

METHODOLOGY

America's Best Children's Hospitals 2024



Methodology – America’s Best Children’s Hospitals 2024

Summary of the project

- To provide parents of sick children with a comprehensive resource for informed decision making, Statista and Newsweek have partnered for the second time to award the leading children’s hospitals in the U.S.
- The **America’s Best Children’s Hospitals 2024** ranking awards the leading hospitals in eight pediatric subspecialties.
- The ranking features the top 50 hospitals for **Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology & Gastrointestinal Surgery, Neonatology, Oncology & Hematology, Pulmonology & Thoracic Surgery**, and **Neurology & Neurosurgery** and the top 30 for **Orthopedics**.
- The underlying data analysis is based on four **data sources**:
 1. **Nationwide online survey**: Health care professionals and hospital managers with knowledge about pediatric care e.g., general and specialized pediatricians and nurses were asked to recommend leading children’s hospitals in the US. The survey was also promoted on newsweek.com
 2. **Hospital quality metrics**: Hospital quality metrics with a focus on indicators from the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database⁽¹⁾ relevant to the relevant were considered.
 3. **Results from patient experience surveys**
 4. **Statista PROMs implementation survey**
- Hospitals specializing in multiple specialties received specific recommendation scores for each respective medical field. Therefore, one hospital can be represented in more than one list if it receives enough recommendations in each specialty.

New features and changes in the 2024 edition



- The following list provides a brief overview of all **changes in this year's edition** compared to the *America's Best Children's Hospitals 2023* ranking:
 - **New subspecialty field introduced:** Orthopedics.
 - **Increased number of award-winning hospitals in 2 subspecialties:** From 25 to 50 in Neurology & Neurosurgery, and from 40 to 50 in Pulmonology & Thoracic Surgery.
 - **Increased hospital quality metrics data and patient experience weighting:** This year the weighting of the hospital quality metrics pillar was increased within the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on the structural and organizational hospital data.
 - Adding a new hospital quality metrics data source: **AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database 2022⁽¹⁾**. One goal of this project is to increase the comprehensiveness of the Best Children's Hospital ranking with more hospital data. The AHA Annual Survey Hospital Database contains data provided by more than 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care system and features over 1,300 hospital data points and is therefore a suitable source for the ranking.
 - **Statista PROMs Implementation survey:** Implementation of the voluntary PROMs implementation survey to determine the status quo of PROMs implementation, audits and reporting of the data, and whether the PROMs data is used to optimize care process and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.

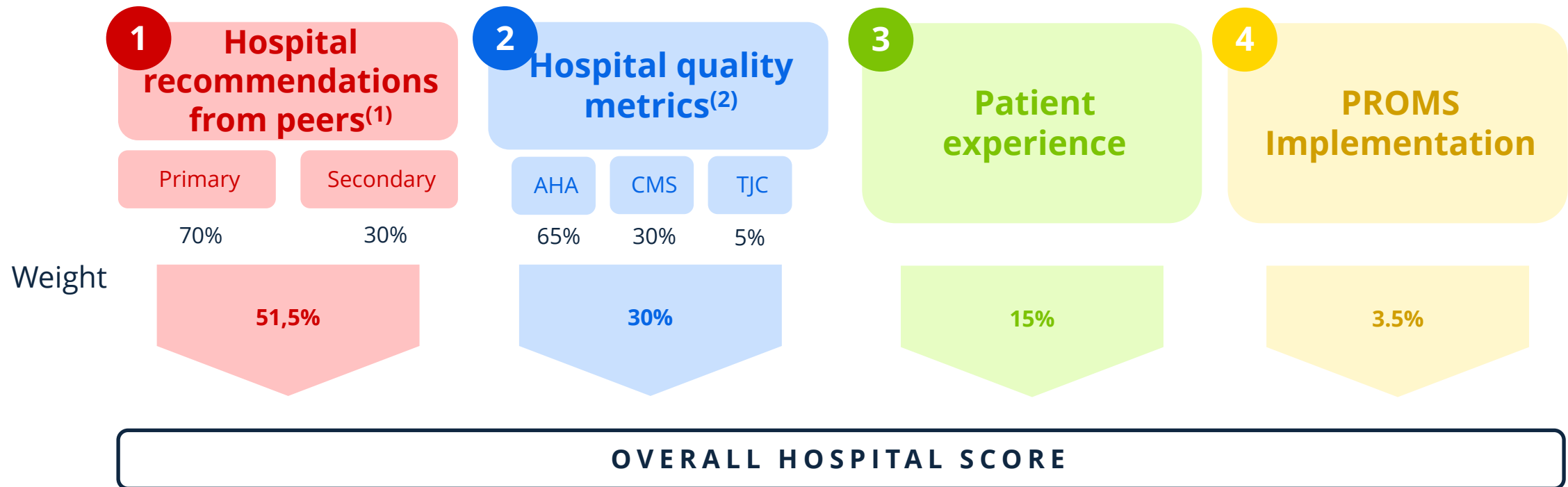
Four data sources were evaluated to identify leading children's hospitals

Ranking process and scoring model



A score was calculated for each hospital

Scoring model

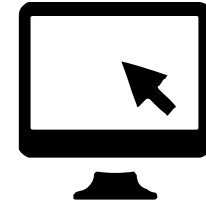
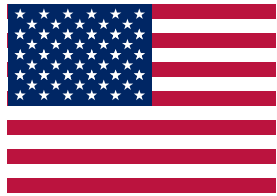


Primary recommendations from peers (medical and other health care professionals within the same subspecialty) account for 70% of the reputation score. Secondary recommendations (e.g. Neonatologist with recommendations for Endocrinology) have a weight of 30% towards the reputation score.

Medical experts with knowledge about children care were invited to the survey

From April to May 2024, Statista invited over two thousand health care professionals with knowledge about children's hospitals to an online survey

1 Hospital recommendations from peers



Nationwide online survey among health care professionals with knowledge about the different pediatric subspecialties and hospital managers. Participants were invited via e-mail.

Participants were asked to recommend hospitals in a **subspecialty they were most familiar with** and to recommend hospitals in a second subspecialty. Recommendations for own employer/hospital were not allowed.

Analysis of **primary and secondary recommendations** of the 8 pediatric subspecialties. A score was assigned to each hospital based on the number of weighted recommendations.

SCORE FOR REPUTATION

Publicly available data on children's hospitals was analyzed

Methodology: Hospital quality metrics – **Part 1**

2 Hospital quality metrics

- Hospital quality metrics relevant to pediatric care from a variety of public sources were collected^(1,2).
- **Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** data was available for:
 - Infection Prevention
 - COVID-19 vaccination rate of staff
 - Influenza vaccination rates
 - Patient Satisfaction
- **The Joint Commission (TJC)** data was available for:
 - Hospital Accreditations
 - Advanced Certifications⁽³⁾
 - Perinatal Care Certification

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

7 Sources: (1) Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Data (<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>); reporting period: 2022-2023
(2) The Joint Commission (TJC): <https://www.jointcommission.org/what-we-offer/>

Note: (3) Additional advanced certifications were taken into consideration in a more general level, e.g., Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center, Advanced Palliative Care, Acute Stroke Ready Hospital, Comprehensive Cardiac Center

Publicly available data on children's hospitals was analyzed

Methodology: Hospital quality metrics – **Part 2**

2



Hospital quality metrics

- The **AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database** has been included in the scoring model. The database contains data provided by more than 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care system and features over 1,300 hospital data points⁽¹⁾. For America's Best Children's Hospitals, structural and organizational data of hospital facilities was used to be included in the hospital quality metrics score.
- The following indicator groups of the AHA **Annual Survey of Hospitals Database 2022**⁽²⁾ were used as part of the quality metrics score^(3,4):

General indicators

- Health research & screening
- Trauma center
- Workforce strategic planning
- Technological equipment

Pediatric specific indicators

- Comprehensive pediatric medical, surgical, and emergency services
- Specialized pediatric intensive care and diagnostic catheterization
- Children's wellness and preventive care programs
- Pediatric substance use disorder treatment

Health equity

- Health equity goals
- DEI disaggregated data
- Health equity strategic plan

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

Publicly available data on children's hospitals was analyzed

Methodology: Hospital quality metrics – **Part 3**

2



Hospital quality metrics

- Specific indicator groups of the AHA⁽¹⁾ **Annual Survey of Hospitals Database 2022**⁽²⁾ were used to be part of the quality metrics score^(3,4):

Cardiology specific indicators⁽⁵⁾

- Pediatric cardiology services, including surgery and catheterization
- Specialized care for cardiac electrophysiology and heart transplants
- Cardiac intensive care and closed unit services
- Pediatric cardiac rehabilitation programs

Cancer specific indicators

- Oncology Services
- Chemotherapy
- Hospice Program

Neonatal specific indicators

- Closed unit - neonatal intensive care
- Neonatal intensive care
- Neonatal intermediate care

Neurology specific indicators⁽⁵⁾

- Neurological services
- Pain management program
- Telehealth stroke care

Orthopedics specific indicators

- Orthopedic services and arthritis treatment
- Computer-assisted orthopedic surgery
- Physical rehabilitation and sports medicine
- Prosthetic and orthotic services

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

Publicly available patient experience data on children's hospitals was analyzed

Methodology: Patient experience data

3



Patient experience

- Evaluations from Google were primarily used to determine the patient experience score.
- When reported, publicly available data from hospital patient surveys HCAHPS was used to analyze patient experience⁽¹⁾.
- The HCAHPS survey covers the following topics associated to patient care:
 - Cleanliness of the hospital
 - Communication of the nurses/doctors
 - Care transition
 - Communication about medicines
 - Discharge information
 - Quietness
 - Staff responsiveness

SCORE FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE

The optional Statista PROMs implementation survey collects data directly from hospitals

Methodology: Statista PROMs implementation survey

4 Statista PROMs implementation survey

- Since 2023, a **PROMs implementation score** has been included in the scoring model of the World's Best Hospitals project.
- **Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)** are defined as standardized, validated questionnaires completed by patients to measure their perception of their functional well-being and quality of life.
- **Survey cycle:** In fall/winter of 2023, Newsweek and Statista conducted the **voluntary PROMs implementation survey** to determine the status quo of PROMs implementation, audits and reporting of the data, and whether the PROMs data is used to optimize care process and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.
- This year, Statista has partnered with the **International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, www.ichom.org)** as a knowledge partner. ICHOM is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to development of standardized measurement of patient-important outcomes (including PROMs) as a basis for driving value-based health care. ICHOM is contributing to the future development of the PROMs implementation survey, in a manner that can drive not only measurement but use of the data from PROMs (and other patient-important outcomes) to advance value based healthcare.
- A **grading system** for the different questions was built to determine a **PROMs implementation score** for each participating hospital. Only hospitals which achieved a minimum of 50% (of the maximum 100% score) were eligible to be graded and received a maximum of up to 3.5% towards the total score.
- Future survey cycles will be announced on [r.statista.com](https://www.statista.com), [newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com) and via e-mail to registered participants. Registrations can be submitted to: hospitals@statista.com.

SCORE FOR PROMS IMPLEMENTATION

The top hospitals in 8 pediatric subspecialties were awarded

Final ranking by pediatric subspecialties

Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery

Rank	Hospital	City	State
1	Ann & Robert H Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	Chicago	IL
2	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Philadelphia	PA
3	Cleveland Clinic Children's	Cleveland	OH
4	Boston Children's Hospital	Boston	MA
5	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Cincinnati	OH

[...]

Neonatology

Rank	Hospital	City	State
1	Boston Children's Hospital	Boston	MA
2	Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Philadelphia	PA
3	Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford	Palo Alto	CA
4	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	Cincinnati	OH
5	Children's National Hospital	Washington	DC

[...]

LEADING HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED IN EACH SPECIALTY

World's Best Hospitals partner network

Overview of involved parties

Newsweek

About Newsweek

Newsweek is a premier news magazine and website that has been bringing high-quality journalism to readers around the globe for over 80 years.

Newsweek provides the latest news, in-depth analysis and ideas about international issues, technology, business, culture and politics. In addition to its online and mobile presence, Newsweek publishes weekly English print editions in the United States, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia as well as editions in Japanese, Korean, Polish, Serbian and Spanish.

[newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com)

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About Statista R

Statista R is a world leader in the creation of company, brand, and product rankings and top lists, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: Statista R recognizes the best. With a team of over 100 expert analysts and in cooperation with more than 40 high profile media brands across all continents, Statista R creates transparency for consumers and business decision makers and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories. Visit [r.statista.com](https://www.r.statista.com) for further information about Statista R and our rankings.

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ICHOM

About ICHOM

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, www.ichom.org) is the leading non-profit dedicated to transforming healthcare by focusing on what truly matters to patients. They accomplish this by empowering patient and clinical leaders to standardize important clinical, quality of life, function and experience results for health care, and enabling transparent large-scale use to achieve patient-centric health system transformation. ICHOM's standardized 'sets' of patient-centred outcomes measures help all actors in healthcare design, deliver and evaluate care based on outcomes that matter to patients. To date, ICHOM has developed 45 outcome measure sets for conditions. The sets are available in IT-ready interoperable formats and have been implemented in 500+ care settings in 42+ countries.

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Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of hospitals that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last 12 months. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period June 19, 2023 – June 19, 2024, and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about hospitals or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used – Part 1

1. Total hospital bed (calculated)*
2. Certified trauma center - hospital
3. Hospital owns trauma certification
4. Health research – hospital
5. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
6. Health screenings - hospital
7. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
8. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning
9. Accountable for meeting health equity goals – CEO
10. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
11. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
12. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
13. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
14. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions – training
15. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
16. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
17. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
18. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and HCS leadership
19. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and HCS governance
20. General medical and surgical care (pediatric) - hospital
21. Pediatric intensive care - hospital
22. Pediatric diagnostic catheterization - hospital
23. Children's wellness program - hospital
24. Pediatric emergency department - hospital
25. Substance use disorder pediatric services - hospital
26. Closed unit - pediatric intensive care
27. Closed unit - neonatal intensive care
28. Neonatal intensive care - hospital
29. Neonatal intermediate care – hospital
30. Pediatric cardiology services - hospital

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used – Part 2

31. Pediatric interventional cardiac catheterization - hospital
32. Pediatric cardiac surgery - hospital
33. Pediatric cardiac electrophysiology - hospital
34. Cardiac intensive care - hospital
35. Cardiac rehabilitation - hospital
36. Heart transplant - hospital
37. Cardiac - Limited service hospital
38. Closed unit - cardiac intensive care
39. Neurological services - hospital
40. Pain management program - hospital
41. Telehealth stroke care - hospital
42. Arthritis treatment center - hospital
43. Computer assisted orthopedic surgery (CAOS) - hospital
44. Orthopedic services – hospital
45. Physical rehabilitation outpatient services - hospital
46. Prosthetic and orthotic services - hospital
47. Sports medicine - hospital
48. Chemotherapy - hospital
49. Hospice program - hospital
50. Oncology services - hospital
51. Palliative care program - hospital
52. Inpatient palliative care unit - hospital
53. Image-guided radiation therapy - hospital
54. Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) - hospital
55. Shaped beam radiation system - hospital
56. Stereotactic radiosurgery - hospital
57. Bone marrow transplant - hospital