FONTEUM METHODOLOGY

Nursing-Home Quality by State (CMS Care Compare)

Methodology version v2026.05.0 -- Generated 2026-10-08 00:38:03Z
Public methodology surface -- https://fonteum.com/methodology/nursing-home-quality

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

Source provenance

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

Reproducibility

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; the loaded snapshot date is reported separately and may lag a 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.

Field schema

> 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)

> 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)

> 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) - Caveat: 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)

Version history

v2026.05.0 - released 2026-05-06
Initial Audit Pack release. Methodology, provenance map, reproducibility statement, and
limitations stack baselined.

Citation

APA:
Fonteum. (2026). Nursing-Home Quality by State (CMS Care Compare) (v2026.05.0) [Dataset]. Fonteum
LLC. https://fonteum.com/methodology/nursing-home-quality

Chicago:
Fonteum. 2026. "Nursing-Home Quality by State (CMS Care Compare)." v2026.05.0. Fonteum LLC.
https://fonteum.com/methodology/nursing-home-quality.

Plain text:
Fonteum -- Nursing-Home Quality by State (CMS Care Compare) (v2026.05.0). Snapshot 2026-04-01.
https://fonteum.com/methodology/nursing-home-quality

BibTeX:

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@misc{fonteum-nursing-home-quality-2026,
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Cross-references

Audit Pack: https://fonteum.com/audit-pack/nursing-home-quality
Research study: https://fonteum.com/research/nursing-home-stars-vs-actual-harm
Limitations: https://fonteum.com/methodology/nursing-home-quality#limitations
Operator: api@fonteum.com (B2B inquiries) / corrections@fonteum.com (data issues)