

# Fact Sheet - 2015 Star Ratings

Star Ratings are driving improvements in Medicare quality. We continue to see increases in the number of Medicare beneficiaries in high-performing Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. This year there are significant increases in the number of Medicare beneficiaries in high-performing Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs). CMS saw dramatic improvement among plans that received the low performing icon (LPI) in 2014, and many are not receiving an LPI for 2015.

The information included in this Fact Sheet is based on the 2015 Star Ratings published on Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) on October 9, 2014. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes the Star Ratings each year to measure quality in MA and Part D plans, to assist beneficiaries in finding the best plan for them and to determine MA Quality Bonus Payments. Moreover, they support the efforts of CMS to improve the level of accountability for the care provided by physicians, hospitals, and other providers.

## Background

Medicare Advantage with prescription drug coverage (MA-PD) contracts are rated on up to 44 unique quality and performance measures, MA-only contracts (without prescription drug coverage) are rated on up to 33 measures, while stand-alone PDP contracts are rated on up to 13 measures. Each year, CMS conducts a comprehensive review of the measures that make up the Star Ratings, considering the reliability of the measures, clinical recommendations, feedback received from stakeholders, and data issues. All measures transitioned from the Star Ratings are displayed on the informational page of [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov). Changes to existing measures are summarized in Attachment A.

The Star Ratings measures span five broad categories:

- Outcomes
- Intermediate Outcomes
- Patient Experience
- Access
- Process

For the 2015 Star Ratings, outcomes and intermediate outcomes continue to be weighted three times as much as process measures, and patient experience and access measures are weighted 1.5 times as much as process measures. CMS assigns a weight of 1 to all new measures. While the Part C and D quality improvement measures received a weight of 3 last year, the weight has been changed to 5 for 2015 to further reward contracts for the strides they made to improve the care provided to Medicare enrollees, in particular, those contracts serving challenging populations. CMS continues to reduce the overall Star Rating for contracts with serious compliance issues, defined as the imposition of enrollment or marketing sanctions.

## Highlights of Contract Performance in 2015 Star Ratings

### *Changes in Ratings from 2014*

The average Star Rating weighted by enrollment for MA-PDs is 3.92, compared to 3.86 in 2014, 3.71 in 2013, and 3.56 in 2012.<sup>1</sup>

- Approximately 40 percent of MA-PDs (158 contracts) that will be active in 2015 earned four stars or higher for their 2015 overall rating.
- Weighted by enrollment, these contracts serve close to 60 percent of enrollees (Table 1).
- This is nearly an 8 percentage point increase from 52 percent of enrollees in contracts with four or more stars last year.

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<sup>1</sup> The average Star Ratings and distributions per year throughout the Fact Sheet this year excludes contracts that are too new to be measured, contracts that do not have enough data available for reporting, and contracts terminating at the end of the calendar year. The reduced ratings for contracts under a CMS enrollment sanction were used in the Fact Sheet.

**Table 1: 2012 - 2015 Overall Rating Distribution for MA-PD Contracts**

Overall Rating	2012			2013			2014			2015		
	# of Contracts	%	Enrollment Weighted (%)	# of Contracts	%	Enrollment Weighted (%)	# of Contracts	%	Enrollment Weighted (%)	# of Contracts	%	Enrollment Weighted (%)
5 stars	9	2.05	8.99	11	2.46	9.42	11	2.55	9.56	11	2.78	9.88
4.5 stars	46	10.45	9.90	54	12.08	15.81	64	14.85	20.55	61	15.44	19.59
4 stars	51	11.59	10.01	62	13.87	12.56	87	20.19	21.68	86	21.77	30.32
3.5 stars	119	27.05	33.96	131	29.31	36.48	143	33.18	30.49	136	34.43	26.78
3 stars	144	32.73	28.85	127	28.41	20.25	109	25.29	16.63	73	18.48	10.98
2.5 stars	65	14.77	7.96	60	13.42	5.28	16	3.71	1.09	26	6.58	2.37
2 stars	6	1.36	0.32	2	0.45	0.21	1	0.23	0.01	2	0.51	0.08
Total Number of Contracts	440			447			431			395		

The average Star Rating weighted by enrollment for PDPs is 3.75 for 2015, compared to 3.05 in 2014, 3.30 in 2013, and 2.99 in 2012 (Table 2).

- Approximately 51 percent of PDPs (31 contracts) that will be active in 2015 received four or more stars for their 2015 overall rating.
- Weighted by enrollment close to 53 percent of PDP enrollees are in contracts with four or more stars.
- This is a 44 percentage point increase from 9 percent of PDP enrollees in contracts with 4 or more stars last year.

**Table 2: 2012 - 2015 Part D Rating Distribution for PDPs**

Overall Rating	2012			2013			2014			2015		
	# of Contracts	%	Enrollment Weighted (%)	# of Contracts	%	Enrollment Weighted (%)	# of Contracts	%	Enrollment Weighted (%)	# of Contracts	%	Enrollment Weighted (%)
5 stars	4	6.25	1.85	4	5.71	1.85	5	6.94	0.13	3	4.92	1.50
4.5 stars	1	1.56	0.13	5	7.14	3.52	6	8.33	3.34	11	18.03	7.28
4 stars	8	12.50	7.51	17	24.29	12.20	16	22.22	5.29	17	27.87	43.94
3.5 stars	15	23.44	9.39	17	24.29	23.35	18	25	52.39	18	29.51	40.40
3 stars	15	23.44	57.78	17	24.29	55.08	17	23.61	14.16	7	11.48	0.61
2.5 stars	18	28.13	22.52	9	12.86	3.23	8	11.11	5.62	3	4.92	5.99
2 stars	3	4.69	0.82	1	1.43	0.77	1	1.39	0.00	1	1.64	0.01
1.5 stars	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	1.39	19.07	1	1.64	0.27
Total Number of Contracts	64			70			72			61		

### 5-Star Contracts

16 contracts are highlighted on MPF with a high performing (gold star) icon; 11 are MA-PD contracts (Table 3), 2 are MA-only contracts (Table 4), and 3 are PDPs (Table 5).

The six new 5-star contracts for this year are:

- Careplus Health Plans, Inc. (H1019)
- Martin's Point Generations, LLC (H5591)
- Healthspan Integrated Care (H6360)
- Healthpartners, Inc. (S1822)
- Wellmark IA &SD, & BCBS MN, MT, NE, ND & WY (S5743)
- Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (S5753)

Martin's Point and Wellmark were 5-star contracts for the 2012 and 2013 Star Ratings, respectively.

**Table 3: MA-PD Contracts Receiving the 2015 High Performing Icon**

Contract	Contract Name	Enrolled 10/2014	Non-EGHP Service Area	EGHP Service Area	5 Star Last Year	SNP
H0524	KAISER FOUNDATION HP, INC.	979,110	31 counties in CA	Not applicable	Yes	Yes
H0630	KAISER FOUNDATION HP OF CO	92,545	17 counties in CO	Not applicable	Yes	Yes
H1019	CAREPLUS HEALTH PLANS, INC.	95,169	19 counties in FL	Not applicable	No	Yes
H1230	KAISER FOUNDATION HP, INC.	29,529	3 counties in HI	Not applicable	Yes	No
H2150	KAISER FNDN HP OF THE MID-ATLANTIC STS	58,067	D.C., 11 counties in MD, 9 counties in VA	Not applicable	Yes	No
H5050	GROUP HEALTH COOPERATIVE	82,872	13 counties in WA	Not applicable	Yes	No

Contract	Contract Name	Enrolled 10/2014	Non-EGHP Service Area	EGHP Service Area	5 Star Last Year	SNP
H5262	GUNDERSEN HEALTH PLAN	14,292	5 counties in IA, 11 counties in WI	Not applicable	Yes	No
H5591	MARTIN'S POINT GENERATIONS, LLC	28,412	16 counties in ME, 2 counties in NH	Most of the U.S.	No	No
H6360	HEALTHSPAN INTEGRATED CARE	16,205	7 counties in OH	Not applicable	No	No
H9003	KAISER FOUNDATION HP OF THE N W	74,627	9 counties in OR, 4 counties in WA	1 county in OR, 1 county in WA	Yes	No
H9047	PROVIDENCE HEALTH PLAN	44,711	13 counties in OR, 1 county in WA	2 counties in OR	Yes	No

**Table 4: MA-only Contracts Receiving the 2015 High Performing Icon<sup>2</sup>**

Contract	Contract Name	Enrolled 10/2014	Non-EGHP Service Area	EGHP Service Area	5 Star Last Year
H1651	MEDICAL ASSOCIATES HEALTH PLAN, INC.	10,075	6 counties in IA, 1 county in IL	Not applicable	Yes
H5264	DEAN HEALTH PLAN, INC.	23,185	8 counties in WI	Not applicable	Yes

**Table 5: PDP Contracts Receiving the 2015 High Performing Icon**

Contract	Contract Name	Enrolled 10/2014	Non-EGHP Service Area	EGHP Service Area	5 Star Last Year
S1822	HEALTHPARTNERS, INC.	1,105	Not applicable	34 regions	No
S5743	WELLMARK IA & SD, & BCBS MN, MT, NE, ND, & WY	317,950	1 region - Upper Midwest and Northern Plains (Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming)	33 regions	No
S5753	WISCONSIN PHYSICIANS SERVICE INSURANCE CORPORATION	24,447	1 region - Wisconsin	38 regions	No

### **Low Performers**

For the 2015 ratings we have seen a significant decline in the number of contracts identified with an LPI on MPF for consistently low quality ratings in the past three years (i.e., 2.5 or fewer stars for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 Star Ratings for Part C and/or Part D).

- There was an 80% reduction in the number of contracts that received this designation for the 2015 Star Ratings compared to last year.
- Of the 39 contracts that received the LPI in 2014, 32 either improved their ratings in 2015 or withdrew or consolidated their contract.
- Among contracts that did not withdraw or consolidate their contracts, 65% improved their Star Ratings.

7 contracts are identified on the MPF with the LPI for consistently low quality ratings in the past three years (i.e., 2.5 or fewer stars for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 Star Ratings for Part C and/or Part D):

- 2 of these contracts are receiving the icon for low Part C ratings of 2.5 or fewer stars from 2013 through 2015,
- 2 are receiving it for low Part D ratings of 2.5 or fewer stars from 2013 through 2015, and
- 3 are receiving it for low Part C or D ratings of 2.5 or fewer stars from 2013 through 2015.

Below is the list of contracts receiving an LPI (Table 6). All of these contracts also received the icon in 2014; no additional contracts received the icon for the first time in 2015.

**Table 6: 2015 Contracts with a Low Performing Icon (LPI)**

Contract	Contract Name	Parent Organization	Reason for LPI	Enrolled 10/2014
H0084	CARE IMPROVEMENT PLUS OF TEXAS INSURANCE COMPANY	UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	Part C	24433
H1903	WELLCARE OF LOUISIANA, INC.	WellCare Health Plans, Inc.	Part C or D	8323
H3327	TOUCHSTONE HEALTH HMO, INC.	Touchstone Health Partnership, Inc.	Part C	13880
H5294	SUPERIOR HEALTH PLAN, INC.	Centene Corporation	Part D	2774
H5698	WINDSOR HEALTH PLAN, INC.	WellCare Health Plans, Inc.	Part C or D	36971
H5887	FIRST MEDICAL HEALTH PLAN, INC.	First Medical Health Plan, Inc.	Part D	9405
R6801	CARE IMPROVEMENT PLUS OF TEXAS INSURANCE COMPANY	UnitedHealth Group, Inc.	Part C or D	69023

<sup>2</sup> MA only contracts cannot offer SNPs.

## Tax Status and Performance

- Organizations that are non-profit tend to receive higher ratings than those that are for-profit. For MA-PDs, approximately 59% of the non-profit contracts received 4 or more stars compared to 33% of the for-profit MA-PDs. Similarly, for PDPs approximately 67% of non-profit PDPs received 4 or more stars compared to 37% of the for-profit PDPs. Non-profit organizations also performed better than for-profit organizations last year.
- Below is the ratings distribution by tax status for MA-PD (Table 7) and PDP (Table 8) contracts.

**Table 7: Distribution of For-profit and Non-profit MA-PDs**

Description	Count For Profit	% For Profit	Enrollment Weighted For Profit (%)	Count Non-Profit	% Non-Profit	Enrollment Weighted Non-Profit (%)
5 stars	1	0.35	0.91	10	9.43	29.21
4.5 stars	29	10.03	16.13	32	30.19	27.05
4 stars	65	22.49	33.93	21	19.81	22.53
3.5 stars	106	36.68	32.28	30	28.30	14.94
3 stars	65	22.49	14.04	8	7.55	4.40
2.5 stars	21	7.27	2.60	5	4.72	1.88
2 stars	2	0.69	0.12	0	0.00	0.00
Total Number of Contracts	289			106		

**Table 8: Distribution of For-profit and Non-profit PDPs<sup>3</sup>**

Description	Count For Profit	% For Profit	Enrollment Weighted For Profit (%)	Count Non-Profit	% Non-Profit	Enrollment Weighted Non-Profit (%)
5 stars	0	0.00	0	3	11.54	28.76
4.5 stars	5	14.29	6.3	6	23.08	25.09
4 stars	8	22.86	44.88	9	34.62	26.89
3.5 stars	13	37.14	41.66	5	19.23	17.54
3 stars	4	11.43	0.55	3	11.54	1.72
2.5 stars	3	8.57	6.32	0	0.00	0.00
2 stars	1	2.86	0.01	0	0.00	0.00
1.5 stars	1	2.86	0.29	0	0.00	0.00
Total Number of Contracts	35			26		

## Length of Time in Program and Performance

On average, higher Star Ratings are associated with more experience in the MA program. We see a similar pattern for PDPs. The tables below show the distribution of ratings by the number of years in the program (MA-PDs are shown in Table 9 and PDPs in Table 10).

**Table 9: Distribution of MA-PD Star Ratings by Length of Time in Program**

2015 Overall Rating	Less than 5 years	5 years to less than 10 years	Greater than 10 years
5 stars	0.00% (0)	0.47% (1)	7.25% (10)
4.5 stars	13.64% (6)	11.27% (24)	22.46% (31)
4 stars	29.55% (13)	14.55% (31)	30.43% (42)
3.5 stars	31.82% (14)	38.97% (83)	28.26% (39)
3 stars	13.64% (6)	25.35% (54)	9.42% (13)
2.5 stars	9.09% (4)	8.92% (19)	2.17% (3)
2 stars	2.27% (1)	0.47% (1)	0.00% (0)
Total Number of Contracts	(44)	(213)	(138)

<sup>3</sup> Two PDPs are not included in Table 8 because their tax status is missing in the CMS database.

**Table 10: Distribution of PDP Star Ratings by Length of Time in Program**

2015 PDP Rating	Less than 5 years	5 years to less than 10 years
5 stars	0.00% (0)	5.56% (3)
4.5 stars	14.00% (1)	18.52% (10)
4 stars	29.00% (2)	27.78% (15)
3.5 stars	0.00% (0)	33.33% (18)
3 stars	29.00% (2)	9.26% (5)
2.5 stars	0.00% (0)	5.56% (3)
2 stars	14.00% (1)	0.00% (0)
1.5 stars	14.00% (1)	0.00% (0)
Total Number of Contracts	(7)	(54)

***Performance of Contracts Eligible to Receive Low Income Subsidy (LIS) Auto-assignees***

Contracts with a Star Rating and eligible to receive LIS auto-assignees (LIS contracts) show improvement from 2012 to 2015.

- Fifteen out of 16 LIS contracts (93.8%) earned a Star Rating of 3 or more in 2015, compared to 16 contracts (84.2%) in 2014, 17 (89.5%) in 2013, and 13 (56.5%) in 2012.
- In 2015, there is 1 (6%) LIS contract with a rating of 2.5 or below compared to 3 (15.8%) in 2014, 2 (10.5%) in 2013, and 10 (43.5%) in 2012.

**Table 11: Distribution of Star Ratings for PDPs Eligible to Receive LIS Auto-assignees**

PDP Rating	2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Number of LIS Contracts	% of LIS Contracts	Number of LIS Contracts	% of LIS Contracts	Number of LIS Contracts	% of LIS Contracts	Number of LIS Contracts	% of LIS Contracts
4.5 stars	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	6.25%
4 stars	2	8.70%	1	5.26%	4	21.05%	4	25.00%
3.5 stars	3	13.04%	6	31.58%	6	31.58%	8	50.00%
3 stars	8	34.78%	10	52.63%	6	31.58%	2	12.50%
2.5 stars	9	39.13%	2	10.53%	3	15.79%	1	6.25%
2 stars	1	4.35%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
1.5 stars	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total	23		19		19		16	

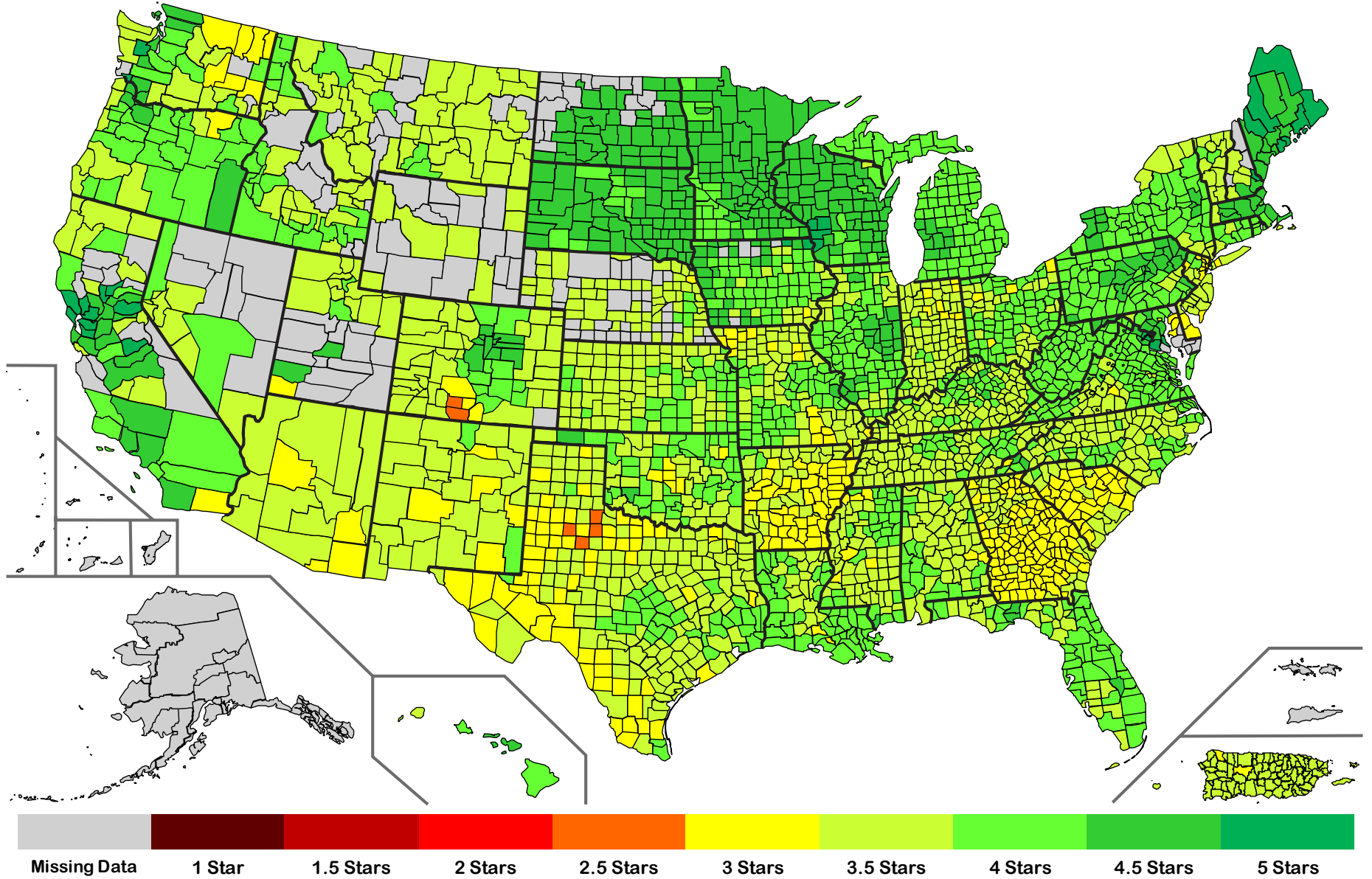
***Geographic Variation***

The following eight maps illustrate the average Star Ratings weighted by enrollment per county for MA-PDs and PDPs across the U.S., including territories, between 2012 and 2015. These maps exclude the employer group health plans. Counties shaded in green indicate that the average highest Star Rating weighted by enrollment in the county for MA-PDs or PDPs is four or more stars. Counties shaded in yellow indicate that the average highest Star Rating weighted by enrollment for the county for MA-PDs or PDPs is three stars. Areas shaded in orange indicate that the average highest Star Rating weighted by enrollment is less than 3. Areas in gray indicate data is not available for those counties.<sup>4</sup>

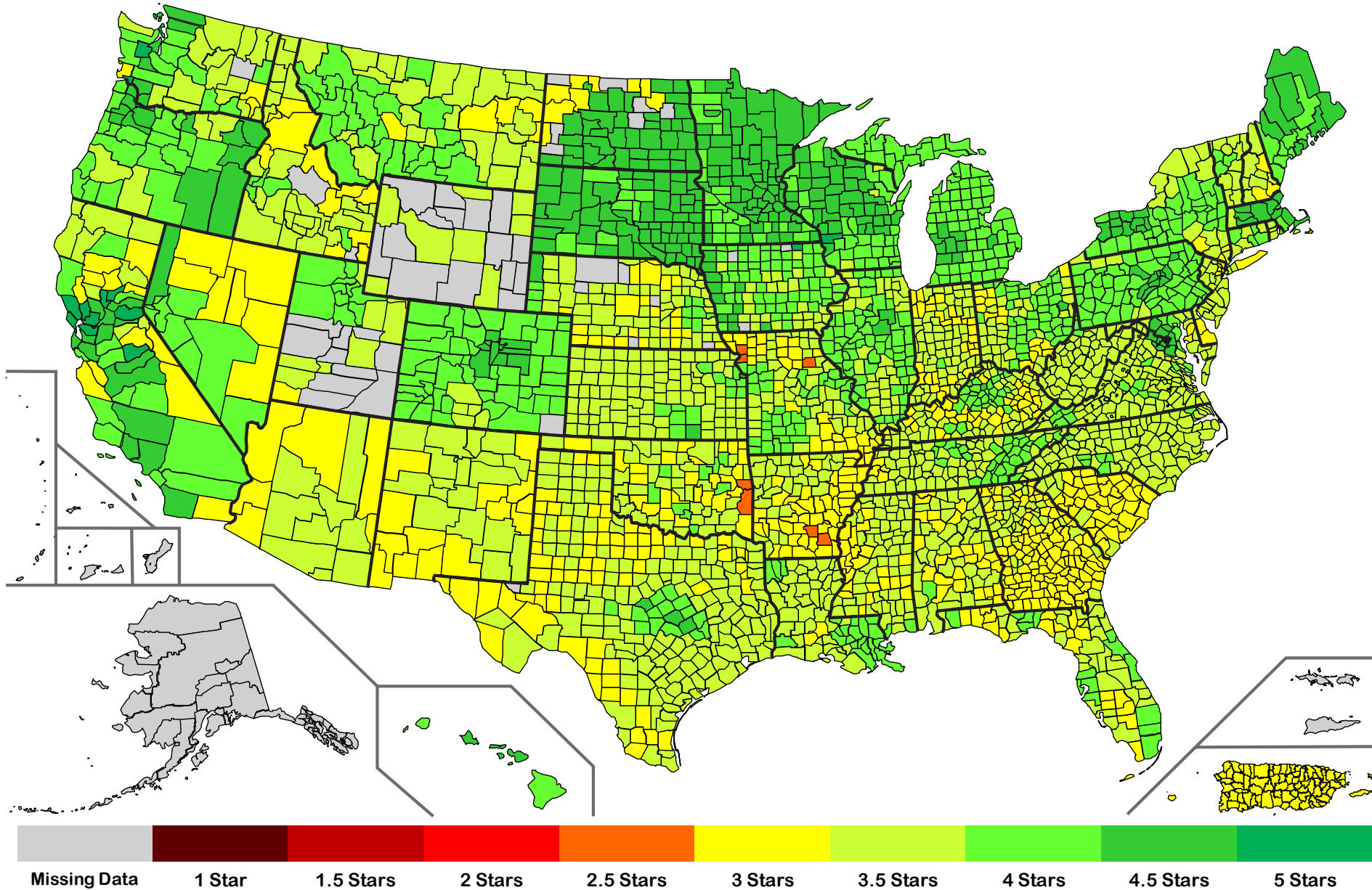
- The availability of highly rated MA-PDs and PDPs has increased since 2012.
- The MA-PD maps for 2015 compared to 2012 show significantly more light green (3.5 stars) and green (4 or more stars) compared to yellow (3 stars) and orange (2.5 stars) in 2012.
- In 2015 the enrollment weighted star average for PDPs across the country is at least 3.5 stars with many areas having an average of 4 or more stars compared to an average of 3 stars for PDPs in 2012 with very limited parts of the country having 4 or more stars.

<sup>4</sup> Comparisons of Star Ratings across years do not reflect annual revisions made by CMS to the Star Rating's methodology or measure set.

**2015 Star Ratings - Enrollment Weighted Average MA-PD Overall Rating in Non-EGHP Counties**

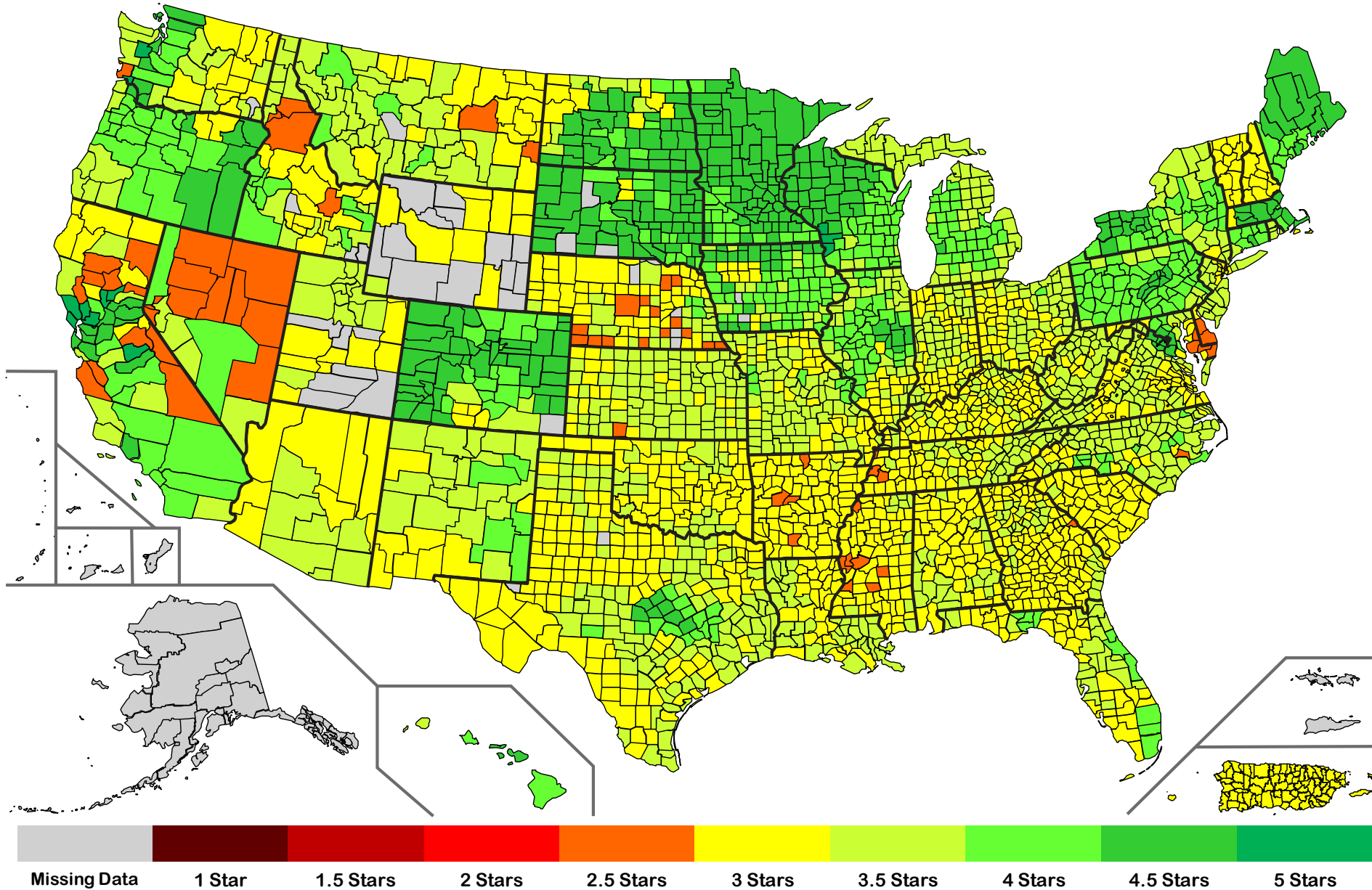


## 2014 Star Ratings - Enrollment Weighted Average MA-PD Overall Rating in Non-EGHP Counties



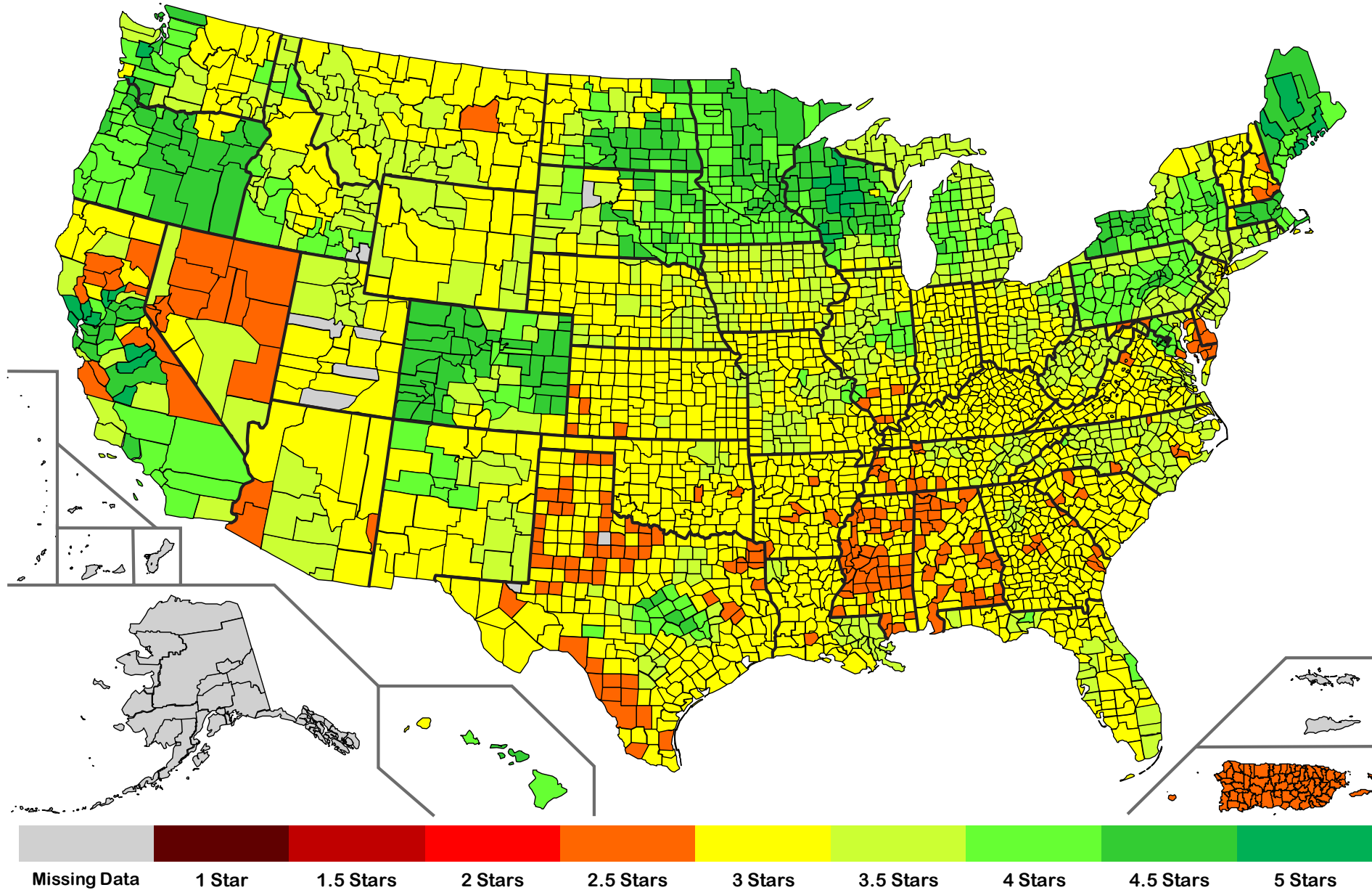


## 2013 Star Ratings - Enrollment Weighted Average MA-PD Overall Rating in Non-EGHP Counties

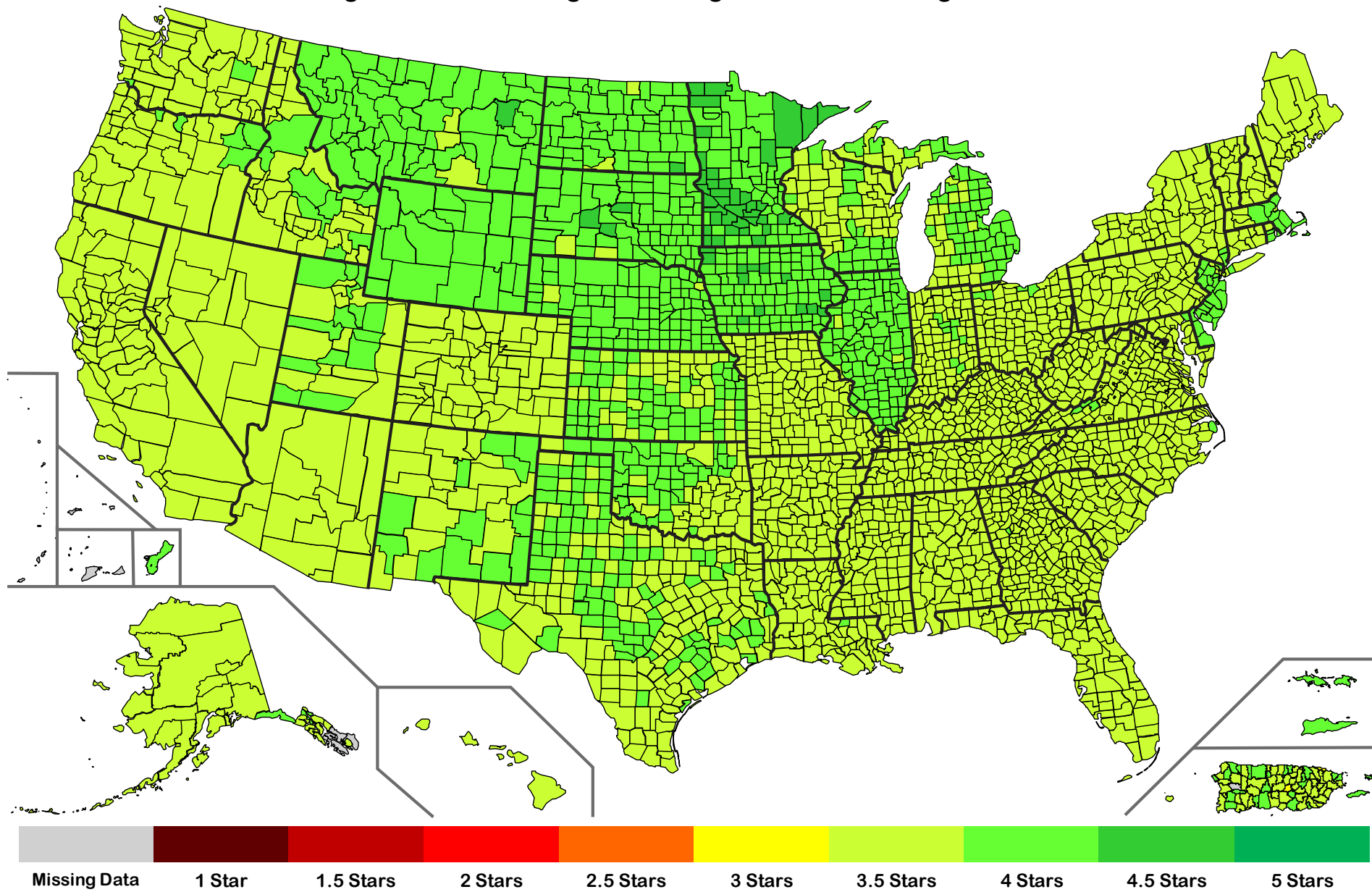




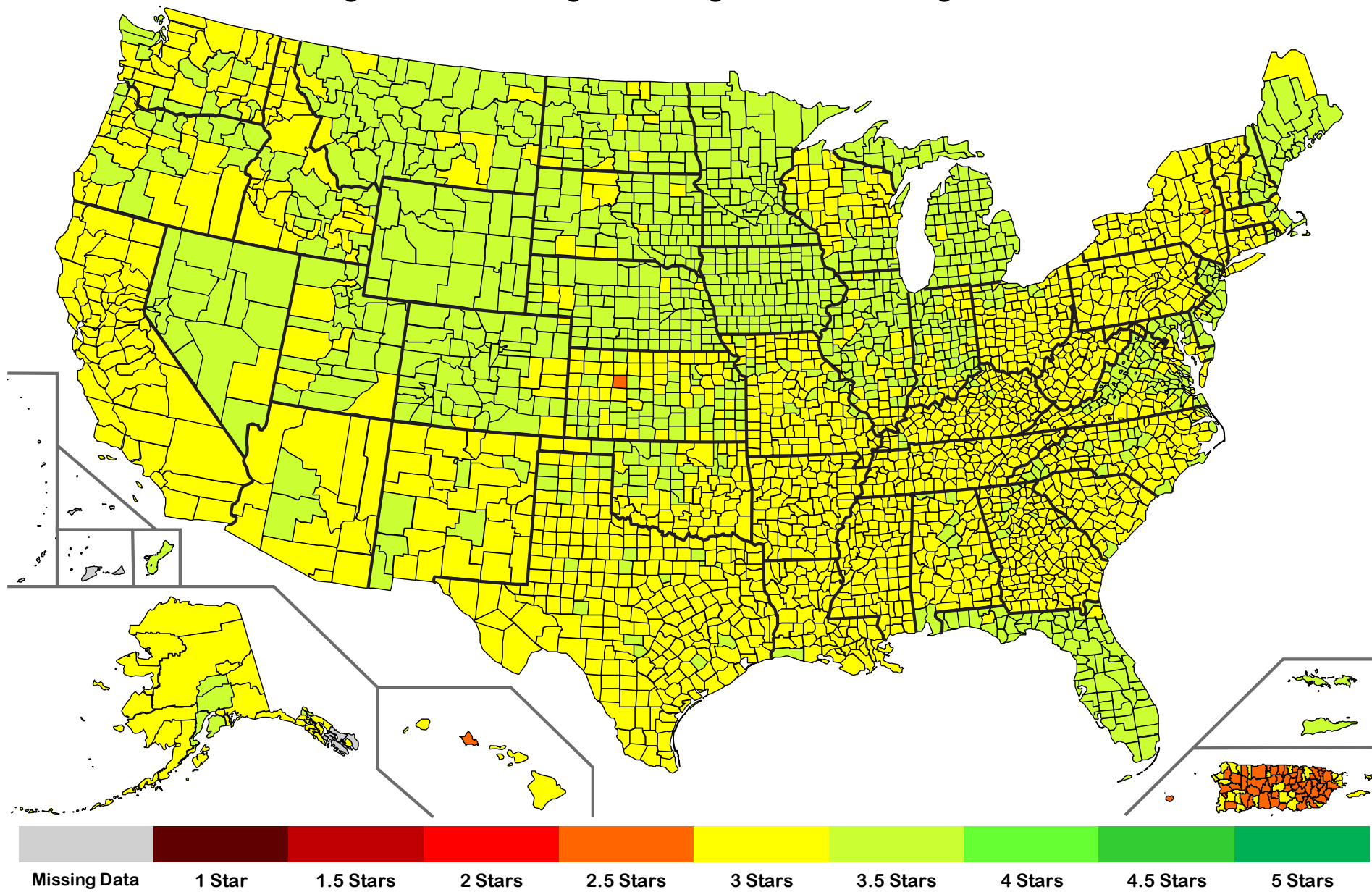
2012 Star Ratings - Enrollment Weighted Average MA-PD Overall Rating in Non-EGHP Counties



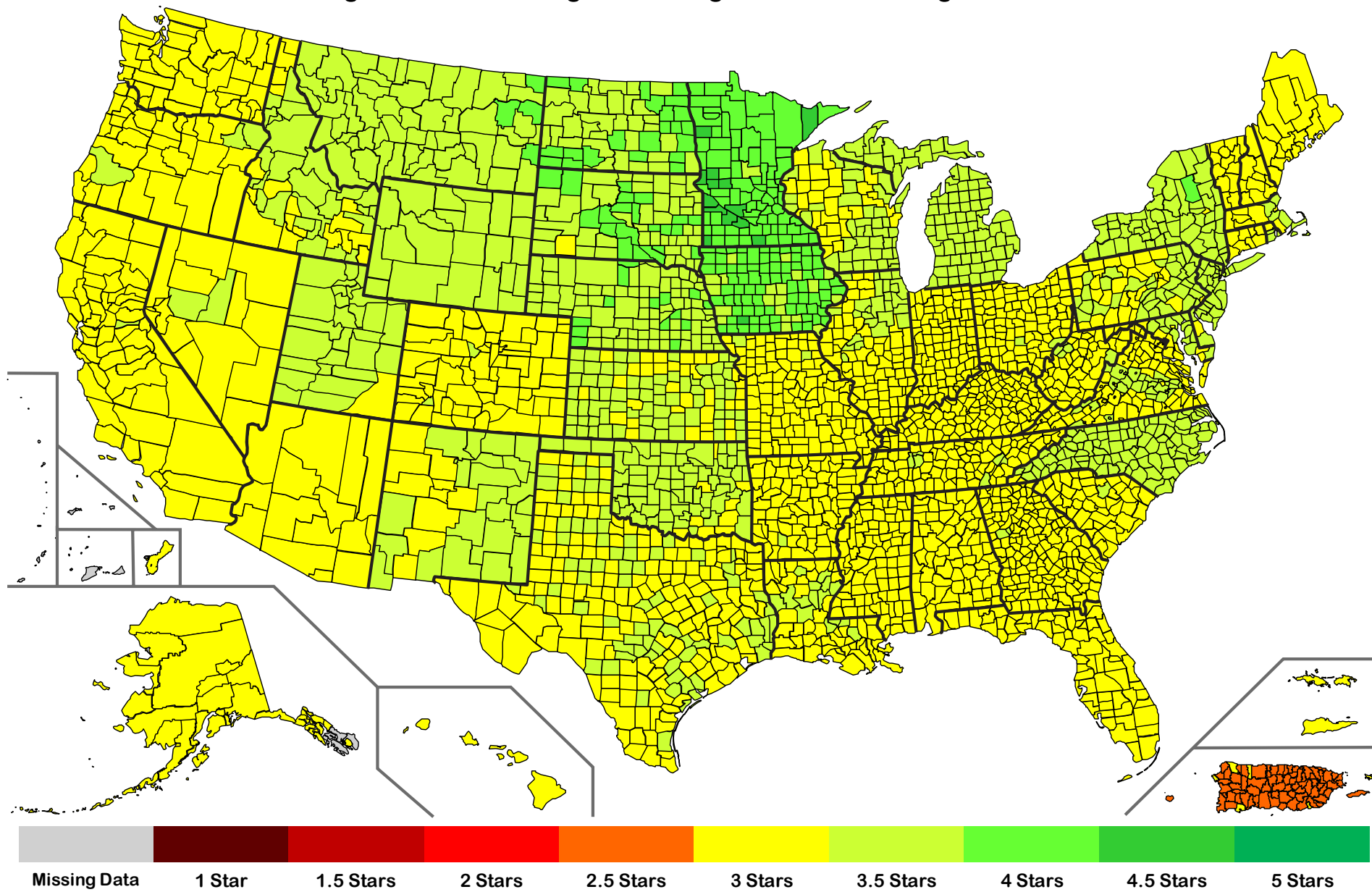
## 2015 Star Ratings - Enrollment Weighted Average PDP Part D Rating in Non-EGHP Counties



## 2014 Star Ratings - Enrollment Weighted Average PDP Part D Rating in Non-EGHP Counties

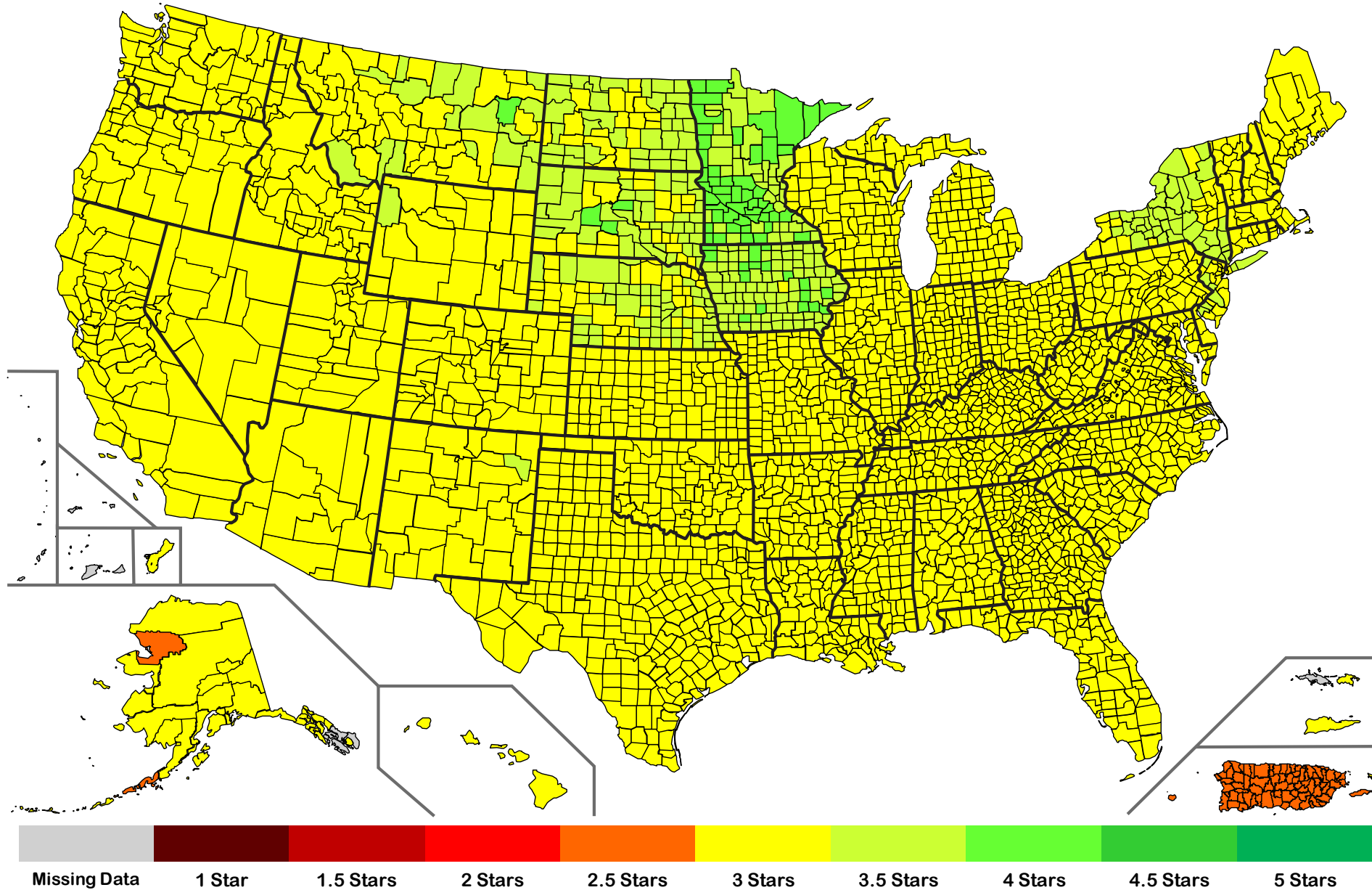


## 2013 Star Ratings - Enrollment Weighted Average PDP Part D Rating in Non-EGHP Counties





## 2012 Star Ratings - Enrollment Weighted Average PDP Part D Rating by Non-EGHP County



## Average Star Rating for Each Measure

Below we list the average Star Ratings for 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 Part C and D measures (Tables 12 and 13). In general, Star Ratings have gone up from 2012 to 2015 for most measures.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 12: Average Star Rating by Part C Measure**

2015 ID	Measure	2012 Average Star	2013 Average Star	2014 Average Star	2015 Average Star
C01	Colorectal Cancer Screening	3.1	3.5	3.9	4.2
C02	Cardiovascular Care – Cholesterol Screening	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.4
C03	Diabetes Care – Cholesterol Screening	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.2
C04	Annual Flu Vaccine	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.3
C05	Improving or Maintaining Physical Health	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6
C06	Improving or Maintaining Mental Health	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.5
C07	Monitoring Physical Activity	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.2
C08	Adult BMI Assessment	2.8	3.7	3.8	3.8
C09	Special Needs Plan (SNP) Care Management	n/a – new 2015	n/a – new 2015	n/a – new 2015	2.7
C10	Care for Older Adults – Medication Review	3.5	3.0	3.6	3.9
C11	Care for Older Adults – Functional Status Assessment	2.8	2.8	3.4	3.4
C12	Care for Older Adults – Pain Assessment	2.7	3.2	3.2	4.0
C13	Osteoporosis Management in Women who had a Fracture	2.1	1.4	1.9	2.1
C14	Diabetes Care – Eye Exam	3.5	3.4	4.0	3.7
C15	Diabetes Care – Kidney Disease Monitoring	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.2
C16	Diabetes Care – Blood Sugar Controlled	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3
C17	Diabetes Care – Cholesterol Controlled	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5
C18	Controlling Blood Pressure	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.7
C19	Rheumatoid Arthritis Management	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.5
C20	Improving Bladder Control	1.8	2.3	2.3	1.9
C21	Reducing the Risk of Falling	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.3
C22	Plan All-Cause Readmissions	3.3	3.0	3.5	3.0
C23	Getting Needed Care	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4
C24	Getting Appointments and Care Quickly	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
C25	Customer Service	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
C26	Rating of Health Care Quality	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7
C27	Rating of Health Plan	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4
C28	Care Coordination	n/a – new 2013	3.4	3.4	3.4
C29	Complaints about the Health Plan	3.2	3.0	3.0	4.2
C30	Members Choosing to Leave the Plan	3.3	3.5	3.7	4.3
C31	Health Plan Quality Improvement	n/a – new 2013	3.1	3.5	3.5
C32	Plan Makes Timely Decisions about Appeals	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.2
C33	Reviewing Appeals Decisions	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.7

**Table 13: Average Star Rating by Part D Measure**

2015 ID	Measure	2012 MAPD Average Star	2013 MAPD Average Star	2014 MAPD Average Star	2015 MAPD Average Star	2012 PDP Average Star	2013 PDP Average Star	2014 PDP Average Star	2015 PDP Average Star
D01	Appeals Auto-Forward	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.3	2.4	2.7	2.5
D02	Appeals Upheld	2.4	3.2	3.3	3.7	2.4	3.3	3.3	3.9
D03	Complaints about the Drug Plan	3.1	3.0	3	4.2	2.9	3.7	3.4	4.3
D04	Members Choosing to Leave the Plan	3.3	3.5	3.7	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.7
D05	Drug Plan Quality Improvement	n/a – new 2013	3.4	3.7	4.1	n/a – new 2013	4.1	3.6	4.2
D06	Rating of Drug Plan	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.9
D07	Getting Needed Prescription Drugs	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.8
D08	MPF Price Accuracy	n/a – new 2013	3.8	3.9	4.6	n/a – new 2013	4.2	4.1	4.7
D09	High Risk Medication	2.7	3.1	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.7
D10	Diabetes Treatment	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.5	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.1
D11	Medication Adherence for Diabetes Medications	3.1	3.1	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.0
D12	Medication Adherence for Hypertension (RAS antagonists)	3.1	3.0	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.6	3.8
D13	Medication Adherence for Cholesterol (Statins)	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.6	4.2

<sup>5</sup> Changes in the average Star Rating does not always reflect changes in performance since for some measures there have been significant changes in industry performance and shifts in the distribution of scores.



## **Attachment A – 2015 Star Ratings Measure Changes**

Below are some additional changes to the 2015 Star Ratings in terms of the measures included.

### **Specification Changes**

- Part C measure: C04 – Annual Flu Vaccine - CAHPS survey respondents were asked if they received a flu shot since July of each year (instead of September). Due to this specification change, the predetermined 4-star threshold was removed for this measure.
- Part C & D measures: C31 & D05 – Quality Improvement - increased measure weights to 5.
- Part D measure: D09 – High Risk Medication – now uses the updated Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) HRM list.
- Part D measure: D11 - Medication Adherence for Diabetes Medications – added two drug classes (meglitinides and incretin mimetic agents) to the numerator and denominator.
- Part D measures: D11, D12 & D13 – all three measures adjusted to account for beneficiaries with hospice enrollment and/or Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) stays.
- Improvement measures – contracts must have 2.5 or more stars as their highest rating calculated without inclusion of the improvement measure in order to be eligible to have their data calculated with the improvement measures included.

### **Additions**

- Part C measure: C09 – Special Needs Plan (SNP) Care Management: with a weight of 1.

### **Transitioned Measures**

- Part C measure: Breast Cancer Screening
- Part C & D measures: Beneficiary Access and Performance Problems

### **Dropped Measures**

- Part C measure: Glaucoma Testing - NCQA has stopped collecting this HEDIS measure.
- Part C & D measures: Call Center – Foreign Language Interpreter and TTY Availability.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> The Part C and D Call Center- Foreign Language Interpreter and TTY Availability measures were removed from the 2015 Star Ratings due to concerns about data quality found during the first plan preview.