

Executive Report – U.S. Hospital Quality & System Overview

(CMS Hospital General Information – Clinical Measures 2019–2023)

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1. Executive Summary

This analysis evaluates more than **5,300 U.S. hospitals** using the CMS Hospital General Information dataset. The dataset includes information on hospital characteristics, quality ratings (1–5 stars), emergency service availability, and performance across three key clinical measurement areas:

- **Mortality (MORT)**
- **Readmissions (READM)**
- **Patient Safety (Safety)**

Overall, the U.S. healthcare system demonstrates **moderate quality performance**, with wide variation across states and hospital types.

Key findings below summarize the national landscape.

2. Key Metrics (2023 dataset, published July 2025)

- **3.08 — National Average Rating**
 - Most hospitals fall between **2 and 3 stars**, indicating moderate but non-exceptional performance.
- **5,381 Total Hospitals**
 - The largest concentrations are observed in **Texas, California, Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania**.
- **82.9% of Hospitals Provide Emergency Services**
 - Emergency care coverage is strong nationwide.

3. Regional Distribution and Quality Variation

- **Geographical Insights**
 - States like **CA, TX, FL** have the highest number of hospitals and significant variation in overall quality.
 - The **Midwest and Northeast** show higher concentrations of mid- to high-rated hospitals.
 - Some rural states show limited availability of high-performing hospitals.
- **State-Level Average Quality**

Your bubble map visual highlights:

- Larger bubbles → more hospitals
- Color intensity → average state rating

This shows important disparities:

Regions like the **West Coast** and **Northeast** perform relatively better, while some **Southern states** display more mid-to-low ratings.

4. Distribution of the Overall Rating (1–5 Stars)

Insights derived from your horizontal bar chart:

- **Rating 3** is the most common nationally
- Rating **2** and **4** also represent a large share
- Ratings **1 and 5** are less common, representing system extremes (underperforming vs high-performing hospitals)

This distribution reinforces that the national level is **average to slightly below average**.

5. National Comparison by Clinical Measurement Areas

Using CMS classifications (“Better”, “No Different”, “Worse”), the following national insights emerge:

- **Mortality (MORT)**
 - **5.2% of measures are “Better”**
 - Mortality is the area with the **strongest positive performance** compared to national benchmarks.
- **Readmissions (READM)**
 - **4.5% of measures are “Better”**
 - Readmissions have the **highest percentage of “Worse” outcomes**, making it the weakest area.
- **Patient Safety (Safety)**
 - **18.9% of measures are “Better”**
 - Safety shows the greatest variation across states.

Some states score exceptionally high (CA, TX, FL), while others lag significantly (PR, VT, WY).

6. State-Level Performance: Patient Safety

Your “Safety Score” metric summarizes:

Better – Worse (higher = better safety performance)

Top 10 Best States (Safety)

1. CA
2. TX
3. FL
4. NY
5. PA
6. IL
7. NJ
8. OH
9. VA
10. TN

These states combine large hospital networks with structured quality improvement programs.

7. System-Level Observations & Insights

- **Strengths**
 - Strong national emergency service coverage
 - Mortality outcomes outperform expectations
 - Large states demonstrate high-quality clusters
- **Weaknesses**
 - Readmissions performance remains an issue
 - Significant variability in safety outcomes
 - Rural/territorial states underperform consistently
- **Opportunities**
 - Invest in patient safety programs in low-performing regions
 - Standardize readmission prevention initiatives
 - Expand data-driven decision-making in rural healthcare systems

8. Conclusion

The U.S. hospital system demonstrates **broad access** to care and **moderate quality performance**. However, national averages mask deep regional disparities, particularly in **patient safety and readmissions**.

Your dashboard provides a valuable decision-support tool for:

- Federal and state healthcare planners
- Hospital administrators
- Policy advisors
- Healthcare quality analysts

It highlights where the system performs well and where urgent improvements are needed.