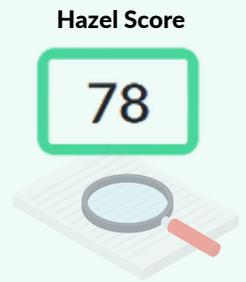


What is the Hazel Score?

What is the Hazel Score?

In the US, regulatory inspection scoring and reporting is fragmented and unstandardized, making it difficult to understand and extract insights from data across more than 2,500 local health departments.

The Hazel Score is a powerful tool that can help food safety and quality professionals cut through the noise and make sense of this otherwise messy data landscape. A normalized, percentile-based, 0-to-100 score that is assigned to all inspections, the Hazel Score can help you **easily understand and improve your health inspection performance.**



Benefits

Risk Identification

Scores assigned by the health department tend to be overly lenient, obfuscating risk and low performers.

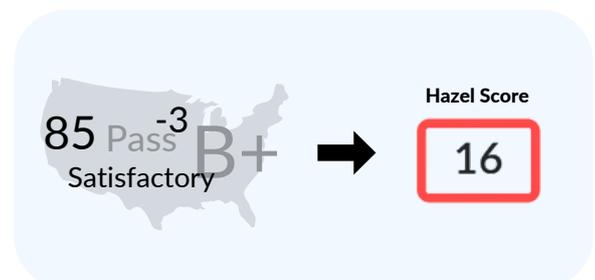
The Hazel Score helps you clearly differentiate between high and low performers so you can uncover and address food safety risks.



Cross-Jurisdiction Comparisons

Some health departments use letter grades, while others use numeric scores, or even Pass/Fail distinctions. And over 40% of health agencies don't assign scores at all.

All inspections receive a Hazel Score that normalizes for local health department idiosyncrasies, enabling comparisons across the country and identifying areas for improvement.



Interpreting the Hazel Score

- Only perfect inspections — those with zero violations — receive a Hazel Score of 100.
- An inspection receiving a Hazel Score of 41 can be interpreted as having performed equal to or better than 41% of inspections in its local jurisdiction.
- An inspection with a Hazel Score of 50 represents average performance.

To help users more easily interpret its scores, Hazel offers the following rating buckets:



Frequently Asked Questions

(FAQs)

How is the Hazel Score Calculated?

To calculate a Hazel Score for an inspection, our system considers the number of violations cited, assigning heavier weights or penalties to both critical violations and uncommon violations. All the weighted inspection scores in a jurisdiction are then ranked from worst to best, and correspondingly assigned a percentile rank (Hazel Score) from 0 to 100. Only inspections that have no violations receive a perfect score of 100.

Should the Hazel Score be used as substitute for a health department score?

No. The Hazel Score is designed to supplement health department data and serve as a risk-identification tool to help uncover insights. We don't recommend using Hazel Scores to replace health department scores, nor do we necessarily recommend using them to reward or penalize restaurant operators.

An inspection received just 1 non-critical violation, but was assigned a lower Hazel Score (e.g. 67). Why?

The Hazel Score is effectively a percentile ranking of an inspection's performance relative to all other inspections in its jurisdiction. A score of 67 would imply that an inspection performed worse than 33% of inspections in the same jurisdiction. We observe that on average across all jurisdictions, about 35% of inspections are perfect (i.e. zero violations). This effectively creates a concentration of inspections that are "tied" for first place. So when an inspection receives even 1 non-critical violation, the best Hazel score it can receive by design is often in the 60s or 70s, depending on the exact concentration of perfect of scores in its jurisdiction. It is for this reason that we assign the "Good" rating to Hazel Scores between 50 and 99.

An inspection with a good health department score (e.g. 86) was given a very low Hazel Score (e.g. 12). Why?

Health inspection scores assigned by health departments are typically lenient. In jurisdictions that use 0-to-100 scoring systems, over 90% of health department-assigned scores are above an 80. These scoring practices don't always accurately reflect true inspection performance, and can obfuscate low performers — the locations that are often in most need of food safety support and improvement.

The Hazel Score, on the other hand, is designed to rank all inspections in a given jurisdiction with respect to another, which means that there must be some bottom, average, and top performing inspections (and everything in between). In this case hypothetical case, although the health department scored the inspection an 86, when compared against all other inspections in the same jurisdiction, the inspection actually performed significantly worse than average, only outperforming 12% of other local inspections.

Are Hazel Scores published on Yelp?

No. The Hazel Score is designed to serve as a tool for food safety and quality professionals to better analyze inspection performance for their brands both within and across jurisdictions, and Hazel Scores are only visible to internal teams via our Food Safety Insights dashboard. To learn more about what health inspection information is published on Yelp, visit our [Yelp Partnership / FAQ page](#).



Don't see your question on the list? We're happy to chat and answer any other questions related to the Hazel Score or our technology solutions. Send your customer success manager an email or [contact us here](#).