

Assisted Living Report Card: Peering and Thresholds for the Resident Health, Safety, and Staffing Ratings

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Peering for the resident health, safety, and staffing ratings

Certain characteristics that are out of a provider's control may make it more challenging for an assisted living to get a higher resident health, safety, or staffing rating on the report card. The Department of Human Services (DHS) has decided to use peering by size and geography when calculating the resident health, safety, and staffing measures. Peering makes assigning star ratings more fair by only comparing an assisted living with others in the same peer group. For example, one peer group is medium facilities in the Twin Cities Metro, and another is medium facilities in the rest of the state. Based on recommendations from researchers at the University of Minnesota (UMN), DHS will use the following peer groups when assigning ratings:

- **Large** (26+ resident capacity) facilities located in the **Twin Cities Metro** (includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties).
- **Large** facilities located in the **rest of the state** (outside of the Twin Cities Metro).
- **Medium** (6-25 resident capacity) facilities located in the **Twin Cities Metro**.
- **Medium** facilities located in the **rest of the state**.
- **Small** (1-5 resident capacity) facilities, regardless of where in the state they are located.

Star rating thresholds for 2025-2026

Based on recommendations from researchers at the UMN, DHS has decided to use a threshold approach to assigning stars for the resident health, safety, and staffing ratings. A threshold is a fixed score that defines the upper and lower boundaries for each 5-star category for a given peer group. The 2025-2026 thresholds for the resident health, safety, and staffing ratings are based on the UMN's analysis of Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) survey results from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024, and apply to ratings based on MDH surveys completed between July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

Star rating thresholds for the resident health, safety, and staffing ratings will be updated yearly using the previous two years of MDH survey data. This means that threshold scores are likely to change every year for each domain (resident health, safety, and staffing).

The tables below display the range of points a facility needs to get for each star rating category in the resident health, safety, and staffing domains. Each peer group is assigned a different star rating threshold. These are the thresholds DHS will use to decide which assisted livings with an MDH survey completed between July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 will get one, two, three, four, or five stars in each domain.

For more information on how the point values for the resident health, safety, and staffing ratings are calculated, see the [Minnesota Department of Health Survey Ratings Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#).

Resident Health rating thresholds

Peer Group	5-star	4-star	3-star	2-star	1-star
Small	0 – 0 points	1 – 8 points	9 – 45 points	46 – 82 points	83+ points
Medium + Twin Cities Metro	0 – 0 points	1 – 12 points	13 – 47 points	48 – 82 points	83+ points
Medium + Rest of State	0 – 0 points	1 – 17 points	18 – 60 points	61 – 103 points	104+ points
Large + Twin Cities Metro	0 – 0 points	1 – 14 points	15 – 47 points	48 – 81 points	82+ points
Large + Rest of State	0 – 0 points	1 – 16 points	17 – 60 points	61 – 104 points	105+ points

Safety rating thresholds

Peer Group	5-star	4-star	3-star	2-star	1-star
Small	0 – 16 points	17 – 48 points	49 – 96 points	97 – 144 points	145+ points
Medium + Twin Cities Metro	0 – 4 points	5 – 50 points	51 – 98 points	99 – 145 points	146+ points
Medium + Rest of State	0 – 0 points	1 – 38 points	39 – 87 points	88 – 136 points	137+ points
Large + Twin Cities Metro	0 – 0 points	1 – 31 points	32 – 66 points	67 – 101 points	102+ points

Large + Rest of State	0 – 0 points	1 – 27 points	28 – 64 points	65 – 101 points	102+ points
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Staffing rating thresholds

Peer Group	5-star	4-star	3-star	2-star	1-star
Small	0 – 0 points	1 – 5 points	6 – 32 points	33 – 59 points	60+ points
Medium + Twin Cities Metro	0 – 0 points	1 – 6 points	7 – 30 points	31 – 53 points	54+ points
Medium + Rest of State	0 – 0 points	1 – 5 points	6 – 27 points	28 – 49 points	50+ points
Large + Twin Cities Metro	0 – 0 points	1 – 3 points	4 – 22 points	23 – 40 points	41+ points
Large + Rest of State	0 – 0 points	1 – 4 points	5 – 21 points	22 – 38 points	39+ points