

METHODOLOGY

America's Best-In-State Hospitals 2025



Methodology – America’s Best-In-State Hospitals 2025

Summary of the project

- Proximity and access are of the utmost importance when choosing between top hospitals. As many patients seek high quality care within their state, Statista and Newsweek have partnered again to identify the top hospitals at the state level in the U.S.
- The **America’s Best-In-State Hospitals 2025** ranking awards the nation’s 700 leading hospitals.
- Hospitals from **all US states⁽¹⁾ were eligible** for the ranking and included in the nationwide survey.
- General hospitals with a capacity of 50+ beds were eligible for the analysis.
- Hospitals with a 1-star rating from CMS were excluded.
- The underlying data analysis is based on four data pillars:
 - 1. Hospital quality metrics:** Quality metrics from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database, and accreditation data from various sources were considered.
 - 2. Nationwide online survey:** From July to August 2024, an online survey among medical professionals (doctors, hospital managers and healthcare workers) was conducted in cooperation with Newsweek. Hospitals from all U.S. states were included in the survey. Participants were asked to recommend the best hospitals (in and out of state) based on their expertise.
 - 3. Results from HCAHPS patient experience surveys**
 - 4. Statista PROMS implementation survey:** to account for the increasing importance of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs), hospitals which participated in the voluntary PROMs Implementation survey received a PROMs implementation score.

New features and changes in the 2025 edition



The following list provides a brief overview of all **changes in this year's edition** compared to the America's Best-In-State Hospitals 2024 ranking:

- **Increased hospital quality metrics data weighting:** This year the weighting of the hospital quality metrics pillar was increased within the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on the medical key performance indicators.
- **Addition of accreditations:** The scoring model now incorporates various key accreditations, including The Joint Commission Sustainable Healthcare Accreditation, TJC Healthcare Equity Accreditation, the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and the ANCC Magnet Recognition Program.
- **New hospital quality metrics data:** The 2022 AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database has been added to enhance the ranking's comprehensiveness. This database includes detailed information from over 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care systems, offering more than 1,300 data points, making it a robust resource for hospital quality metrics.
- **Inclusion of healthcare equity:** To emphasize the importance of healthcare equity, new data points from the Joint Commission and AHA data were incorporated.
- **Increased PROMs implementation data weighting:** This year the weighting for the data from the Statista PROMs implementation survey was increased from 2.5% to 3.5% within the scoring model to emphasize patient centered care.
- **PROMs visibility:** Within the publication the visibility of PROMs has been increased by including checkmarks for hospitals that have participated, a single ribbon for hospitals meeting the threshold, and two ribbons for advanced PROMs implementation.
- **Decrease in recommendation weighting:** This year the weighting of the overall reputation pillar decreased as more emphasis is put on quality metrics data sourced from accreditations, and PROMs implementation.

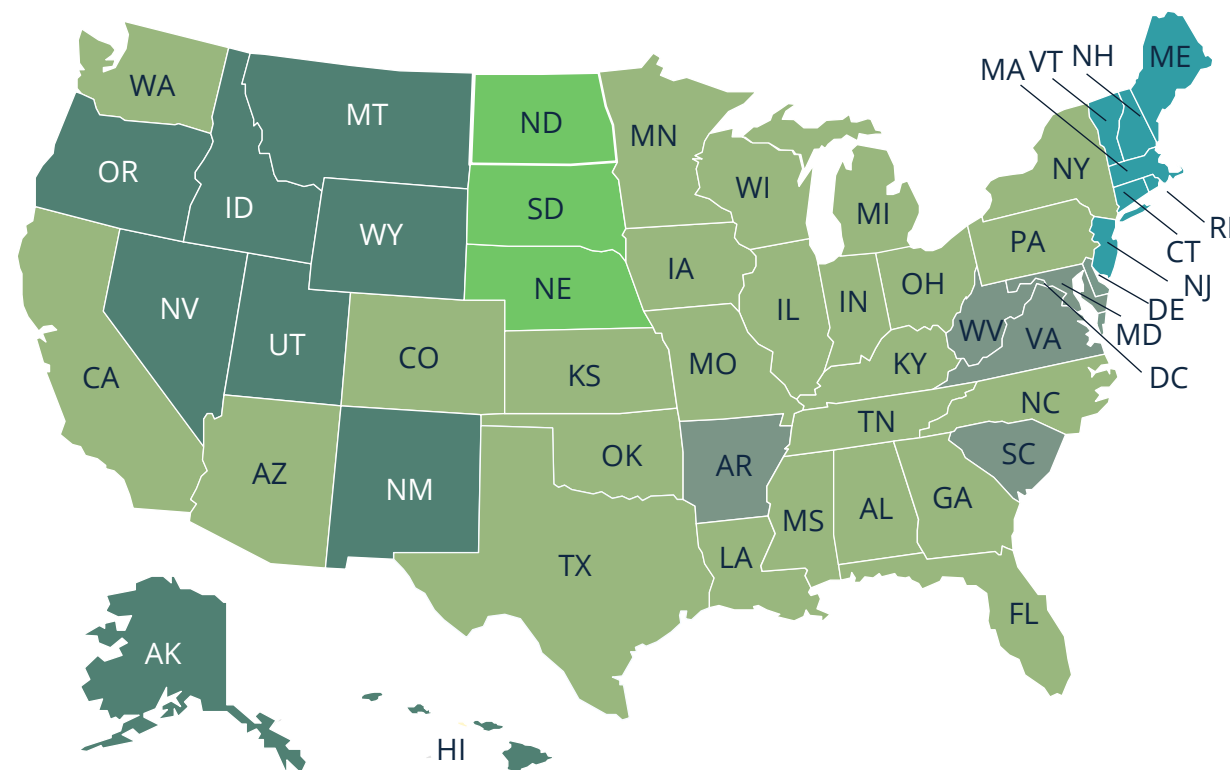
Hospitals from all U.S. states were eligible for the ranking

Geographical distribution

- Hospitals from the **25 states with the highest number of hospitals** were included in the survey:

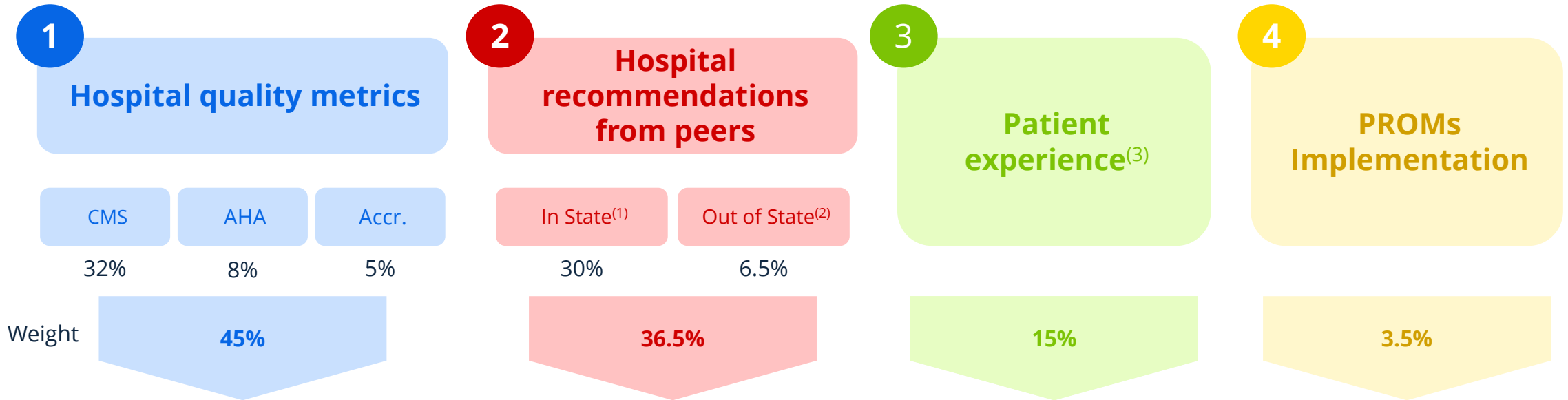
- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| – Alabama | – Kansas | – Ohio |
| – Arizona | – Kentucky | – Oklahoma |
| – California | – Louisiana | – Pennsylvania |
| – Colorado | – Michigan | – Tennessee |
| – Florida | – Minnesota | – Texas |
| – Georgia | – Mississippi | – Washington |
| – Illinois | – Missouri | – Wisconsin |
| – Indiana | – New York | |
| – Iowa | – North Carolina | |

- All remaining states were divided into **4 regions** for the survey:
 - Northeast:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont
 - Midwest:** Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
 - West:** Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming
 - South:** Arkansas, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia



A score was calculated for each hospital

Scoring model



HOSPITAL SCORE

5

Notes:
(1) Recommendations from peers from the respective State
(2) Recommendations from peers from other states
(3) Data from CMS on patient experience

Data on hospital quality metrics was analyzed

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

1 Hospital quality metrics

Medicare and Medicaid Services

- Hospital quality metrics from Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ⁽¹⁾ was available for:
 - Mortality
 - Safety
 - Readmission
 - Experience
 - Timely & effective care
 - Patient reported outcome
- Hospitals had to report in at least 3 out of the 5 key CMS categories (one of which had to be either Mortality or Safety) to be eligible for the hospital quality metric score.

Accreditations

- Several accreditations ⁽²⁾ were included in the scoring analysis.
 - The Joint Commission Accreditation (TJC):
 - Hospital Accreditation
 - Sustainable Healthcare Accreditation
 - Healthcare Equity Accreditation
 - American College of Surgeons (ACS)
 - Magnet Recognition Program by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC Magnet)

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL METRICS CONSTITUTES 45% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

Data on hospital quality metrics was analyzed

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

1 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 systems and features over 1,300 hospital data points⁽¹⁾. 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

- Clinical services and care
- Health research and screening
- Workforce strategic planning

Health equity

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

Technologies and Innovation

- Diagnostic technology
- Telehealth and virtual care
- AI and automation

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL METRICS CONSTITUTES 45% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

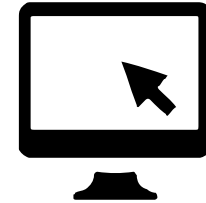
7 Sources: (1.) [AHA Annual Survey Database TM](#)

Notes: (2) This is the most recently available data from AHA
(3) For each available indicator a hospital received one point as part of the hospital quality metrics score
(4) Please find the specific indicators used in the Appendix

Medical experts were invited to a nationwide online survey

From July to August 2024, Statista invited health care professionals (doctors, hospital managers and other healthcare professionals) to an online survey.

2 Hospital recommendations from peers



Nationwide online survey among health care professionals and hospital managers. Participants were invited via e-mail and the survey was also promoted on [newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com).

Participants were asked to recommend the leading hospitals **from their respective state**^(1,2) by considering the quality of care offered, accommodation & amenities, staffing, organization & accessibility, patient education, involvement & decision making and communication & support of staff.

The number of state and national recommendations were weighted equally. Additionally, the professional experience of the participant was taken into account. **A score was assigned to each hospital based on the number of recommendations and the quality assessment.**

RECOMMENDATIONS CONSTITUTE 36.5% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

A quality score was calculated for each recommended hospital

Quality score based on quality dimensions

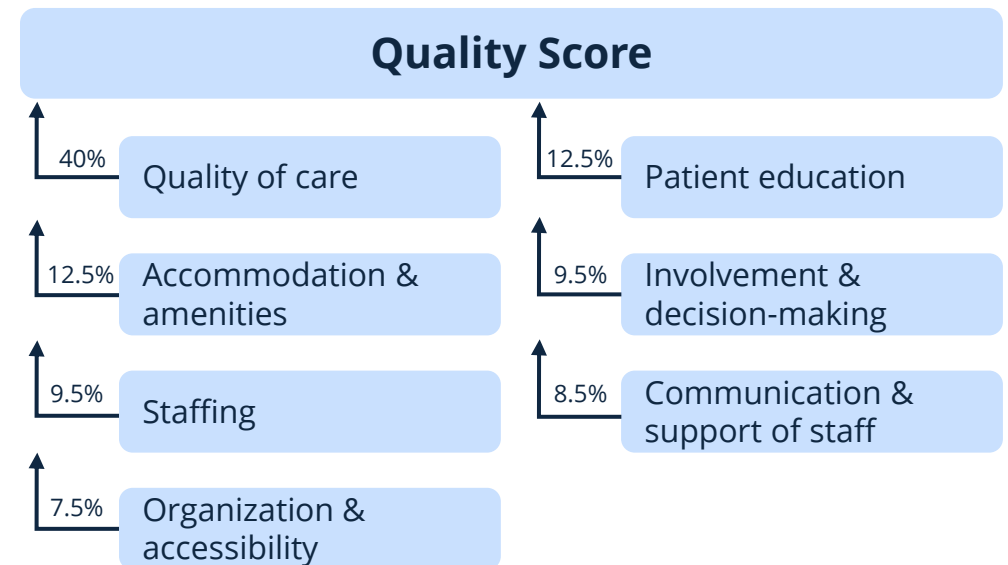


Calculation of Quality Score

- For each recommended hospital, participants were asked to rate seven dimensions of quality of care and patient counseling on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 10 ("Excellent"):
 - **Quality of care** (e.g., effectiveness of treatments, patient safety)
 - **Patient education** (e.g., support materials and additional information regarding conditions and treatment plans)
 - **Accommodation & amenities** (e.g., size of room, quality of furnishing)
 - **Involvement & decision-making** (e.g., encouraging active participation of patients, collaborative decision-making on treatment plans)
 - **Staffing** (e.g., effectiveness of treatments/therapies, patient safety)
 - **Communication & support of staff** (e.g., clarity and comprehensibility of Information, support with treatment plan)
 - **Organization & accessibility** (e.g., waiting times, efficiency of appointment scheduling, overall hospital organization)
- A quality score was assigned to each hospital based on the weighted average of these ratings.



Quality Score weights



THE QUALITY SCORE IS PART OF THE RECOMMENDATION SCORE

Data on patient experience was analyzed

Methodology: Patient experience



Patient Experience

- Publicly available data was used to analyze patient experience.
- Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data from the survey of patient experience⁽¹⁾ 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



Patient Experience Award

- Additionally, hospitals with an **outstanding performance** in patient experience are recognized with a **patient experience award**, highlighting their dedication to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care.
- To qualify for the award, hospitals must demonstrate exceptional performance across all evaluated metrics:
 - Only hospitals that reported all 10 HCAHPS measures and are within the top 40% per measure were eligible, ensuring a solid baseline of care quality.
 - At least 3 of the 10 measures must be rated in the top 15%, highlighting areas of outstanding achievement.
 - Additionally, 4 or more measures must be ranked in the top 10%, reaching the 90th percentile or higher, underscoring the hospital's commitment to excellence in critical performance areas.

SCORE FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE CONSTITUTES 15% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

The Statista PROMs implementation survey collects data directly from hospitals

Methodology: Statista PROMs implementation survey

4 PROMs Implementation Survey

- A **PROMs implementation score** has been included in the scoring model of the America's Best-In-State 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 **PROMs implementation survey**⁽¹⁾ 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.
- 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, newsweek.com and via e-mail to registered participants. Registrations can be submitted to: hospitals@statista.com or via this [link](#).

PROMS IMPLEMENTATION CONSTITUTES 3.5% OF THE TOTAL SCORE

As a result, the 700 hospitals with the highest total score were awarded

Final ranking per state

California

Rank	Hospital	City	Patient Satisfaction Award
1	Stanford Health Care - Stanford Hospital	Stanford	✓
2	UCLA Health – Ronald Reagan Medical Center	Los Angeles	
3	UCSF Medical Center	San Francisco	
4	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	Los Angeles	
5	Jacobs Medical Center at UC San Diego Health	San Diego	✓

[...]

Texas

Rank	Hospital	City	Patient Satisfaction Award
1	Houston Methodist Hospital	Houston	
2	UT Southwestern Medical Center	Dallas	✓
3	Baylor University Medical Center	Dallas	
4	Memorial Hermann - Texas Medical Center	Houston	
5	Houston Methodist The Woodlands Hospital	The Woodlands	

[...]

LEADING HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED BY STATE

America's Best-In-State 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)

statista 

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.

statista 

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 September 01, 2023 – September 01, 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 beds (calculated)*
2. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - CEO
3. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
4. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
5. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
6. Adult cardiac electrophysiology - hospital
7. Adult cardiac surgery - hospital
8. Adult cardiology services - hospital
9. Adult interventional cardiac catheterization - hospital
10. AI or machine learning - automating routine tasks
11. AI or machine learning - does not apply
12. AI or machine learning - optimizing administrative and clinical workflows
13. AI or machine learning - predicting patient demand
14. AI or machine learning - predicting staffing needs
15. AI or machine learning - staff scheduling
16. Arthritis treatment center - hospital
17. Assistive technology center - hospital
18. Basic interventional radiology - hospital
19. Birthing room/LDR room/LDRP room - hospital
20. Bone marrow transplant - hospital
21. Breast cancer screening/mammograms - hospital
22. Cardiac - Limited service hospital
23. Cardiac intensive care - hospital
24. Cardiac rehabilitation - hospital
25. Certified trauma center - hospital
26. Chemotherapy - hospital
27. Computed Tomography (CT) scanner - hospital
28. Computer assisted orthopedic surgery (CAOS) - hospital
29. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
30. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
31. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - training
32. Diagnostic radioisotope facility - hospital
33. Does the hospital or health system also administer benefits?
34. Does the hospital or health system fund the health benefits of your employees?
35. Electron Beam Computed Tomography (EBCT) - hospital
36. Full-field digital mammography (FFDM) - hospital
37. General medical and surgical care (adult) - hospital
38. General medical and surgical care (pediatric) - hospital
39. Has your hospital or health care system established an accountable care organization?
40. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system governance
41. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system leadership
42. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
43. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
44. Health research - hospital
45. Health screenings - hospital
46. Heart transplant - hospital
47. Hospice program - hospital
48. Hospital owns trauma certification
49. Image-guided radiation therapy - hospital

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used – Part 2

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 49. Imaging centers | 66. On-campus emergency department - hospital | 85. Telehealth consultation and office visits - hospital |
| 50. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment | 67. Oncology services - hospital | 86. Telehealth eICU - hospital |
| 51. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning | 68. Orthopedic - Limited service hospital | 87. Telehealth remote patient monitoring; ongoing chronic care management - hospital |
| 52. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan | 69. Orthopedic services - hospital | 88. Telehealth remote patient monitoring; post-discharge - hospital |
| 53. Inpatient palliative care unit - hospital | 70. Other intensive care - hospital | 89. Telehealth stroke care - hospital |
| 54. Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) - hospital | 71. Other telehealth - hospital | 90. Telehealth/virtual care - number of audio visits |
| 55. Intraoperative magnetic resonance imaging - hospital | 72. Pain management program - hospital | 91. Telehealth/virtual care - number of patients monitored through remote patient monitoring |
| 56. Level of trauma center | 73. Palliative care program - hospital | 92. Telehealth/virtual care - number of patients receiving other virtual services |
| 57. Limited service hospital | 74. Patient education center - hospital | 93. Telehealth/virtual care - number of video visits |
| 58. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) - hospital | 75. Positron emission tomography (PET) - hospital | 94. Ultrasound - hospital |
| 59. Magnetoencephalography (MEG) - hospital | 76. Positron emission tomography/CT (PET/CT) - hospital | 95. Urgent care center - hospital |
| 60. Medical/surgical intensive care - hospital | 77. Primary care department - hospital | 96. Women's health center/services - hospital |
| 61. Multi-slice spiral computed tomography < 64 slice - hospital | 78. Prosthetic and orthotic services - hospital | 97. Wound management services - hospital |
| 62. Multi-slice spiral computed tomography 64 + slice - hospital | 79. Proton beam therapy - hospital | |
| 63. Neurological services - hospital | 80. Robotic surgery - hospital | |
| 64. Obstetrics care - hospital | 81. Shaped beam radiation system - hospital | |
| 65. Off-campus emergency department - hospital | 82. Single photon emission computerized tomography (SPECT) - hospital | |
| | 83. Sports medicine - hospital | |
| | 84. Stereotactic radiosurgery - hospital | |