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## Mountain West State Health System Rankings, 2023

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**MOUNTAIN WEST STATE HEALTH SYSTEM RANKINGS, 2023**

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Prepared by: Julia Salangsang, Ivan Sun, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

**PURPOSE:**

This fact sheet presents data from the “2023 Scorecard on State Health System Performance” published by The Commonwealth Fund.<sup>1</sup> The original report includes data from all 50 states and measures health system performance based on health care access, quality, use of services, costs, health disparities, reproductive care and women’s health, and health outcomes.

**ABOUT THE DATA:**

The Commonwealth Fund Scorecard on State Health System Performance uses data from a multitude of sources<sup>2</sup> to assess how well the health care system is working in every U.S. state. Seven measures, based on data from a total of 58 total indicators are given to rank the overall healthcare of states: Access and Affordability, Prevention and Treatment, Avoidable Hospital Use and Cost, Healthy Lives, Reproductive Care and Women’s Health, Income Disparity, and Racial and Ethnic Equity. This fact sheet focuses on the data for the five Mountain West States: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

**KEY TERMS:**

Access and Affordability	Measures rates of insurance coverage for children and adults, individuals’ out-of-pocket expenses for health insurance and medical care, cost-related barriers to receiving care, rates of medical debt, and receipt of dental visits.
Prevention and Treatment	Measures the receiving of preventive care (including COVID-19 booster vaccines), the receiving of mental health care, and the quality of ambulatory, hospital, post-acute, and long-term care settings.
Avoidable Hospital Use and Cost	Measures the effectiveness of the utilization of hospital and emergency departments, successful discharges for nursing home patients, per-person spending estimates among Medicare beneficiaries and working-age adults with employer-sponsored insurance, and the proportion of spending from Medicare and employer-sponsored insurance allocated to primary care.
Healthy Lives	Measures premature deaths, health status, health risk behaviors and factors (including smoking and obesity), and tooth loss.
Reproductive Care and Women’s Health	Measures health outcomes, access to critical health services, and mortality for women, mothers, and infants, encompassing maternal and infant deaths, severe maternal morbidity, preterm births, and access to services like routine checkups and prenatal/postpartum care.
Income Disparity	Measures the difference in healthcare between a state’s low-income population and higher-income population.
Racial and Ethnic Health Equity	Measures the healthcare outcome for the following race/ethnicities: Black, White, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian populations.

\*Adapted from The Commonwealth Fund, 2023, [www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/scorecard/2023/jun/2023-scorecard-state-health-system-performance](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/scorecard/2023/jun/2023-scorecard-state-health-system-performance).

<sup>1</sup> David C. Radley et al., *The Commonwealth Fund 2023 Scorecard on State Health System Performance: Americans’ Health Declines and Access to Reproductive Care Shrinks, But States Have Options* (Commonwealth Fund, June 2023). <https://doi.org/10.26099/fcas-cd24>

<sup>2</sup> Appendices, David C. Radley et al., *The Commonwealth Fund 2023 Scorecard on State Health System Performance: Americans’ Health Declines and Access to Reproductive Care Shrinks, But States Have Options* (Commonwealth Fund, June 2023). [www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/Radley\\_2023\\_State\\_Scorecard\\_APPENDICES.pdf#page=2](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/Radley_2023_State_Scorecard_APPENDICES.pdf#page=2)

**KEY FINDINGS:**

1. Nevada had the lowest overall ranking for health system performance among Mountain West states and ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation.
2. Colorado had the highest overall ranking on health system performance in the Mountain West, and ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation.
3. Nevada ranks last (51<sup>st</sup>) in the nation for the healthcare measure of “prevention and treatment,” which measures the receiving of preventive care (including COVID-19 booster vaccines), the receiving of mental health care, and the quality of ambulatory, hospital, post-acute, and long-term care settings.
4. Utah ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation for the healthcare measure of “avoidable hospital use and cost” and ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for the healthcare measure of “healthy lives,” which measures premature deaths, health status, health risk behaviors and factors (including smoking and obesity), and tooth loss.
5. New Mexico ranks last (51<sup>st</sup>) in the nation in the healthcare measure of “reproductive care and women’s health,” which measures health outcomes, access to critical health services, and mortality for women, mothers, and infants, encompassing maternal and infant deaths, severe maternal morbidity, preterm births, and access to services like routine checkups and prenatal/postpartum care.

Table 1 displays the overall health rankings and the rankings of individual healthcare measures for Mountain West region based on health system performance. The 2023 rankings are based on 7 overall health measures and 58 total indicators of health care access, quality, use of services, costs, health disparities, reproductive care and women’s health, and health outcomes.

**Table 1: Overall Health System Performance Rankings and Rankings of Individual Healthcare Measures in the Mountain West, 2023**

Mountain West State	Overall Health System Performance Ranking	Access & Affordability	Prevention & Treatment	Avoidable Hospital Use & Cost	Healthy Lives	Reproductive Care & Women's Health	Income Disparity	Racial & Ethnic Equity
Arizona	34 <sup>th</sup>	42 <sup>nd</sup>	49 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	32 <sup>nd</sup>	43 <sup>rd</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
Colorado	18 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	32 <sup>nd</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
Nevada	41 <sup>st</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup>	51 <sup>st</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	36 <sup>th</sup>	37 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	35 <sup>th</sup>
New Mexico	32 <sup>nd</sup>	42 <sup>nd</sup>	37 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	47 <sup>th</sup>	51 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
Utah	19 <sup>th</sup>	33 <sup>rd</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>

\* Adapted from The Commonwealth Fund, 2023, [www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/scorecard/2023/jun/2023-scorecard-state-health-system-performance](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/scorecard/2023/jun/2023-scorecard-state-health-system-performance).