

Total Impact of State Performance Improvement

The *State Scorecard* <<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Fund-Reports/2009/Oct/2009-State-Scorecard.aspx>> enables states to compare their performance with those of other states across key indicators of health system performance. It provides states with achievable targets for improvement by assessing each state's performance compared with the best performance attained by a state. By moving toward benchmark levels of health system performance, states could save lives, improve access to and quality of care, and reduce unnecessary spending.

The table shows the estimated impact if all states improved their performance to the rate of the best-performing state for 11 *Scorecard* indicators. These examples illustrate only a few important opportunities for improvement. Because some indicators affect the same individuals, these numbers should not be added.

Indicator	If ALL STATES improved their performance to the level of the best-performing state for this indicator, then:	
Insured Adults	24,080,100	more adults (ages 18–64) would be covered by health insurance (public or private), and therefore would be more likely to receive health care when needed.
Insured Children	5,363,021	more children (ages 0–17) would be covered by health insurance (public or private), and therefore would be more likely to receive health care when needed.
Adult Preventive Care	9,005,926	more adults (age 50 and older) would receive recommended preventive care, such as colon cancer screenings, mammograms, pap smears, and flu shots at appropriate ages.
Diabetes Care	3,941,224	more adults (age 18 and older) with diabetes would receive three recommended services (eye exam, foot exam, and hemoglobin A1c test) to help prevent or delay disease complications.
Childhood Vaccinations	786,471	more children (ages 19–35 months) would be up-to-date on all recommended doses of five key vaccines.
Adults with a Usual Source of Care	21,017,920	more adults (age 18 and older) would have a usual source of care to help ensure that care is coordinated and accessible when needed.
Children with a Medical Home	8,732,905	more children (ages 0–17) would have a medical home to help ensure that care is coordinated and accessible when needed.
Preventable Hospital Admissions	746,484 \$5.0 billion	fewer hospitalizations for ambulatory care sensitive conditions would occur among Medicare beneficiaries (age 65 and older) and dollars would be saved from the reduction in hospitalizations.
Hospital Readmissions	209,723 \$2.9 billion	fewer hospital readmissions would occur among Medicare beneficiaries (age 65 and older) and dollars would be saved from the reduction in readmissions.
Hospitalization of Nursing Home Residents	127,393 \$1.0 billion	fewer long-stay nursing home residents would be hospitalized and dollars would be saved from the reduction in hospitalizations.
Mortality Amenable to Health Care	77,952	fewer premature deaths (before age 75) would occur from causes that are potentially treatable or preventable with timely and appropriate health care.

NOTES: Estimates of improvements in state performance were calculated as follows: for each indicator, the difference between the best-performing state's rate and the subject state's rate was multiplied by the applicable subpopulation of individuals in the subject state. (For the readmissions indicator, the difference in rates was multiplied by the applicable number of Medicare hospitalizations in the subject state.) Medicare cost-savings from reduced hospitalizations were calculated using the average cost of the applicable hospitalizations in the subject state. Calculations do not account for potentially interactive effects of indicators (e.g., insurance coverage increases the likelihood of having a usual source of care and receiving preventive care).

For more information, see *Methodology and Sources Used in State Scorecard Impact Calculations*

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/-/media/Files/Chart%20Maps/2009%20State%20Scorecard/State_Scorecard_Impact_Methodology_final.pdf>