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America's Best Ophthalmologists and  
America's Best Optometrists 2021 –  
Methodology

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## 1 Introduction

America's Best Ophthalmologists and America's Best Optometrists 2021 recognizes the 300 best eye doctors in the US. Forecasts suggest a significant increase in demand for eye related treatments and procedures in the next decades due to the aging population and an increase in screen time. Statista partnered with Newsweek to provide an overview of the best eye doctors in the US.

### 1.1 Included States

Eye doctors from the 20 US-states with the highest population were invited to participate in a national survey. The following states were included in the analysis:

- Arizona
- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Missouri
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin

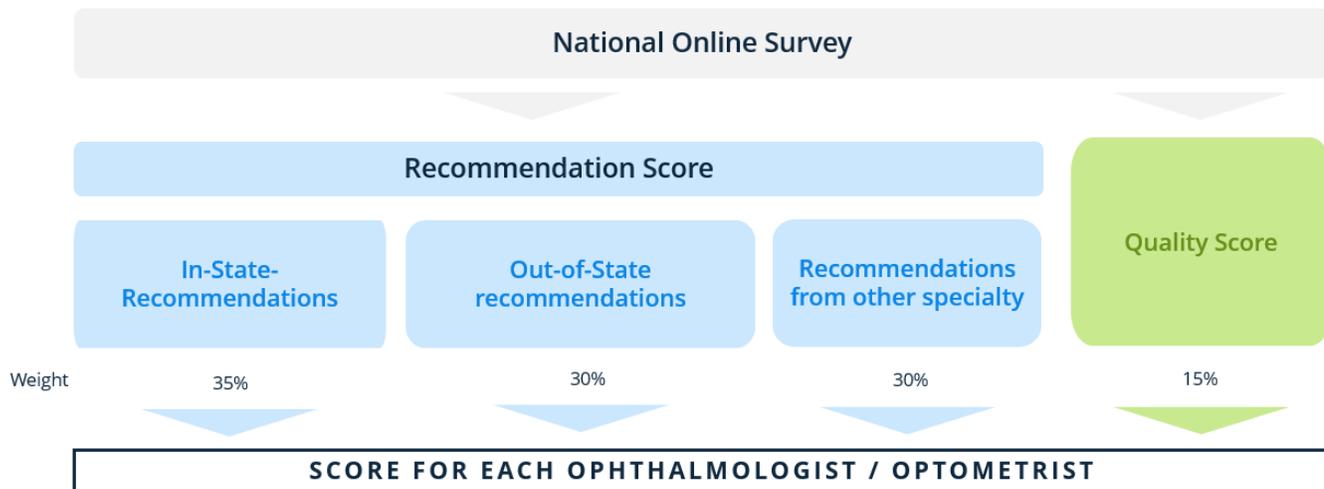
Survey participants were asked to recommend eye doctors in their own state as well as throughout the US (In-State and Out-of-State recommendations).

### 1.2 Scope of Eye Doctors included in the Survey

The ranking distinguishes ophthalmologists and optometrists in separate lists to account for the differences in services and treatments provided. Ophthalmologists are defined as doctors who have completed a full medical degree and a subsequent residency programme in ophthalmology. In summary, these doctors have received 8 years or more of medical training. Optometrists are licensed practitioners who have received a Doctor of Optometry degree. They must obtain a 4-year programme post undergraduate degree. Opticians are not included in the survey.

In total, 150 ophthalmologists and 150 optometrists were awarded by Newsweek and Statista.

## 2 Scoring Model



To create the ranking, a score was calculated for every eye doctor that was part of the analysis. This total score is based on the In-State recommendations, Out-of-State recommendations, recommendations from the other specialty as well as the quality score which will be described in this section.

**Score for each ophthalmologist/optometrist:** The score for each eye doctor is based on four sub scores: for In-State and Out-of-State recommendations, recommendations from the other specialty and for quality, as shown above. In cooperation with Newsweek, Statista invited over 10,000 medical experts (ophthalmologists, optometrists, clinic managers & health care professionals) to an online survey. Additionally, experts from all over the US could participate in the survey of America’s Best Ophthalmologists and America’s Best Optometrists on newsweek.com. All data was collected by Newsweek and Statista during the survey period from April to June 2021. It was mandatory for participants to verify their email addresses. Quality checks were performed to avoid self-recommendations.

During the survey period, more than 4,000 national votes from medical experts in the field of ophthalmology and optometry were collected.

## 2.1 Calculation of Recommendations Score

For the In-State recommendations participants were asked to name up to fifteen of the best eye doctors for each specialty in their respective home state. They were asked to recommend eye doctors by considering the quality of care, continuity of care and quality of technical equipment. These quality criteria are discussed in more detail in chapter 2.2 “Calculation of Quality Score”. For the Out-of-State recommendations, participants were asked to name up to fifteen eye doctors in the US. Optionally, participants could also recommend doctors from the other specialty (ophthalmologists for optometrists and vice versa). These recommendations were weighted lower than recommendations from the same specialization.

Entry of recommendations was aided by an autocomplete function, which showed eye doctors based on the letters entered. It was also possible to recommend any eye doctor that was not proposed by the autocomplete list. For the participations in the survey on newsweek.com it was mandatory to perform an email verification.

Recommendations received different weights depending on the order in which they were given, with the first recommendation being assigned the highest weight. For example, recommendations for the best optometrist or ophthalmologists in each state received a 36% higher weight than recommendations for the fifth best optometrist or ophthalmologists in a state. A score was assigned to each eye doctor based on the number of weighted recommendations. Recommendations constitute 85% of the overall score (as depicted above).

## 2.2 Calculation of Quality Score

Within the In-State recommendations participants were also asked to rank the quality dimensions which influence the quality of eye doctors. Participants were asked to differentiate between these variables:



- Quality of care (e.g. treatments, consultation with a doctor)
- Continuity of care (e.g. degree to which consistent and constant care is provided including preventive care and follow-up care)
- Quality of technical equipment (e.g. use of the most recent equipment)

The quality dimensions were shown to participants in a randomized order in the survey. Based on the reported importance of each quality dimension a quality score was assigned using the following weights: 50% Quality of care, 30% Continuity of care and 20% Quality of technical equipment.

For each recommended eye doctor, the participant rated the three quality variables on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 7 ("Excellent"). A quality score was assigned to each eye doctor based on the weighted average of these ratings. The quality score contributes 15% towards the overall score (as depicted above).

### 3 Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of eye doctors that are eligible based on the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations. The ranking was created through an elaborate process, however, the information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about eye doctors or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of eye doctors that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.