

# Alaska

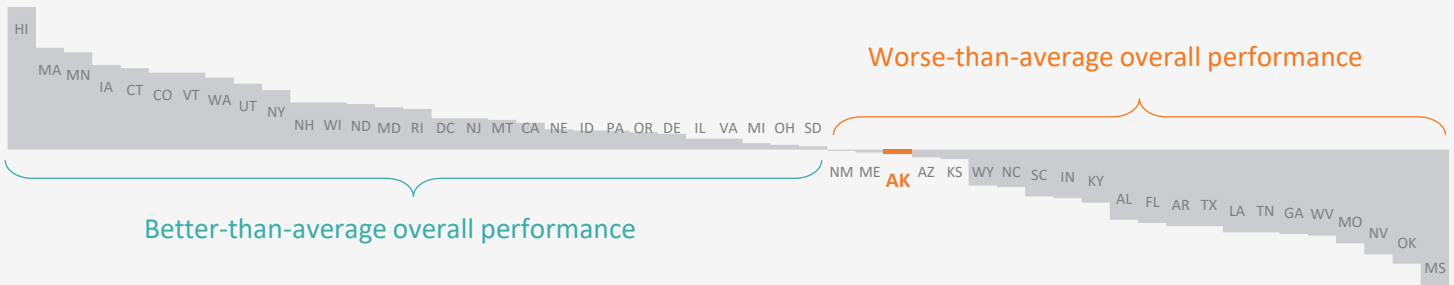
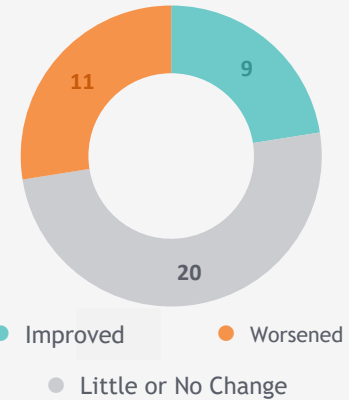


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## Ranking Highlights<sup>a</sup>

	National Rank		Rank Among Western States	
	2020	Change from baseline	2020	Change from baseline
Overall	32 of 51	+3	5 of 6	0
Access & Affordability	35	+7	5	0
Prevention & Treatment	48	+2	5	0
Avoidable Use & Cost	8	+8	4	0
Healthy Lives	28	+8	5	0
Income Disparity	17	+2	2	0

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



### Top-Ranked Indicators

Skilled nursing facility patients with a hospital readmission  
Primary care spending as share of total, ages 18–64  
Medicare spending per beneficiary

### Bottom-Ranked Indicators

Alcohol deaths  
Home health patients without improved mobility  
Adults without a usual source of care

### Most Improved Indicators

Breast cancer deaths  
Children who did not receive needed mental health care  
Central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI)

### Indicators That Worsened the Most

Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need  
Alcohol deaths  
Home health patients with a hospital admission

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

Top state in the U.S.	Top state in the West region	Alaska could expect the following gains if performance in the state improved to the top level at these national and regional benchmarks:
65,709	53,144	more adults and children would be insured
31,802	31,802	fewer adults would skip needed care because of its cost
47,947	44,750	more adults would receive age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings
2,481	620	more children (ages 19–35 months) would receive all recommended vaccines
140	79	fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate care
22,850	22,850	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>Baseline</b>		
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2018	16	12	4	42	2014	22	16	Improved
Children ages 0–18 uninsured	2018	8	5	1	42	2014	12	6	Improved
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2018	37	23	13	51	2014	34	23	Worsened
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	13	13	7	28	2014	12	14	No Change
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2017–18	7.4	8.3	4.8	10	—	—	—	—
Employee insurance costs as a share of median income	2018	5.3	6.8	4.1	5	2014	5.1	6.6	No Change
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	31	34	24	15	2014	36	36	Improved
<b>Prevention &amp; Treatment</b>					<b>2020 Scorecard</b>		<b>Baseline</b>		
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	39	32	24	49	2014	38	32	No Change
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2018	68	69	57	27	2014	67	63	No Change
Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test	2017	13.1	10.7	6.5	37	2015	16.4	16.9	Improved
Elderly patients who received a high-risk prescription drug	2016	9.5	9.6	4.6	25	—	—	—	—
Children without a medical home	2018	52	52	41	29	2016	52	51	No Change
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2018	45	42	29	40	—	—	—	—
Children who did not receive needed mental health care	2018	12	18	5	12	2016	24	18	Improved
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2018	32	27	16	43	2014	33	28	No Change
Hospital 30-day mortality	07/2015 – 06/2018	14.1	13.7	12.5	32	07/2011 – 06/2014	13.6	12.8	Worsened
Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), Standardized Infection Ratio	2018	0.694	0.739	0.087	24	2015	1.091	0.994	Improved
Hospitals with lower-than-average patient experience ratings	2018	37	46	15	16	—	—	—	—
Home health patients without improved mobility	2018	35	22	17	51	2014	49	37	Improved
Nursing home residents with an antipsychotic medication	2017	12	15	7	5	2013	13	21	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>Prevention &amp; Treatment (continued)</b>					<b>2020 Scorecard</b>		<b>Baseline</b>		
Adults with any mental illness reporting unmet need	2016–17	22	22	14	15	2012–14	17	20	Worsened
Adults with any mental illness who did not receive treatment	2016–17	62	57	41	44	2012–14	61	57	No Change
<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	152.4	149.5	84.2	30	2015	166	159	No Change
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2016	207.2	189.4	140.9	42	2013	203.1	181.4	No Change
Admissions for ambulatory care–sensitive conditions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2017	6.4	6.8	6	11	2015	4.4	4.6	Worsened
Ages 65–74, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2018	23.7	41.6	20.4	4	2014	—	44.7	—
30-day hospital readmissions									
Ages 18–64, per 1,000 employer-insured enrollees	2017	2.9	3.2	2.3	7	2015	2.6	2.9	No Change
Age 65 and older, per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries	2018	24.2	40	18.5	4	2014	22.2	42	No Change
Skilled nursing facility patients with a hospital readmission	2016	11	19	11	1	2012	—	20	—
Long-stay nursing home residents hospitalized within a six-month period	2016	13	15	5	14	2012	—	17	—
Home health patients also enrolled in Medicare with a hospital admission	2018	15	16	14	9	2014	12	16	Worsened
Adults with inappropriate lower-back imaging	2017	73.5	70.1	57.5	41	2015	74.5	71.1	No Change
Employer-sponsored insurance spending per enrollee	2017	\$8,104	\$5,137	\$3,606	49	2013	\$7,186	\$4,697	Worsened
Medicare spending per beneficiary	2018	\$7,109	\$9,847	\$6,473	2	2014	\$6,237	\$9,025	Worsened
Primary care spending as a share of total health care spending									
Ages 18–64 (employer-insured enrollees)	2018	11.3	6.0	11.3	1	—	—	—	—
Age 65 and older (Medicare beneficiaries)	2017	5.8	5.7	7.2	20	—	—	—	—
<b>Healthy Lives</b>					<b>2020 Scorecard</b>		<b>Baseline</b>		
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2016–17	74.7	84.5	54.5	21	2012–13	71.6	83.7	No Change
Breast cancer deaths per 100,000 female population	2018	16	19.7	15.1	3	2014	23.8	20.6	Improved
Colorectal cancer deaths per 100,000 population	2018	13.4	12.6	9.1	34	2014	15.8	14.3	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>
Healthy Lives (continued)					2020 Scorecard	Baseline			
Suicide deaths per 100,000 population	2018	24.6	14.2	7.5	48	2014	22.1	13	Worsened
Alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 population	2018	26.6	9.9	5.7	50	2014	18.2	8.5	Worsened
Drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population	2018	14.6	20.7	6.9	15	2014	16.8	14.7	No Change
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2017	5.7	5.8	3.7	19	2013	5.8	6	No Change
Adults who report fair or poor health	2018	15	17	11	18	2014	12	16	Worsened
Adults who smoke	2018	19	16	9	36	2014	20	17	No Change
Adults who are obese	2018	30	32	23	16	2014	30	29	No Change
Children who are overweight or obese	2018	26	31	19	11	2016	26	31	No Change
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2018	10	9	5	27	2014	9	10	No Change
State-based public health spending per resident	2018	\$100	\$37	\$137	4	2014/15	\$131	\$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>
2020 Scorecard					Baseline			
Adults ages 19–64 uninsured	2018	27	-19	34	2014	41	-31	Improved
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	21	-15	19	2014	23	-17	Improved
Individuals under age 65 with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to their annual household income	2017–18	18.4	-16	6	—	—	—	—
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	45	-27	14	2014	48	-20	No Change
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	42	-8	9	2014	51	-17	Improved
Children without a medical home	2018	65	-18	13	2016	65	-27	No Change
Children without age-appropriate medical and dental preventive care visits in the past year	2018	63	-24	32	—	—	—	—
Children ages 19–35 months who did not receive all recommended vaccines	2018	29	5	2	2014	39	-16	Improved
Adults who report fair or poor health	2018	31	-23	31	2014	24	-18	Worsened
Adults who are obese	2018	31	-4	8	2014	33	-2	No Change
Adults who have lost six or more teeth	2018	26	-22	51	2014	16	-10	Worsened

**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	—	—	—	—	22	-9
Adults age 18 and older who went without care because of cost in past year	2018	13	13	—	—	15	-2	13	0
Adults age 18 and older without a usual source of care	2018	23	35	—	—	39	-4	40	-5
Adults age 18 and older without a dental visit in past year	2018	34	28	—	—	28	0	36	-8
Adults without all age- and gender-appropriate cancer screenings	2018	32	40	—	—	38	2	35	5
Adults without age-appropriate flu and pneumonia vaccines	2018	69	67	—	—	78	-11	64	3
Adults who smoke	2018	16	15	—	—	16	-1	32	-17
Adults who are obese	2018	32	29	—	—	28	1	32	-3
Mortality amenable to health care, deaths per 100,000 population	2016–17	84.5	65.5	103.5	-38	55.2	10.3	106.4	-40.9
Infant mortality, deaths per 1,000 live births	2017	5.8	4.2	—	—	—	—	—	—

**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.