,135	44,610	more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings
4,269	1,708	more children (ages 19–35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines
2,602	1,435	fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care
178,944	83,961	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 rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time <sup>b</sup>
<b>Access &amp; Affordability</b>						<b>2020 Scorecard</b>			
<b>Access &amp; Affordability</b>						<b>Baseline</b>			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2018	16	12	4	42	2014	18	16	No Change
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2018	4	5	1	16	2014	4	6	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2018	22	23	13	22	2014	24	23	No Change
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	16	13	7	45	2014	17	14	No Change
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2017–18	11	8.3	4.8	48	—	—	—	—
Employee insurance costs as a share of median income	2018	7.7	6.8	4.1	40	2014	7.6	6.6	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	39	34	24	44	2014	40	36	No Change
<b>Prevention &amp; Treatment</b>						<b>2020 Scorecard</b>			
<b>Prevention &amp; Treatment</b>						<b>Baseline</b>			
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	31	32	24	19	2014	33	32	Improved
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2018	68	69	57	27	2014	63	63	Worsened
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test	2017	9.7	10.7	6.5	10	2015	15.2	16.9	Improved
Elderly patients who received a high-risk prescription drug	2016	12.8	9.6	4.6	45	—	—	—	—
Children without a medical home	2018	56	52	41	47	2016	49	51	Worsened
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2018	46	42	29	42	—	—	—	—
Children who did not receive needed mental health care	2018	13	18	5	13	2016	19	18	Improved
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2018	21	27	16	7	2014	23	28	No Change
Hospital 30-day mortality	07/2015 – 06/2018	14.1	13.7	12.5	32	07/2011 – 06/2014	13.1	12.8	Worsened
Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio	2018	0.78	0.739	0.087	40	2015	1.407	0.994	Improved
Hospitals with lower-than-average patient experience ratings	2018	43	46	15	25	—	—	—	—
Home health patients without improved mobility	2018	17	22	17	1	2014	32	37	Improved
Nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2017	19	15	7	44	2013	22	21	Improved

**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 rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time <sup>b</sup>				
<b>Prevention &amp; Treatment (continued)</b>						<b>2020 Scorecard</b>				<b>Baseline</b>			
Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need	2016–17	14	22	14	1	2012–14	19	20	Improved				
Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment	2016–17	64	57	41	47	2012–14	54	57	Worsened				
<b>Avoidable Hospital Use &amp; Cost</b>						<b>2020 Scorecard</b>				<b>Baseline</b>			
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits													
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2017	163	149.5	84.2	37	2015	171.5	159	No Change				
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2016	188.3	189.4	140.9	28	2013	183.9	181.4	No Change				
Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions													
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2017	7.9	6.8	6	49	2015	6	4.6	Worsened				
Ages 65–74, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2018	52.8	41.6	20.4	47	2014	52.4	44.7	No Change				
30-day hospital readmissions													
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2017	2.3	3.2	2.3	1	2015	1.2	2.9	Worsened				
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2018	43.2	40	18.5	35	2014	43.2	42	No Change				
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	2018	17	16	14	43	2014	17	16	No Change				
Adults with inappropriate lower-back imaging	2017	57.5	70.1	57.5	1	2015	59.2	71.1	No Change				
Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee	2017	\$4,068	\$5,137	\$3,606	5	2013	\$3,706	\$4,697	No Change				
Medicare spending per beneficiary	2018	\$10,758	\$9,847	\$6,473	46	2014	\$9,426	\$9,025	Worsened				
Primary care spending as a share of total health care spending													
Ages 18–64 (employer-insured enrollees)	2018	7.3	6.0	11.3	12	—	—	—	—				
Age 65 and older (Medicare beneficiaries)	2017	6.3	5.7	7.2	7	—	—	—	—				
<b>Healthy Lives</b>						<b>2020 Scorecard</b>				<b>Baseline</b>			
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2016–17	112	84.5	54.5	44	2012–13	111.3	83.7	No Change				
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2018	21.9	19.7	15.1	45	2014	20.9	20.6	No Change				
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2018	14.7	12.6	9.1	46	2014	15.5	14.3	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 rank	Data year	State rate	U.S. average	Change over time <sup>b</sup>
<b>Healthy Lives (continued)</b>						<b>Baseline</b>			
<b>2020 Scorecard</b>						<b>Baseline</b>			
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population	2018	16.5	14.2	7.5	29	2014	14.5	13	No Change
Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population	2018	7.2	9.9	5.7	8	2014	5.5	8.5	No Change
Drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population	2018	16.6	20.7	6.9	19	2014	15.2	14.7	No Change
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2017	7.4	5.8	3.7	46	2013	8.6	6	Improved
Adults who report fair or poor health	2018	20	17	11	44	2014	20	16	No Change
Adults who smoke	2018	19	16	9	36	2014	21	17	Improved
Adults who are obese	2018	38	32	23	46	2014	35	29	Worsened
Children who are overweight or obese	2018	33	31	19	35	2016	35	31	No Change
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2018	14	9	5	46	2014	17	10	Improved
State-based public health spending per resident	2018	\$58	\$37	\$137	10	2014/15	\$60	\$36	Worsened

**Table 2. State Income Disparity Data**

Disparity Indicator	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>
<b>2020 Scorecard</b>					<b>Baseline</b>			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2018	30	-25	45	2014	33	-28	Improved
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	30	-25	49	2014	32	-28	Improved
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2017–18	24.3	-23.3	43	—	—	—	—
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	56	-35	44	2014	58	-39	Improved
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	37	-12	31	2014	39	-12	No Change
Children without a medical home	2018	67	-32	43	2016	51	-12	Worsened
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2018	58	-21	19	—	—	—	—
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2018	26	-14	24	2014	22	-6	Worsened
Adults who report fair or poor health	2018	33	-25	39	2014	33	-25	No Change
Adults who are obese	2018	41	-7	23	2014	38	-4	Worsened
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2018	22	-17	42	2014	26	-17	No Change

Table 3. State Race and Ethnicity Disparity Data

	Data year	U.S. average	State White rate	State Black rate	Black-White disparity	State Hispanic rate	Hispanic-White disparity	State Other rate	Other-White disparity
<b>Disparity Indicator</b>									
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2018	12	13	18	-5	46	-33	16	-3
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	13	14	21	-7	24	-10	24	-10
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2018	23	20	24	-4	46	-26	29	-9
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	34	37	45	-8	35	2	49	-12
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	32	31	29	2	—	—	36	-5
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2018	69	65	73	-8	71	-6	73	-8
Adults who smoke	2018	16	19	19	0	11	8	31	-12
Adults who are obese	2018	32	36	44	-8	31	5	25	11
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2016–17	84.5	97.8	163	-65.2	40.7	57.1	56.5	41.3
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2017	5.8	5.6	11.1	-5.5	5.7	-0.1	—	—

**Notes**

- (a) The 2020 Scorecard rankings generally reflect 2018 data. The 2020 Scorecard added or revised several performance measures since the June 2019 Scorecard report; rankings are not comparable between reports. Rank change from the baseline period represents states' rank difference from the baseline data year (generally 2013 or 2014). Positive values represent an improvement in rank; negative values are a worsening in rank.
- (b) Trend data available for 43 of 49 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 (defined using Bureau of Economic Analysis ([www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)) regions: 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% of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- (e) Income 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.