

ALABAMA

The Healthcare Openness and Access Project (HOAP) measures how open and accessible each state's healthcare system is to patient and provider preferences. The overall HOAP index is the average of 10 categories below, referred to as subindexes in the study, each of which is in turn an average of multiple indicators.

The HOAP index ranks Alabama near the middle of the 51 jurisdictions analyzed. Some of the state's highest scores are in the Public Health Subindex and the Insurance Subindex, and some of its lowest are in the Taxation Subindex and the Provider Regulation Subindex. Alabama's score and rank in each subindex are given below.

OVERALL RANK

SCORE

SCORE KEY

19

3.34

US MEAN: 3.24
US MEDIAN: 3.23

1 <—————> 5

WORST SCORE BEST SCORE

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#8

CORPORATE

5 = healthcare professionals and others have greatest flexibility with regard to ownership, business structure, and employment in healthcare sector

SCORE	US MEAN: 2.59
4.00	US MEDIAN: 2.00

STUDY INDICATORS

- State allows the corporate practice of medicine
- State allows businesses to employ licensed healthcare professionals
- State allows nonlicensed individuals to own/operate medical entities
- State allows licensed individuals to split fees with nonlicensed individuals

#8

INSURANCE

5 = insurers have greatest flexibility to determine structure and pricing of health insurance policies

SCORE	US MEAN: 3.44
4.20	US MEDIAN: 3.60

STUDY INDICATORS

- State mandates fewer health insurance benefits
- State mandates less rate review
- State does not expand on federal age rating limitations
- State does not expand on federal tobacco rating limitations
- State does not expand on federal geographic rating limitations

#17

OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION

5 = medical professionals have easiest access to licensure and employment and greatest discretion regarding services they offer

SCORE	US MEAN: 3.13
3.40	US MEDIAN: 3.00

STUDY INDICATORS

- State allows medical licensure reciprocity with other states
- State has fewer continuing medical ed. requirements
- State allows nurse practitioners broad scope of practice
- State has fewer optician licensing requirements
- State allows direct-entry midwifery

#27

PROVIDER REGULATION

5 = healthcare providers have greatest flexibility to determine hospital and pharmacy operations

SCORE	US MEAN: 2.42
2.33	US MEDIAN: 2.67

STUDY INDICATORS

- State has fewer certificate-of-need restrictions
- State puts fewer restrictions on compounding pharmacies
- State lacks burdensome prescription monitoring mandates

#32

TELEMEDICINE

5 = state's environment is most conducive for telemedicine practitioners

SCORE	US MEAN: 3.01
2.50	US MEDIAN: 3.00

STUDY INDICATORS

- State reimburses Medicaid providers at parity for telemedicine
- State has less restrictive telepresenter requirements
- State reimburses Medicaid providers at parity for remote monitoring
- State allows online prescribing

Note: Order of subindexes does not reflect importance.

#26

DIRECT PRIMARY CARE

5 = state environment is most conducive to the establishment of direct primary care (DPC) practices as an alternative method of financing primary care

SCORE	US MEAN: 3.48
3.33	US MEDIAN: 3.33

STUDY INDICATORS

- State has pro-DPC laws
- State has higher market demand for DPC
- State has more DPC practices per capita

#9

MEDICAL LIABILITY

5 = physicians and others are least constrained by threat of malpractice litigation

SCORE	US MEAN: 3.27
3.67	US MEDIAN: 3.33

STUDY INDICATORS

- Physicians pay fewer malpractice actions
- Physicians pay lower malpractice premiums
- State has adopted more reforms to modulate malpractice litigation

#17

PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS

5 = patients have easiest access to certain classes of drugs, including experimental and unconventional treatments

SCORE	US MEAN: 3.11
3.25	US MEDIAN: 3.00

STUDY INDICATORS

- State allows greater access to experimental drugs
- State allows access to medical marijuana
- State allows easier access to pseudoephedrine
- State allows sale of oral contraceptives without physician prescription

#1

PUBLIC HEALTH

5 = residents have easiest access to substance abuse remedies and greatest discretion when offering medical assistance to others

SCORE	US MEAN: 4.22
4.67	US MEDIAN: 4.33

STUDY INDICATORS

- State allows access to e-cigarettes
- State allows access to naloxone
- State has strong “Good Samaritan” protection

#50

TAXATION

5 = state imposes lowest burden of taxation for certain healthcare services, financing methods, and devices

SCORE	US MEAN: 4.23
2.00	US MEDIAN: 4.33

STUDY INDICATORS

- State has fewer provider taxes
- State has fewer health savings account (HSA) taxes
- State has fewer medical device taxes

STATE RANKING BY OVERALL HOAP INDEX SCORE

1 WYOMING	10 MISSISSIPPI	19 ALABAMA	28 OHIO	37 ARKANSAS	46 CONNECTICUT
2 IDAHO	11 WISCONSIN	20 FLORIDA	29 PENNSYLVANIA	38 N. CAROLINA	47 VERMONT
3 MONTANA	12 VIRGINIA	20 OREGON	30 WASHINGTON	39 ILLINOIS	48 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
4 INDIANA	13 S. DAKOTA	22 TEXAS	31 IOWA	40 CALIFORNIA	49 GEORGIA
5 UTAH	14 LOUISIANA	23 NEW MEXICO	32 MICHIGAN	41 MARYLAND	50 NEW YORK
6 MISSOURI	15 NEVADA	24 N. DAKOTA	33 MINNESOTA	42 MASSACHUSETTS	51 NEW JERSEY
7 NEBRASKA	16 NEW HAMPSHIRE	25 MAINE	34 TENNESSEE	43 RHODE ISLAND	
8 COLORADO	17 ARIZONA	26 KANSAS	35 S. CAROLINA	44 KENTUCKY	
9 ALASKA	18 HAWAII	27 OKLAHOMA	36 DELAWARE	45 WEST VIRGINIA	



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