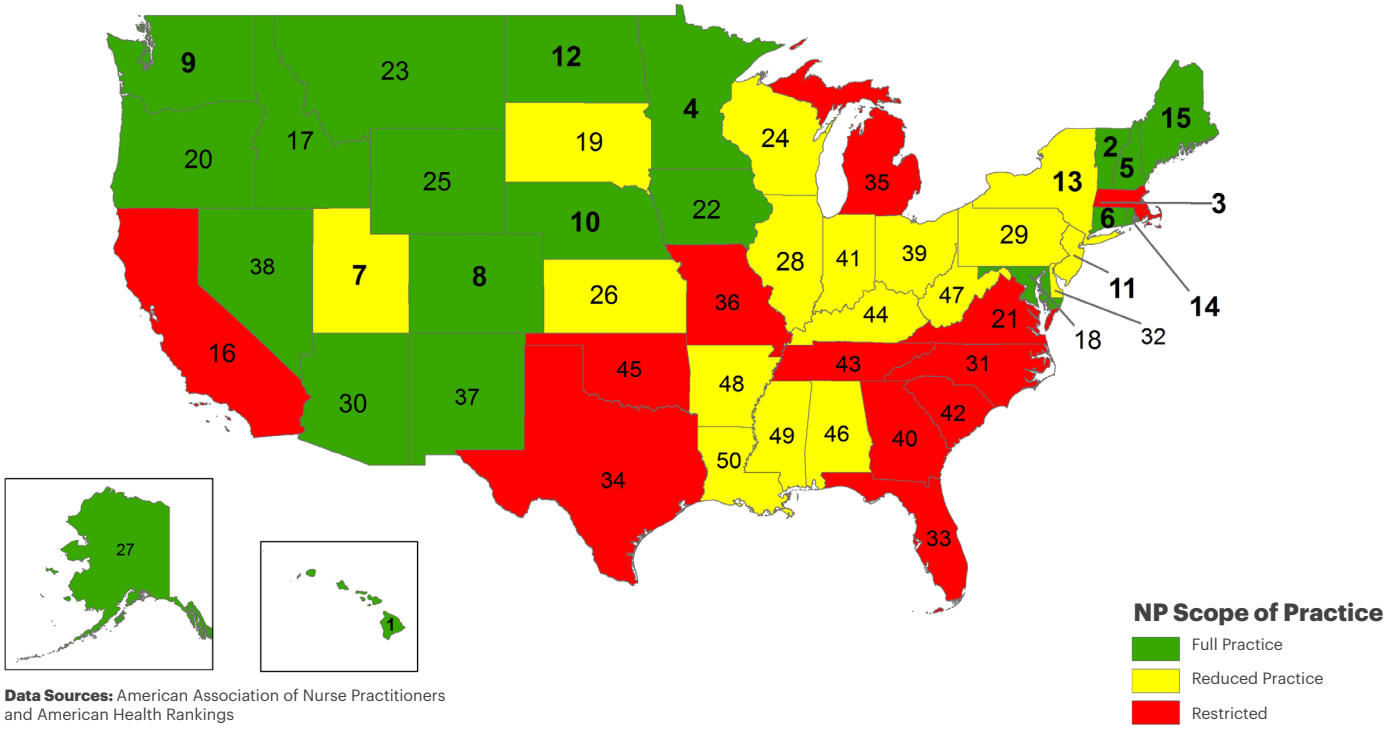
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP®
Center for Clinician Advancement

Correlation between Nurse Practitioner (NP) Scope of Practice and Overall Health Rankings, by State/October 2016



Data Sources: American Association of Nurse Practitioners and American Health Rankings

Research High Level Summary

- State-based regulations limit nurse practitioners (NPs) from practicing to full extent of education and training which impacts access to affordable, safe and high quality care
- A highly significant correlation ($p < 0.0003$) exists between NP practice environment (AANP definition) and overall health rankings (America's Health Rankings)
- Change is required due to rising population of insured Americans, aging and more diverse population and a shortage of primary care physicians; NPs can fill many of these gaps with full scope of practice
- Advocacy is needed to influence change in policy to support improving access to quality, cost-effective care

America's Health Rankings (www.americashealthrankings.org)

- Analyzes comprehensive set of behaviors (i.e. everyday activities that affect health), community and environment conditions (i.e. clean water, housing), policies (i.e. influences availability of resources) and clinical care data (access, quality, appropriateness and cost of care) to provide a holistic view of the health of the nation
- Completed in partnership between the United Health Foundation and the American Public Health Association and can be used to promote public conversation concerning health in our states
- Includes measures such as
  - Obesity
  - Disparity in health status
  - Smoking
  - Preventable hospitalization
  - Drug death
  - Crimes
  - Primary care physician
  - Immunizations

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centerforclinicianadvancement@uhg.com
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