



# Patients' Experiences in Arizona CAHs: HCAHPS Results, 2015

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## KEY FINDINGS:

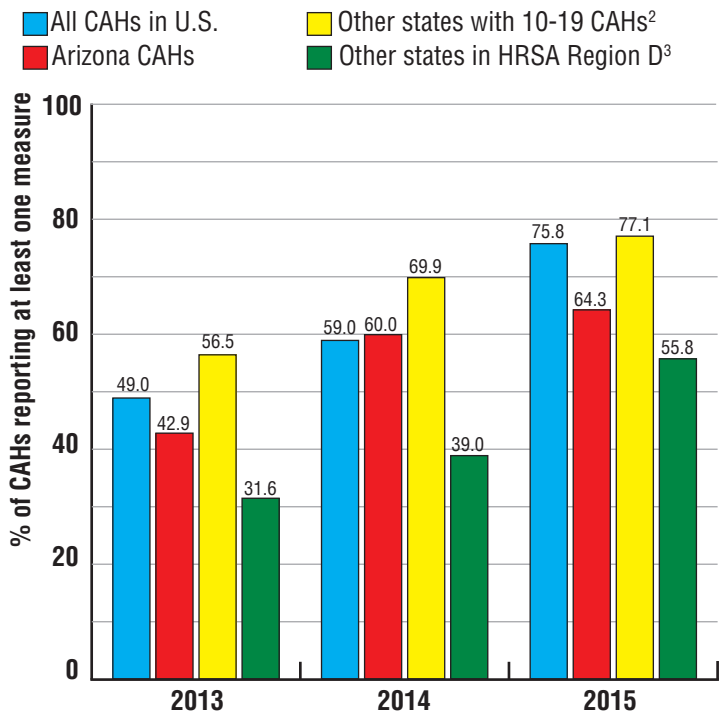
- The HCAHPS reporting rate of 64.3% for Arizona CAHs in 2015 was less than the national reporting rate of 75.8% and ranks #37 among 45 states that participate in the Flex Program.
- Compared with all other CAHs nationally, Arizona CAHs scored significantly lower on 4 HCAHPS measures and did not have significantly different performance on the remaining 7 measures.

## BACKGROUND

The Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) is a national, standardized survey of patients' perspectives of hospital care. It was developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to complement other hospital tools designed to support quality improvement. The survey is administered to a random sample of adult patients following discharge from the hospital for inpatient medical, surgical, or maternity care.

Eleven HCAHPS measures are publicly-reported on Hospital Compare. Seven are composite measures that address how well doctors and nurses communicate with patients, the responsiveness of hospital staff, pain management, communication about medicines, and patient understanding of their care when they left the hospital. These, along with two measures regarding the hospital environment, are reported in response categories of "always," "usually," and "sometimes/never." Additional measures address the provision of discharge information ("yes/no"), an overall rating of the hospital on a 1-10 scale ("high" = 9 or 10, "medium" = 7 or 8, "low" ≤ 6), and the patient's willingness to recommend the hospital ("definitely would," "probably would," and "probably/definitely would not"). CMS adjusts the

Figure 1. CAH Participation in HCAHPS<sup>1</sup>, 2013 - 2015



1. Percentage of CAHs in each state or group of states reporting HCAHPS data.  
 2. Group includes states with 10-19 CAHs: AK (13), FL (13), ME (16), NV (12), NH (13), NY (18), PA (13), TN (15), UT (11), WY (16)  
 3. HRSA Region D includes AR (29), CA (34), HI (9), LA (27), NM (9), NV (12), OK (34), TX (79)



**Table 1. Number of Completed HCAHPS Surveys and Response Rates for CAHs Nationally and in Arizona, 2015**

|           | Total CAHs reporting | Number of completed HCAHPS surveys |         |       | HCAHPS survey response rates |        |       |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------------|--------|-------|
|           |                      | < 100                              | 100-299 | ≥ 300 | < 25%                        | 25-50% | > 50% |
| <b>US</b> | 1,010                | 559                                | 375     | 76    | 175                          | 812    | 23    |
| <b>AZ</b> | 9                    | 5                                  | 3       | 1     | 2                            | 7      | 0     |

publicly-reported HCAHPS results for patient-mix, mode of data collection, and non-response bias.

CAHs may voluntarily report HCAHPS measures to Hospital Compare. HCAHPS measures are a core improvement activity in the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP).

**APPROACH**

This study used data publicly-reported to Hospital Compare by CAHs for discharges during calendar year 2015. For each HCAHPS measure, the percentages of patients reporting the highest response (e.g., “always”) on each measure were summed and averaged across all reporting CAHs within a state and all other states. Two-sample t-tests were used to compare whether the mean scores on each measure are significantly different between CAHs in each state and all other CAHs.

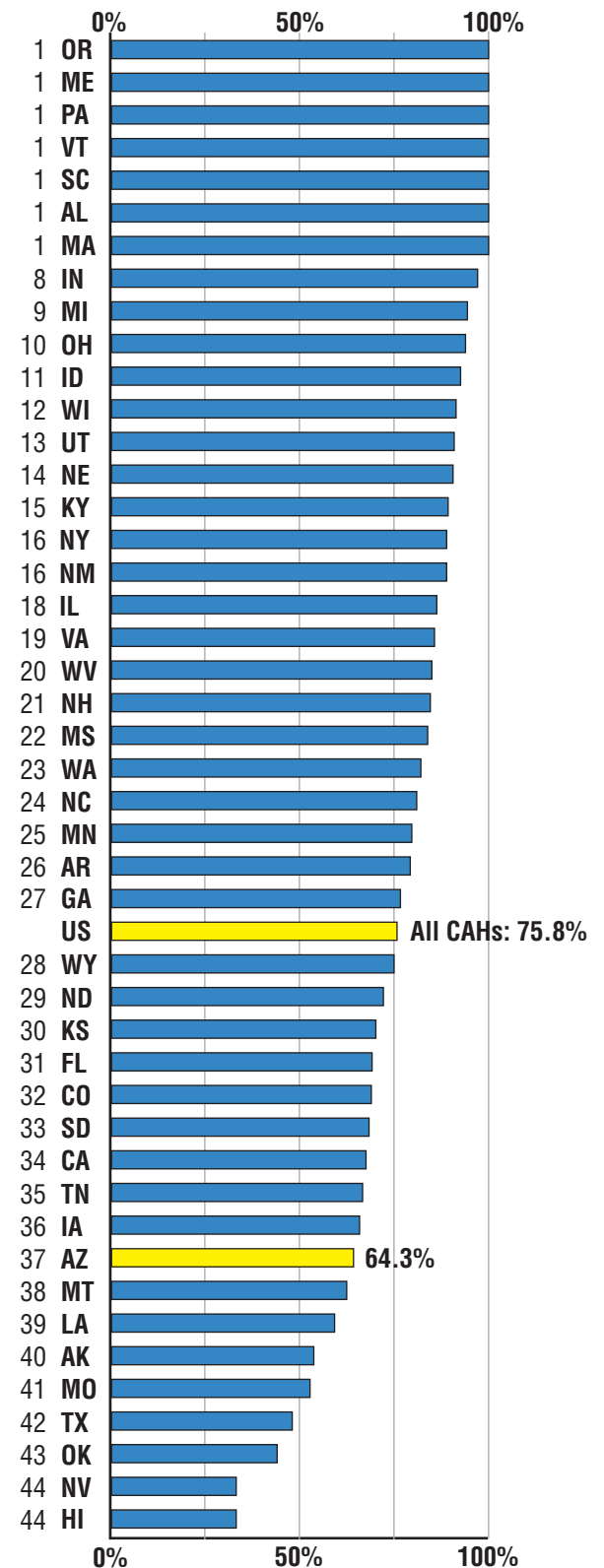
**RESULTS**

Figure 1 (previous page) compares participation rates in HCAHPS over time among four groups of CAHs: those in Arizona, all CAHs nationally, those located in other states with a similar number of CAHs, and those located in the same HRSA geographic region as Arizona. The HCAHPS reporting rate of 64.3% for Arizona CAHs was less than the national reporting rate of 75.8%.

Figure 2 ranks the states by their CAHs’ respective HCAHPS reporting rate for 2015. Arizona’s rate was ranked #37 of the 45 states that participate in the Flex program.

Table 1 shows the number of completed HCAHPS surveys per CAH in Arizona and nationally, in the three categories reported by CMS. CMS recommends that each hospital obtain 300 completed HCAHPS surveys annually, in order to be more confident

**Figure 2. State Rankings of HCAHPS Participation Rates for CAHs, 2015**



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that the survey results are reliable for assessing the hospital's performance. However, some smaller hospitals may sample all of their HCAHPS-eligible discharges and still have fewer than 300 completed surveys. Caution should be exercised in comparing HCAHPS results for states that have few CAHs reporting results and/or CAHs whose results are based on fewer than 100 completed surveys.

Compared to all other CAHs nationally, Arizona's CAHs scored significantly higher on 0 of 11 HCAHPS measures and significantly lower on 4 measures (Table 2).

**Table 2. HCAHPS Results for CAHs in Arizona and All Other States, 2015**

■ Significantly better than rate for all other CAHs nationally ( $p < .05$ )
 ■ Significantly worse than rate for all other CAHs nationally ( $p < .05$ )

|   | Mean (average) for CAHs in: |                           |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
|   | Arizona (n=14) <sup>1</sup> | All Other States (n=1318) |
| Composite 1: Communication with Nurses          | 80.3                        | 83.3                      |
| Composite 2: Communication with Doctors         | 78.2                        | 85.7                      |
| Composite 3: Responsiveness of Hospital Staff   | 72.1                        | 76.0                      |
| Composite 4: Pain Management                    | 70.4                        | 73.9                      |
| Composite 5: Communication about Medicines      | 70.3                        | 69.2                      |
| Composite 6: Discharge Information              | 83.7                        | 87.7                      |
| Composite 7: Care Transitions                   | 47.7                        | 55.6                      |
| Question 8: Cleanliness of Hospital Environment | 76.7                        | 80.0                      |
| Question 9: Quietness of Hospital Environment   | 56.6                        | 67.2                      |
| Question 21: Overall Rating of Hospital         | 69.4                        | 75.5                      |
| Question 22: Willingness to Recommend Hospital  | 69.4                        | 73.9                      |

1. Rates without highlights were not significantly different from comparable rates among all CAHs nationally.

For more information on this study,  
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This study was conducted by the Flex Monitoring Team with funding from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under PHS Grant No. U27RH01080. The information, conclusions, and opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and no endorsement by FORHP, HRSA, or HHS is intended or should be inferred.