

METHODOLOGY

America's Best Fertility Clinics 2024

statista 

Newsweek



Methodology - America's Best Fertility Clinics 2024

Summary of the project

- The 2nd edition of **America's Best Fertility Clinics** ranking awards the nation's **leading 125** fertility clinics.
- Included are facilities defined as a fertility clinic and ART Provider by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)⁽¹⁾.
- The evaluation is based on four pillars:
 - **Nationwide online survey:** During the survey period from January to February 2024, Newsweek and Statista invited reproductive endocrinologists, infertility specialists, obstetricians/gynecologists working in and referring patients to fertility clinics, as well as other medical professionals (e.g., registered nurses, laboratory assistants) and fertility clinic administrators/managers working in fertility clinics to participate in the survey.
 - **Quality metrics:** Assisted Reproductive Technology metrics with a focus on indicators relevant to fertility clinics published by CDC were analyzed.
 - **Accreditation data** on fertility clinics provided by The Joint Commission (JCI)⁽²⁾, College of American Pathologists (CAP)⁽³⁾, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)⁽⁴⁾, American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)⁽⁵⁾.
 - **Patient satisfaction** data based on google reviews was included.
- Each fertility clinic is analyzed and scored on the aforementioned data points, the final rank is the result of the weighted subscores.

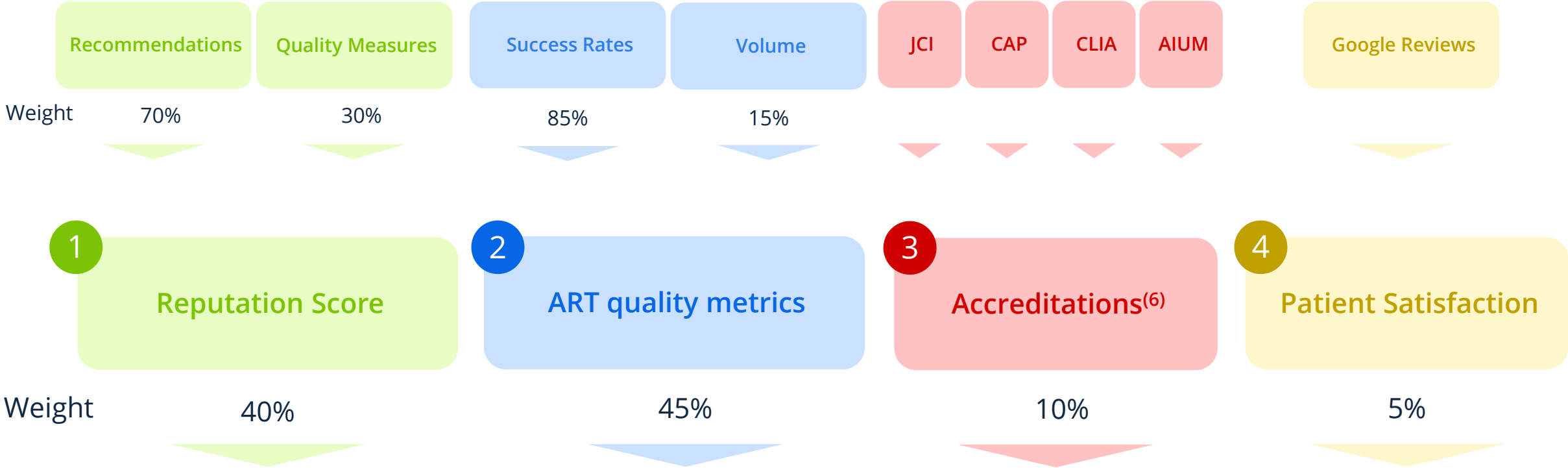
New features and changes in the 2024 edition

The following list provides a brief overview of the major changes in this year's edition compared to the America's Best Fertility Clinics 2023 ranking:

- **Patient satisfaction data:** Google reviews were included in the scoring model as a proxy of patient experience.
- **Addition of accreditations:** Accreditations from AIUM and CLIA have been added to the scoring model, additionally the weighting of the accreditation pillar was increased to reflect the clinics' efforts for external quality assurance.
- **Increase of quality metrics weighting:** The weighting of the quality metrics pillar was increased within the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on the medical key performance indicators.

Clinic evaluation based on four data sources

A score was calculated for each facility clinic based on the scoring model



SCORE FOR EACH FERTILITY CLINIC

4 (6) To achieve the maximum accreditation score, fertility clinics must have 3 out of the 4 accreditations listed above.

Medical professionals with knowledge about fertility clinics were surveyed nationwide

National online survey

From January to February 2024, Statista invited doctors, fertility clinic managers and other medical professionals (e.g., laboratory assistants, registered nurses) with knowledge about fertility clinics to an online survey. The survey was available to medical professionals to participate on Newsweek.com. Additionally, participants were invited via e-mail.



Nationwide online survey among medical professionals and clinic managers working in and referring patients to fertility clinics.



Participants were asked to recommend facilities which are notable fertility clinics by considering the quality of diagnosis, treatment, staff, and accommodation & services.⁽⁷⁾



The recommendations were weighted based on the order given by the participant. Additionally, the professional experience of the participant was considered. A score was assigned to each facility based on the number of weighted recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONSTITUTE 70 % OF THE REPUTATION SCORE

(7) Recommendations for own employer/fertility clinic were not allowed.

A quality score was included based on recommendations for each fertility clinic

Quality assessment as part of the reputation score

- For each recommended fertility clinic, participants were asked to assess the quality of
 - Diagnosis of fertility problems
 - Treatment of fertility problems
 - Fertility counselling
 - Accommodation & service
 - Overall nurse staffing
- The quality scale ranged from 1 ("Poor") to 10 ("Excellent")
- A quality score was assigned to each facility based on the weighted average of these ratings.



QUALITY SCORE CONSTITUTES 30% OF THE REPUTATION SCORE

A quality metrics score was calculated for each facility

Fertility specific performance indicators – Assisted Reproductive Technology

- Medical Key Performance Indicators relevant to fertility care published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention⁽⁸⁾ were analyzed⁽⁹⁾
- Since 1995, CDC has worked in consultation with the **Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology** (SART) and the **American Society for Reproductive Medicine** (ASRM) to report ART success rates.
- For each of the measures a sub-score was calculated across all weighted age categories
- Fertility clinics must have reported **at least three** of the eight Success Rates measures to receive a Success Rates score
- The **weighted sub-scores** were used to calculate the total quality metrics score
- The quality metrics are based on the most recent CDC's ART Success Rates Report, reporting data of the 2021 cycle

Data on Assisted Reproductive Technology Success Rates:

- % of discontinued cycles after egg retrieval and before transfer or banking
- % of cycles used for fertility preservation
- % of egg retrieval cycles discontinued without any eggs retrieved
- Average number of embryos transferred
- % of cycles discontinued before an egg or embryo was transferred or banked
- % of embryo transfers that resulted in live-birth deliveries for Donor Eggs
- % of actual egg retrievals that resulted in live-birth deliveries for Own Eggs
- % of embryo transfers that resulted in live-birth deliveries for Own Eggs

Data on Assisted Reproductive Technology General Volume:

- Number of intended retrievals
- Number of retrievals
- Number of transfers
- Total number of cycles

SCORE FOR ART QUALITY METRICS CONTRIBUTES 45% TOWARDS OVERALL SCORE

Accreditations and patient satisfaction were used as additional elements of the scoring model

Accreditation and patient satisfaction scores

Accreditations

- **The Joint Commission (JCI)**

To be certified, the laboratory must undergo an inspection survey, which involves e.g., an assessment of the facility, on-site interviews and tracing of the patient's experience.⁽¹⁰⁾

- **College of American Pathologists (CAP), Reproductive Laboratory Accreditation Program**

To be certified, the laboratory must prove their standards in patient care through an inspection based on a predefined checklist from CAP.⁽¹¹⁾

- **Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)**

The CLIA program is administered by three federal agencies: the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and CDC. To be certified as part of the CLIA program, the facilities must provide information about their laboratory operation to CMS.⁽¹²⁾

- **American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)**

To be certified, the laboratory must provide case studies and supporting documents, which will be assessed by the accreditation body.⁽¹³⁾

Patient Satisfaction

- Patient satisfaction reflects the quality of care from the patient's perspective, the quality other patients can expect to receive, and influences a clinic's reputation and financial performance
- **Evaluations from Google** were researched for each fertility clinic as a proxy of the patient satisfaction in the clinics
- Fertility clinics receive ratings between 0 and 5 stars, a minimum of 5 reviews must be met to receive a patient satisfaction score

ACCREDITATIONS CONTRIBUTE 10% AND GOOGLE SCORES 5% TOWARDS OVERALL SCORE

(10) Source: <https://www.cap.org/laboratory-improvement/accreditation/laboratory-accreditation-program>

(11) Source: <https://www.jointcommission.org/>

(12) Source: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/clinical-laboratory-improvement-amendments>

(13) Source: <https://www.aium.org/accreditation/become-accredited>

As a result, the 125 best fertility clinics in the US were awarded

Rank	Fertility Clinic	City	State
1	Weill Cornell Medicine - Center For Reproductive Medicine	New York	NY
2	Columbia University Fertility Center	New York	NY
3	Duke Fertility Center	Morrisville	NC
4	Cleveland Clinic Fertility Center	Beachwood	OH
5	NYU Langone Fertility Center	New York	NY

[...]

125 LEADING FERTILITY CLINICS WERE AWARDED

Fertility clinics partner network

Overview of involved parties

Newsweek

About Newsweek

Newsweek is a premier news magazine and website that has been bringing high-quality journalism to readers around the globe for over 80 years.

Newsweek provides the latest news, in-depth analysis and ideas about international issues, technology, business, culture and politics. In addition to its online and mobile presence, Newsweek publishes weekly English print editions in the United States, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia as well as editions in Japanese, Korean, Polish, Serbian and Spanish.

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Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of clinics that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations and publicly available data sources at the time. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last calendar year. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period 01/03/2023-29/02/2024 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

Moreover, due to the legal restrictions pertaining to abortion laws and uncertainties regarding personhood status of embryos in the United States, metrics involving frozen embryos were excluded from the analysis. For applicable legislation concerning assisted reproduction treatments in your state, please consult the clinics and/or legal counsel directly.

Reference to specific commercial products, manufacturers, companies, or trademarks does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation by the U.S. Government, Department of Health and Human Services, or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about fertility clinics or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.