
America's Best
Addiction Treatment Centers 2021 -
Methodology

Methodology – Best Addiction Treatment Centers 2021

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1. Introduction

America's "Best Addiction Treatment Centers 2021" highlights the nation's top addiction treatment facilities based on peer recommendations, quality and accreditations relative to in state competition. In recent years, the demand for treatment has expanded significantly, for example due to the opioid epidemic and expanded health coverage. Statista partnered with Newsweek to provide a list of the best addiction treatment centers in the US.

1.1 States included in the Survey

Facilities in the 25 states with the highest number of addiction treatment centers, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), were included in the survey. The following states were included in the analysis:

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington
- Wisconsin

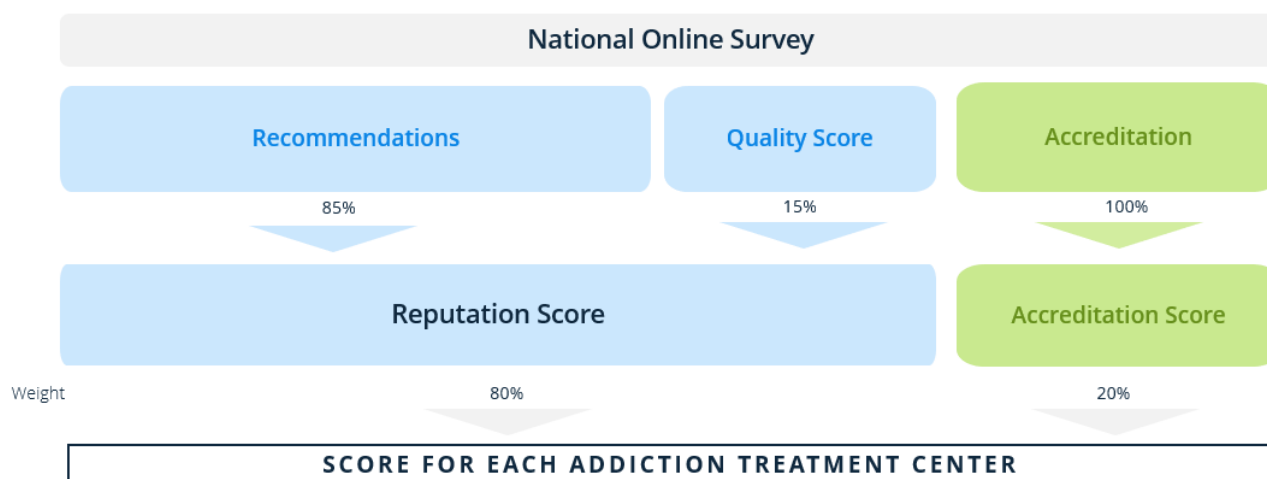
1.2 Scope of Facilities and States included in the Survey

- Inpatient/residential and long-term addiction treatment centers were included in the ranking. Long-term programmes required a minimum residency of 30 days.¹ Facilities that only offer outpatient or short-term addiction treatment services were excluded from the survey.
- The Top 10-15% facilities per state were awarded. This number is based on the amount of facilities within the specific state that meet the above

¹ Definition according to SAMHSA ([LINK](#))

mentioned scope of requirements, and therefore varies in the individual states. The state of California had the most addiction treatment centers awarded with 80, while e.g. Wisconsin is represented with 5 addiction treatment centers. In total, 300 addiction treatment centers were awarded by Newsweek and Statista.

2. Scoring Model



In order to create the ranking, a score was calculated for every addiction treatment center that was part of the analysis. This total score is based on the reputation and accreditation scores which will be described in this section.

Reputation Score: The Reputation score is based on two subscores, for recommendations and for quality, as shown above. In cooperation with Newsweek, Statista invited thousands of medical experts (therapists, counselor, medical doctors, administration & staff working in addiction treatment facilities) to an online peer-to-peer survey. Additionally, experts from all over the US could participate in the survey of the Best Addiction Treatment Centers by State on newsweek.com. All data was collected by Newsweek and Statista during the survey period from May to July 2020. It was mandatory for participants to verify their email addresses. Quality checks were performed to avoid self-recommendations and recommendations for an addiction treatment center someone works for were not counted in the evaluation).

2.1 Calculation of Recommendations Score

Participants were asked to name up to ten of the best addiction treatment centers in their respective home state. They were asked to recommend addiction treatment facilities by considering the quality of care, quality of service, quality of follow-up care and accommodations & amenities.

Entry of recommendations was aided by an autocomplete function, which showed addiction treatment facilities based on the letters entered. It was also possible to recommend any addiction treatment center that was not proposed by the autocomplete list. For the participation in the survey on newsweek.com it was mandatory to perform an email verification. Recommendations for addiction treatment centers that a participant works for (self-recommendations) were excluded from the analysis.

Recommendations received different weights depending on the order in which they were given, with the first recommendation being assigned the highest weight. Recommendations of addiction treatment centers that were stated as the best addiction treatment center in a state received a 33% higher weight than those recommendations that were stated as the fifth best addiction treatment center. A score was assigned to each addiction treatment center based on the number of weighted recommendations. Recommendations constitute 80% of the overall reputation score (as depicted above).

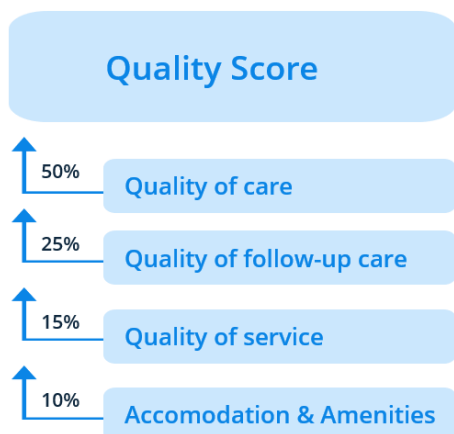
2.2 Calculation of Quality Score

Participants were also asked to rank the quality dimensions which influence the quality of rehabilitation facilities. Participants were asked to differentiate between these variables:

- Quality of care (e.g. treatments/ therapies, consultation with doctor/ therapist, psychological support)
- Quality of service (e.g. meals, leisure activities)
- Quality of follow-up care (e.g. support meetings, individual counseling)
- Accommodation & Amenities (e.g. size of room, quality of furnishing)

The quality dimensions were shown to participants in a randomized order in the survey. Based on the reported importance of each quality dimension a quality score was assigned using the following weights: 50% Quality of care,

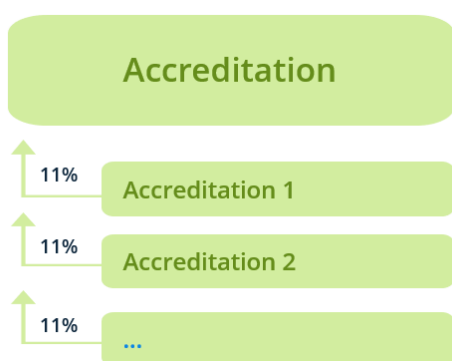
25% Quality of follow-up-care, 15% Quality of service and 10% Accomodation & Amenities.



For each recommended center the participant rated the four quality variables on a scale from 1 (“Poor”) to 7 (“Excellent”). A quality score was assigned to each addiction treatment center based on a weighted average of these ratings. The Quality Score contributes 20% towards the overall recommendation score (as depicted above).

2.3 Calculation of Accreditation Score

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides data for addiction treatment centers. Specifically, SAMSHA lists all



relevant accreditations that that the addiction treatment centers have. Statista used the SAMHSA data described above to determine the Accreditation score of addiction treatment centers. Each of the nine different accreditations is weighted with 1/9 or 11.11% towards the accreditation score of each facility.

The following accreditations are included:

- Accreditation 1: State substance abuse agency
- Accreditation 2: State mental health department
- Accreditation 3: State department of health
- Accreditation 4: Hospital licensing authority
- Accreditation 5: The Joint Commission
- Accreditation 6: Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
- Accreditation 7: National Committee for Quality Assurance

- Accreditation 8: Council on Accreditation
- Accreditation 9: Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program

All data was up to date through May 31st, 2021. Further information about the accreditations can be found at the websites of the accrediting bodies, e.g.: <http://www.carf.org/home/>

2.4 Overall Rating and State Rank

The overall rating is the weighted average of the overall reputation score and the accreditation score. The weight for the overall reputation score is 80% while the weight of the SAMHSA based accreditation score is 20% towards the total score of each facility. Subsequently facilities were ranked within their respective state based on their total score achieved.

3. Disclaimer

The ranking is comprised exclusively of addiction treatment centers that are eligible regarding the above-mentioned scope. The ranking was created through an elaborate process. The information provided in this ranking should be considered together with other information about addiction treatment centers or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to the facility. The quality of addiction treatment centers that are not included in the list is not disputed.