

# How well does the health care system in **Alabama**

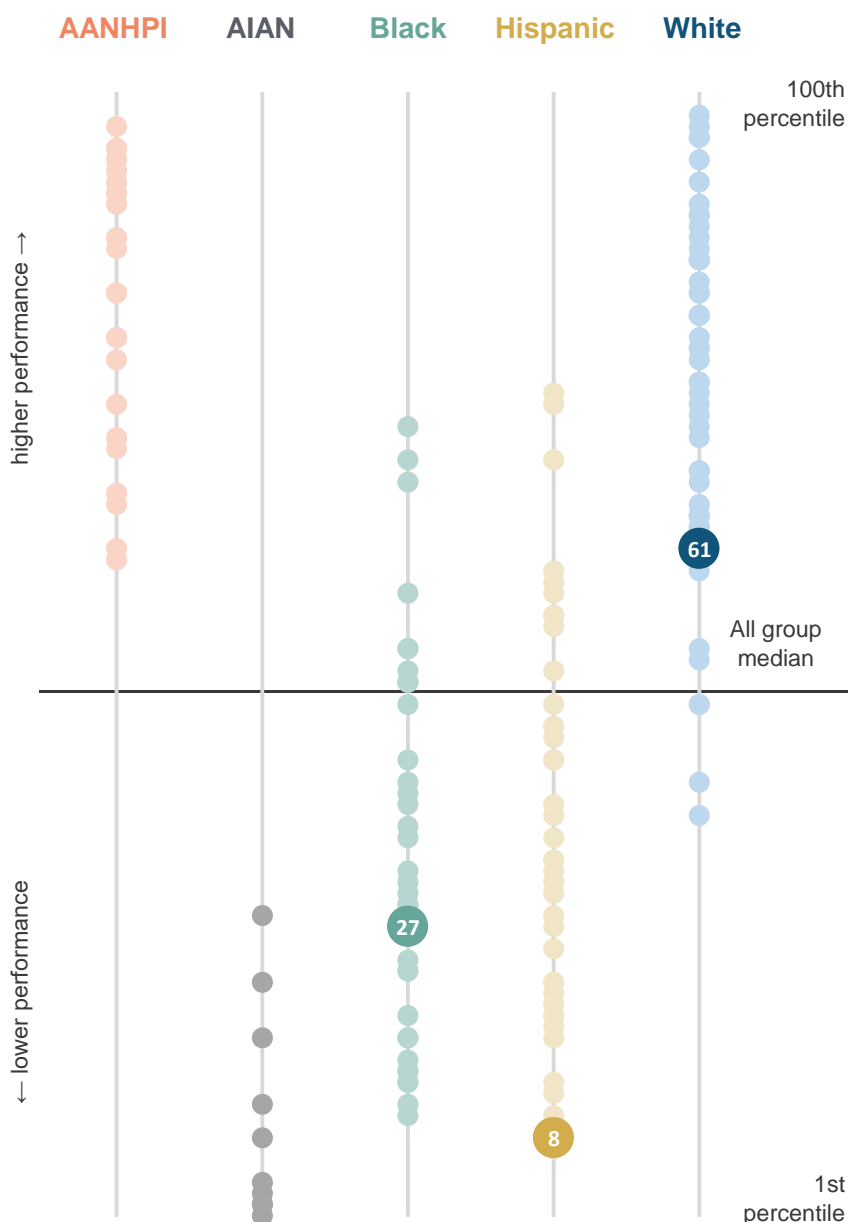
work for people of different racial and ethnic groups?

In Alabama, **White people** experienced the **highest health system performance**, scoring in the 61st percentile among all population groups nationally.

**Hispanic people** experienced the **lowest health system performance** in the state, scoring in the 8th percentile.

Compared to other states in the Southeast region, Alabama has more severe racial and ethnic health disparities.

## Health System Performance by Race/Ethnicity



Each column is a racial/ethnic group, and each point represents a state. Performance represented as percentiles (1–100). Alabama performance percentile highlighted. No highlighted dot indicates overall performance data not available for that group.

## Population by race/ethnicity (2022)

	Alabama	Southeast	United States
Total	4,990,912	85,235,479	328,403,052
AANHPI	74,640 (1%)	2,600,554 (3%)	19,862,655 (6%)
AIAN	11,479 (<1%)	208,655 (<1%)	1,688,543 (<1%)
Black	1,269,763 (25%)	16,911,627 (20%)	38,460,950 (12%)
Hispanic	240,491 (5%)	10,891,118 (13%)	62,818,758 (19%)
White	3,200,638 (64%)	50,687,529 (60%)	189,511,136 (58%)

Notes: AANHPI = Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander. AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native. “—” means data not available. Southeast states include AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV. Source: David C. Radley et al., Advancing Racial Equity in U.S. Health Care: The Commonwealth Fund 2024 State Health Disparities Report (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2024).

# How well does the health system in Alabama work for people from different racial and ethnic groups, and across different dimensions of care?

## AANHPI

An overall ranking for AANHPI people in Alabama is not available because of insufficient data.

Health outcomes ranking: insufficient data  
Health care access ranking: **34** (of 34) is among the worst  
Health care quality ranking: **27** (of 41) is worse than average

## AIAN

An overall ranking for AIAN people in Alabama is not available because of insufficient data.

Health outcomes ranking: insufficient data  
Health care access ranking: insufficient data  
Health care quality ranking: insufficient data

## Black

Alabama ranks 23rd of 39 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for Black people in the state was worse than average compared to other states. Specifically:

Health outcomes ranking: **23** (of 40) is worse than average  
Health care access ranking: **28** (of 40) is worse than average  
Health care quality ranking: **20** (of 41) is better than average

## Hispanic

Alabama ranks 41st of 47 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for Hispanic people in the state was worse than average compared to other states. Specifically:

Health outcomes ranking: **35** (of 49) is worse than average  
Health care access ranking: **40** (of 48) is worse than average  
Health care quality ranking: **42** (of 48) is worse than average

## White

Alabama ranks 43rd of 51 states where calculation was possible, indicating health system performance for white people in the state was worse than average compared to other states. Specifically:

Health outcomes ranking: **43** (of 51) is worse than average  
Health care access ranking: **38** (of 51) is worse than average  
Health care quality ranking: **36** (of 51) is worse than average

## Alabama Performance Data

	AIAN		AANHPI		Black		Hispanic		White	
	AL rate	US rate	AL rate	US rate	AL rate	US rate	AL rate	US rate	AL rate	US rate
<b>Health Outcomes</b>										
Deaths before age 75 from health care–treatable causes per 100,000 population	45	125	46	50	171	164	47	73	102	83
Deaths before age 75 from preventable causes per 100,000 population	146	479	96	104	358	347	197	225	294	225
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	—	8	—	4	11	11	6	5	6	4
Breast cancer deaths (per 100,000 female population)	—	14	—	12	26	27	—	13	19	20
Colorectal cancer deaths (per 100,000 population)	—	13	—	9	18	17	—	11	14	13
Hospital 30-day readmission rate age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	28	44	—	—	23	26
Adults who smoke (%)	31	25	—	7	16	15	—	11	16	14
Adults who are obese (%)	39	41	—	14	52	44	36	37	38	34
Adults who have lost six or more teeth (%)	—	17	—	3	14	11	—	6	15	9
<b>Health Care Access</b>										
Uninsured adults (%)	16	22	12	7	17	12	37	23	10	8
Uninsured children (%)	—	12	—	4	2	4	8	8	2	4
Adults who went without care because of cost (%)	—	14	—	8	15	13	23	19	11	8
High out-of-pocket medical spending (%)	—	14	23	9	15	12	17	13	12	9
Adults with a usual source of care (%)	78	79	71	82	85	85	59	67	86	87
<b>Health Care Quality</b>										
Preventable hospitalizations age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	47	45	—	—	31	28
Potentially avoidable emergency department visits age 65 and older (per 1,000 beneficiaries)	—	—	—	—	202	206	—	—	134	140
Adult women who received a mammogram (%)	50	65	70	74	86	84	67	77	75	77
Adult women with a cervical cancer screening test (%)	84	82	86	87	91	90	89	87	83	84
Adults with a colon cancer screening test (%)	55	53	62	50	67	65	57	50	69	68
Adults with a recent flu shot (%)	30	39	37	50	37	38	26	34	44	50
Older adults who received the pneumonia vaccine (%)	51	63	—	62	60	62	44	55	73	73
Children with a medical and dental preventive care visit (%)	—	—	—	—	59	61	55	59	67	69
Children with all recommended vaccines (%)	—	—	—	—	71	65	—	71	67	74
Adults with a dental visit (%)	31	45	36	34	44	41	39	44	37	32
Primary care spending as share of total, age 65 and older (%)	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	6	5

Source: David C. Radley et al., *Advancing Racial Equity in U.S. Health Care: The Commonwealth Fund 2024 State Health Disparities Report* (Commonwealth Fund, Apr. 2024).