

Prepared by: American Health Care Association
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FAST FACTS

How the program works

The AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program is a tiered recognition based on the [Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence](#). This nationally recognized approach to performance excellence focuses on systems-based quality improvement to create sustained levels of performance over time in the areas of leadership, strategic planning, customer and workforce, operations, and knowledge management. Participants move through progressive award levels— Bronze – Commitment to Quality, Silver – Achievement in Quality, and Gold – Excellence in Quality, each requiring a more detailed demonstration of performance. Providers are nationally recognized for achieving each award level, eventually joining the ranks of the best in long term care. Visit the [National Quality Award website](#) to learn more about the program.

Active Recipients as of 2026*



BRONZE

Commitment to Quality

2,106



SILVER

Achievement in Quality

740



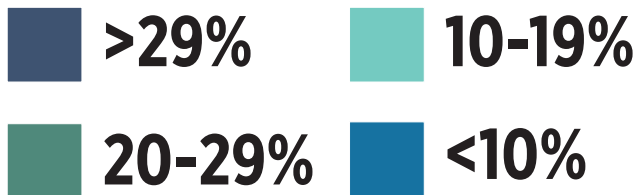
GOLD

Excellence in Quality

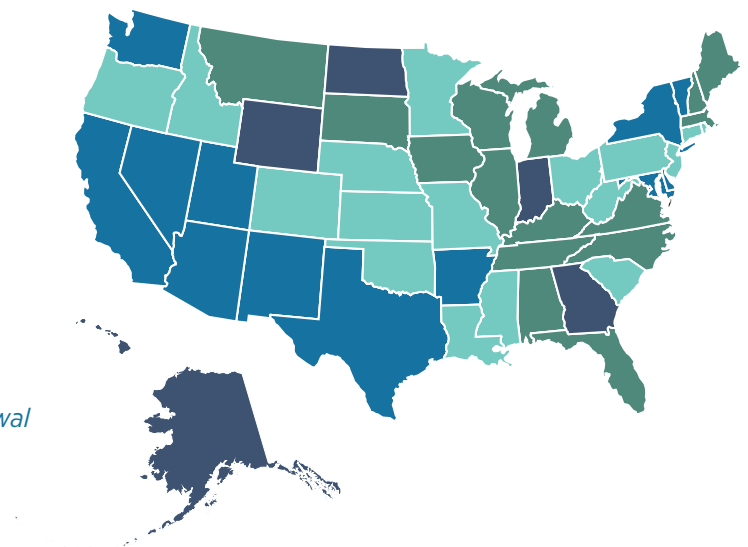
58

Where the Awardees Are

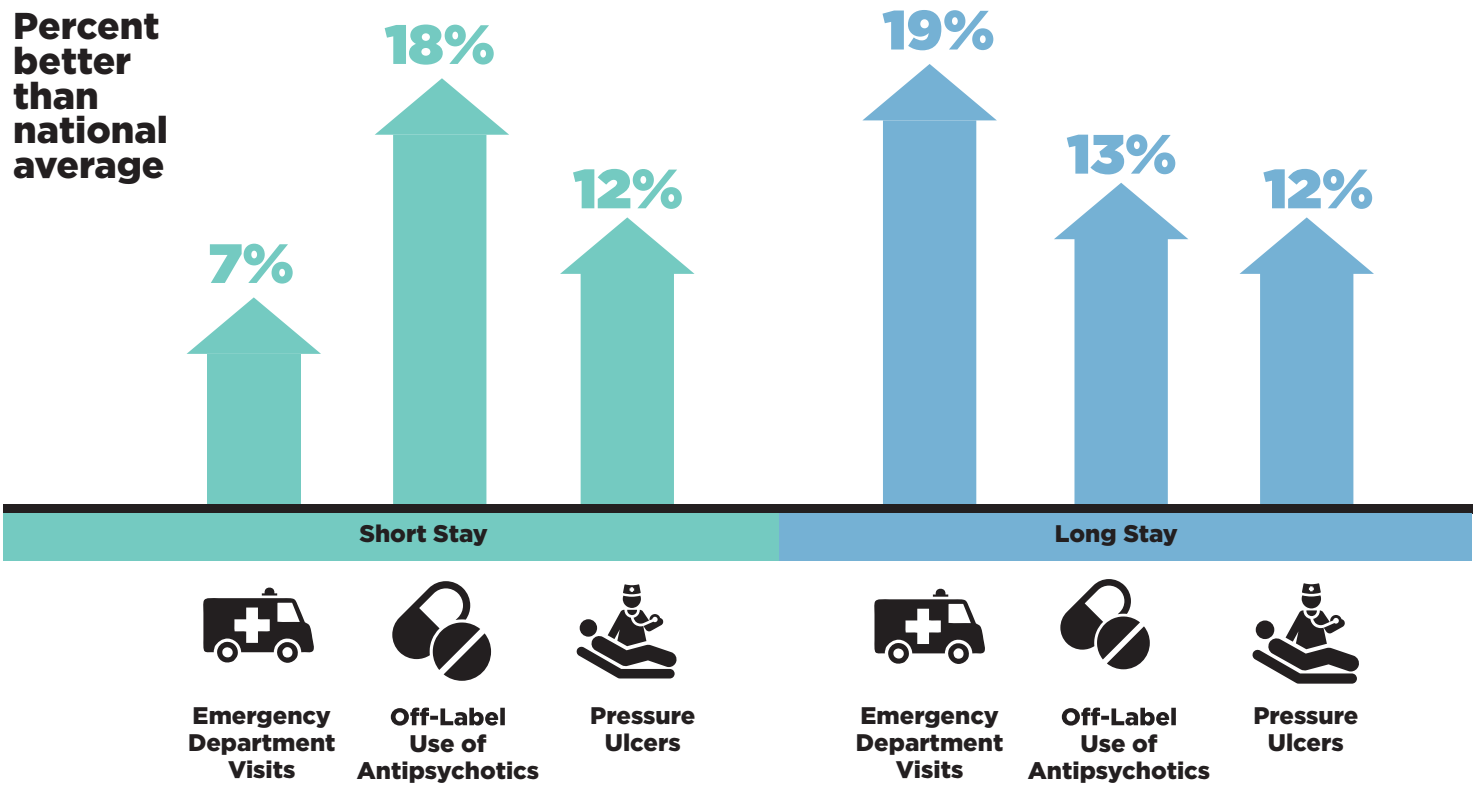
Percent of AHCA/NCAL Members Receiving a Quality Award



**Number of active recipients is current as of August 2026. Active recipients need to meet the standards of the [Renewal Policy](#). If a recipient has multiple awards, they are only counted once.*

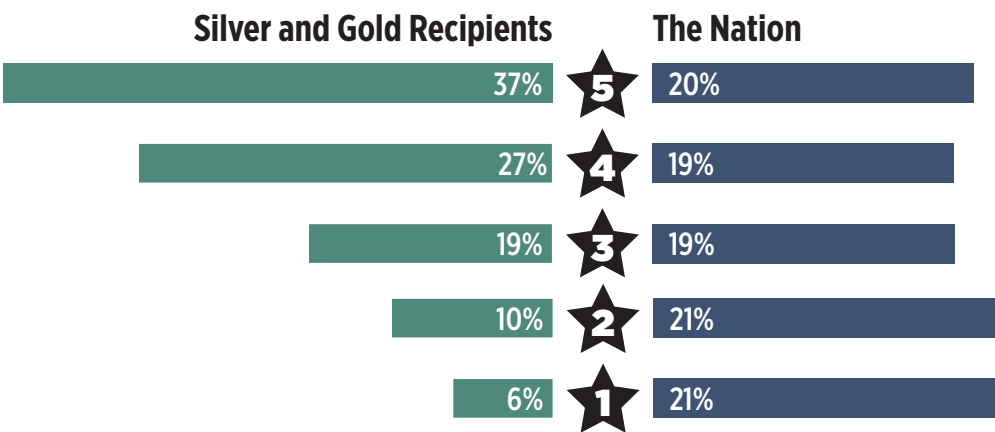


Quality Performance Measures ⁱ



Starpower ⁱⁱ Five Star Ratings

Overall Five Star Rating



Survey
80% Quality Awards
55% The Nation

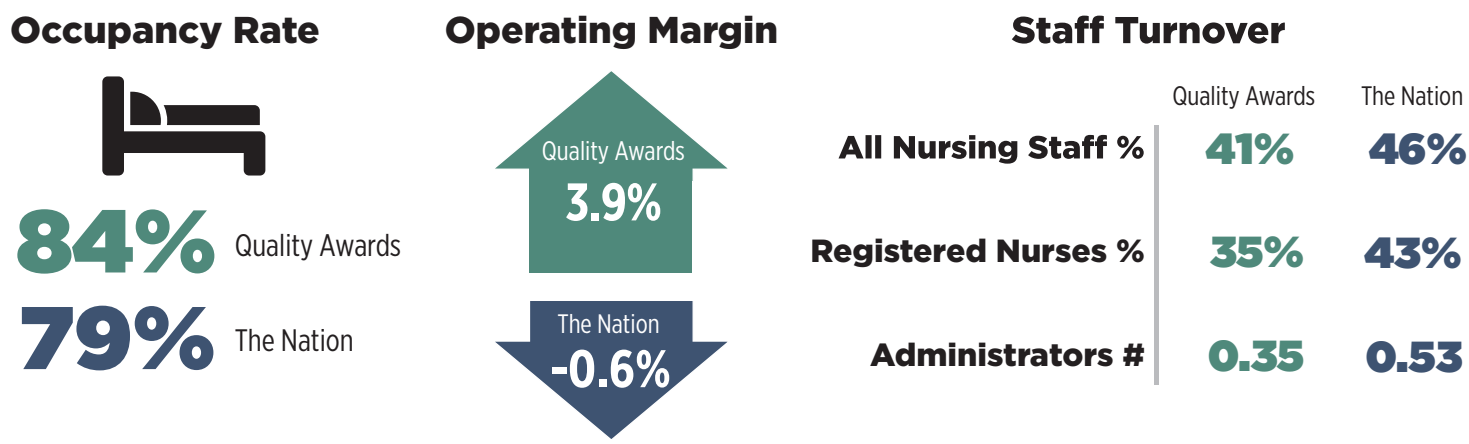
Staffing
74% Quality Awards
59% The Nation

Quality Metrics
86% Quality Awards
77% The Nation

i. Quality performance data from CMS Care Compare and LTC Trend Tracker. Measures reflect data through 2026 Q1. Performance difference is statistically significant (p<0.05) for all measures
ii. Star rating data from August 2026 release of Nursing Home Compare. Performance difference is statistically significant (p<0.05) for all measures. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Business Advantage for Owners ⁱⁱⁱ

Active Silver and Gold Recipients vs. the Nation



Facility Characteristics ^{iv}

	Active Silver and Gold Award Recipients	The Nation
 Ownership	66% For-Profit 34% Not-For-Profit/ Government	74% For-Profit 26% Not-For-Profit/ Government
 Size	102 Average Beds	107 Average Beds
 Location	71% Urban 29% Rural	73% Urban 27% Rural

iii. Financial and occupancy data from FY 2024 CMS Cost Reports and staff turnover from Care Compare (August 2026). Operating Margin = (Operating Revenue – Operating Expenses) / Operating Revenue x 100. Performance difference is statistically significant (p<0.05) for all measures.
iv. Demographic data from August 2026 Care Compare.