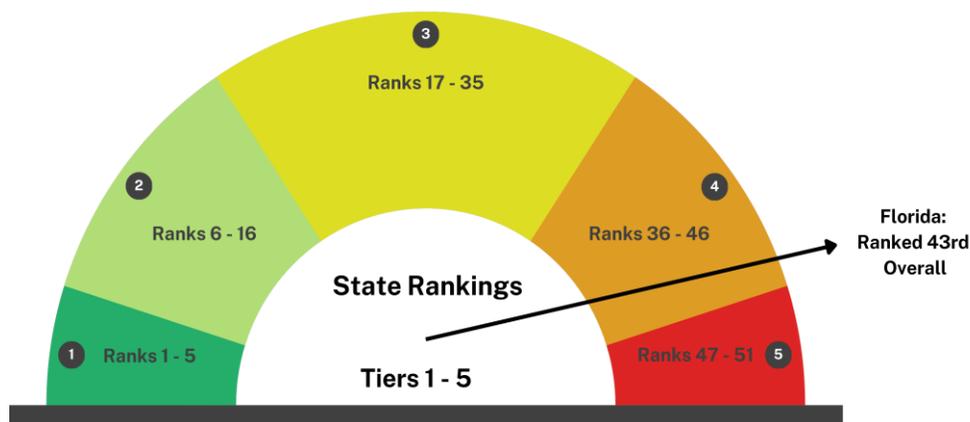


Policy Brief

November 2023

## FLORIDA SCOREBOARD RESULTS: AARP US STATE SCOREBOARD ON LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS (LTSS)



### What is LTSS Scoreboard?

Every three years, AARP evaluates and ranks state long-term services and supports (LTSS) based on categories, such as affordability, access, safety, quality, and more.

### AARP SCOREBOARD BACKGROUND

Every three years, AARP compiles data from several sources to assess long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older adults, people with physical disabilities, and family caregivers in US states and Washington DC. AARP aims to identify LTSS strengths and weaknesses, and provide the nation, states, and communities with information to develop actionable solutions to LTSS challenges. State LTSS systems are ranked on 1) affordability and access, 2) choice of setting and provider, 3) safety and quality, 4) support for family caregivers, and 5) community integration. These rankings inform an overall state ranking that is categorized into five tiers, with one being the best ranked states and five being the worst (see graphic above).

### FLORIDA'S PERFORMANCE

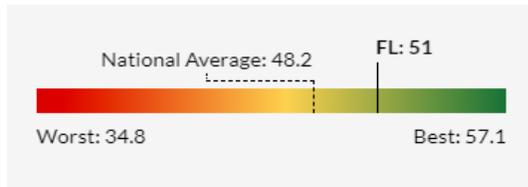
Overall, Florida ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the US, and was in the fourth LTSS performance tier (see graphic above). Minnesota ranked first, while West Virginia ranked last. Here is a breakdown of Florida's performance, from best category to worst:

### COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

Florida ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in community integration based on these (and additional) findings in 2020 to 2023...

- A 24.5% **employment rate for people with disabilities** (Nat. Avg. 21.6%)
- 45.6% of people were **discharged from nursing homes (NHs)** within 100 days (Nat. Avg. 44.7%)

- A **transportation** score of 47 based on convenience, safety, and options (Nat. Avg. 47.4)
- A **housing** score of 51 based on affordability, availability, and accessibility (Nat. Avg. 48.2)



- 7.9% of people with disabilities who are eligible for **housing assistance** receive it (Nat. Avg. 15.6%)
- 50 **age-friendly health systems** per million older adults (Nat. Avg. 53)

## SAFETY AND QUALITY

Florida ranked 34<sup>th</sup> in safety and quality, based on findings in 2020 to 2023...

- 14.1% of **home health patients were admitted to a hospital** (Nat. Avg. 14.1%)
- 23.1% of **long-stay NH residents were hospitalized** in a 6-month period (Nat. Avg. 17.9%)
- 11.2% of high-risk NH residents had **pressure sores** (Nat. Avg. 11.8%)
- 8.5% of NH residents inappropriately received **antipsychotic medication** (Nat. Avg. 10.3%)
- A 54% state average **turnover rate** of NH nursing staff (Nat. Avg. 53.9%)
- 35.8% of NH **residents have up-to-date COVID-19 vaccines** (Nat. Avg. 52.9%)
- 13.4% of NH healthcare **staff have up-to-date COVID-19 vaccines** (Nat. Avg. 21.8%)
- 25.2% of NH residents **live in 5-star facilities** (Nat. Avg. 16%)
- 3.75 NH **direct care staff hours** per resident per day (Nat. Avg. 3.31)

## CHOICE OF SETTING AND PROVIDER

Florida ranked 36<sup>th</sup> in choice of setting and provider, based on these (and additional) findings in 2020 to 2023...

- 32.5% of **Medicaid LTSS spending** went to home and community-based services (HCBS) (Nat. Avg. 53.3%)
- 4.9 out of 1,000 people with a disability enrolled in a **self-directed HCBS program** (Nat. Avg. 35.8)
- 48 **assisted living and residential care units** per 1,000 people 75+ (Nat. Avg. 55)
- 32 **adult day services slots** per 10,000 older adults (Nat. Avg. 54)
- 15.2 **home health and personal care aides** per 100 persons with a disability (Nat. Avg. 24.8)
- 8.8% of NH residents have **low care needs** (Nat. Avg. 8.8%)
- \$2.50 **pay gap** between direct care workers and comparable positions (Nat. Avg. (Best state pay gap \$1.56)
- 3.4 people **enrolled in Program for the All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)** per 10,000 people 55+ (Nat. Avg. 6.5)

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*Provider choice fosters equity, and consumers across communities have access to a range of culturally competent services and supports.*

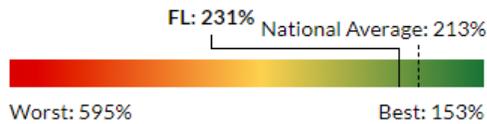
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## AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

Florida ranked 44<sup>th</sup> in affordability and access, based on these (and additional) findings in 2020 to 2023...

- **Home care private pay costs** 78% of older adults' median household income (Nat. Avg. 83%)

- **NH private pay costs** 231% of older adults' median household income (Nat. Avg. 213%)



- 26 out of 1,000 adults 40+ have **private long-term care insurance** (Nat. Avg. 40)
- An **Aging and Disability Resource Center/No Wrong Door** score of 80% out of 100% on helping consumers navigate LTSS options (Nat. Avg. 72%)
- 53.3% of adults with disabilities under 250% of the federal poverty limit **receive Medicaid/government assisted health insurance** (Nat. Avg. 59%)
- A **Medicaid Buy-In** score of 14% out of 100% on maximizing ability for people with disabilities to maintain Medicaid while working (Nat. Avg. 48%)

## SUPPORT FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Florida ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in support for family caregivers, based on these (and additional) findings in 2020 to 2023...

- **Nurses can delegate** 22 tasks to direct care aides to minimize logistical/financial burden on family caregivers (Nat. Avg. 15)

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*Nurse delegation helps family caregivers who may have to leave work during the day or hire a nurse to perform these routine tasks.*

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- The following areas **received credit** based on a credit/no credit rating:
  - Spousal impoverishment protections
  - Respite care available through Medicaid waivers

- Florida **did not receive credit** for nine areas of evaluation based on a credit/no credit rating, including the availability of state caregiver taxes, and statewide policy that allows caregivers to use sick days to care for someone else

## SCOREBOARD HIGHLIGHTS

**Overall:** Florida ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Tier), placing it among the lowest scoring states in the United States. Its best category ranking is community integration (28<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tier), and its worst category ranking is Support for Family Caregivers (50<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Tier).

**Top Indicator:** Florida ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in direct care staffing hours, with an average of 3.75 NH direct care staff hours per resident per day, compared to a national average of 3.31.

**Bottom Indicator:** Florida ranked 51<sup>st</sup> (last) in access to housing assistance for people with disabilities. Only 7.9% of people with disabilities who are eligible for housing assistance receive it, compared to a national average of 15.6%.

**Most Improved Indicator:** Florida ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in self-directed program enrollment, with 4.9 out of 1,000 people with a disability enrolled in a self-directed HCBS program. While this is still low compared to the national average of 35.8, it is a substantial improvement from 1.7 in 2019.

## HOW TO USE THESE FINDINGS:

Florida performed poorly on the AARP LTSS Scoreboard review, especially considering Florida has one of the highest percentages of older adults in the country. State and local policy makers should critically review these findings to identify areas of greatest need, areas with potential for the greatest improvement, and how to best allocate resources.

Florida LTSS Scoreboard Results:  
<https://ltsschoices.aarp.org/scorecard-report/2023/states/florida>

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