

Nursing-Home Quality by State (CMS Care Compare)

Methodology version v2026.05.0 * Generated 2026-06-28 20:27:50Z

State-level rollups of CMS Care Compare nursing-home overall quality ratings.

What's in this pack

Source families: CMS Care Compare datasets (public)

Spatial resolution: Facility (point) + state rollups.

Temporal coverage: CMS quarterly Care Compare release (current snapshot 2026-04-01).

Refresh cadence: Quarterly (matches CMS Care Compare release cadence).

Scope: 14,000 facilities across 51 states + DC. Snapshot date: 2026-04-01.

Per-field provenance map

> facility_ccn -- CMS Certification Number -- facility identifier on the CMS dataset.

Source: CMS Care Compare -- Nursing Home Compare

(<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/4pq5-n9py>)

Refresh: Quarterly * Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim source)

> state -- Facility state (USPS code).

Source: CMS Care Compare -- Nursing Home Compare

(<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/4pq5-n9py>)

Refresh: Quarterly * Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim source)

> overall_rating -- CMS Five-Star Quality Rating (1-5) for the facility.

Source: CMS Care Compare -- Nursing Home Compare

(<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/4pq5-n9py>)

Refresh: Quarterly * Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim source) * Limitations: CMS publishes its own confidence bands and known measurement caveats per the rating methodology.

> rating_date -- CMS-published rating publication date.

Source: CMS Care Compare -- Nursing Home Compare

(<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/4pq5-n9py>)

Refresh: Quarterly * Confidence: 1.0 (verbatim source)

Reproducibility statement

1. Pull the CMS Care Compare Nursing Home Compare dataset from data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/4pq5-n9py.
2. Filter to records with non-null overall_rating.
3. Bucket by state (USPS code).
4. Compute per-state distribution: count, mean overall_rating, share at each star level.
5. Publish state rollups alongside the methodology link to the original CMS dataset.

CMS publishes quarterly; Fonteum snapshot follows the most recent CMS release.

Limitations

- Each CMS measure carries its own published limitations; readers should review the CMS dataset documentation linked in the methodology for measure-specific caveats. We do not modify CMS's published measure values, only re-aggregate to state-level rollups.
- Sampling-based measures (e.g. patient-experience surveys) carry confidence bands CMS publishes alongside the values. State-level rollups average across facilities and do not preserve those bands; for facility-specific decisions, reference the original CMS Care Compare record.
- Date alignment: state rollups are computed from the CMS file's published reporting period, not the file release date. The reporting period typically lags the release date by 6-12 months per CMS convention.

Version history

v2026.05.0 -- released 2026-05-06

Initial Audit Pack release. Methodology, provenance map, reproducibility statement, and limitations stack baselined.

Compliance Q&A

Q: What is the source of these facility-quality measures?

A: CMS Care Compare datasets, published quarterly at data.cms.gov/provider-data/. CMS itself publishes the measure definitions, sampling methodology, and known limitations; Fonteum Research re-aggregates state-level rollups without altering the underlying measure values.

Reference: <https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/>

Q: When was this dataset last updated?

A: Snapshot date is published per dataset and aligns with the most recent CMS Care Compare release we have ingested. CMS publishes new files quarterly; our cadence matches.

Reference: <https://fonteum.com/corrections-log>

Q: Are CMS's own published limitations preserved?

A: Yes. Every limitation CMS calls out in the dataset documentation appears in our Limitations section verbatim or paraphrased with a link to the CMS source. We do not silently strip caveats.

Reference: <https://fonteum.com/methodology#limitations>

Q: Can I reproduce these counts independently?

A: Yes -- the reproducibility statement above lists the exact CMS dataset(s) ingested and the per-state aggregation logic. A buyer can rerun the methodology against the same Care Compare release and reconcile counts.

Reference: <https://fonteum.com/corrections-log>

Q: What is the licensing scope of this data?

A: CMS Care Compare data is public-domain federal information. Fonteum's aggregated rollups are licensed under our editorial-policy terms.

Reference: <https://fonteum.com/terms>

Contact

Methodology: <https://fonteum.com/methodology/nursing-home-quality>

Limitations: <https://fonteum.com/methodology/nursing-home-quality#limitations>

Research page: <https://fonteum.com/research/nursing-home-stars-vs-actual-harm>

Operator: api@fonteum.com (B2B inquiries) / corrections@fonteum.com (data issues)