

METHODOLOGY

# America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2025

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista 

**Newsweek**



# Methodology – America’s Best Maternity Hospitals 2025

## Summary of the project

- High quality maternity care, provided from pregnancy through birth and postpartum is key to the long-term health to newborns and women who give birth. Given that maternity care is a major component of healthcare in the U.S., Statista and Newsweek have partnered for the 4<sup>th</sup> time to identify “America’s Best Maternity Hospitals”.
- The **America’s Best Maternity Hospitals 2025** ranking awards the **leading 444 hospitals** in the field of maternity in the U.S.
- The list is based on three pillars:
  - 1. Hospital quality metrics** with a focus on indicators relevant to maternity care.
  - 2. Results from patient experience surveys.**
  - 3. Nationwide online survey:** Healthcare professionals and hospital managers with knowledge about maternity processes e.g., neonatal and perinatal doctors, nurses and midwives were asked to recommend leading maternity hospitals in the U.S.
- To be eligible for the analysis, maternity hospitals must report their performance data and receive at least a 2-star rating from CMS. Additionally, the hospitals must meet the minimum thresholds for the aforementioned pillars<sup>(1)</sup>.
- Based on pre-defined thresholds for each of the three pillars, awarded hospitals are grouped into two categories (**5 ribbons/4 ribbons**).

# New features and changes in the 2025 edition

The following list provides a brief overview of the **major changes in this year's edition**, compared to the America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2024 ranking:

- **Increased thresholds:** The threshold values for both categories were increased to incentivize improvement within maternity care.
- **New hospital data source AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database 2022:** A key goal of this project is to increase the comprehensiveness of the ranking with more hospital data. The AHA Annual Survey Hospital Database contains data provided by more than 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care system and features over 1,300 hospital data points and is therefore a suitable source for the ranking.
- **Inclusion of additional quality metrics datapoints:**
  - Data on hospital commitment to health equity from CMS.
  - Inclusion of the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition Program.
  - Inclusion of the WHO and UNICEFs Baby-Friendly Hospital USA (BFUSA) designation.
- **Inclusion of previous year's recommendation data:** To account for reputational continuity, recommendation data from last year was factored into the reputation pillar.

# The maternity hospital evaluation is based on three pillars

Data sources



A quality metrics score was calculated for each hospital (1/3)

## 1 Hospital quality metrics

Hospital quality metrics relevant to maternity care from multiple data sources were analyzed.

The comprehensive dataset, provided by the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**<sup>(2)</sup>, is available for over 4,600 hospitals publicly reporting quality information on the Hospital Compare platform. It includes information on hospital characteristics, quality measures, patient satisfaction, performance metrics, and Medicare reimbursements.

- The following indicators of the **Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** were used as part of the quality metrics score:

### Maternal care

- Elective delivery
- Exclusive breast milk feeding
- Rate of cesarean birth
- Unexpected complications in term newborns per 1,000 livebirths
- Maternity morbidity structural measure

### General indicators

- Infection prevention
  - MRSA Bacteremia
  - Clostridium Difficile
  - Sepsis care
- Patient satisfaction
- Personnel vaccination
  - COVID-19 vaccination coverage
  - Influenza vaccination coverage

### Health equity

- Hospital commitment to health equity
  - Strategic priority
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis
  - Quality improvement
  - Leadership engagement

## SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

# A quality metrics score was calculated for each hospital (2/3)

## 1 Hospital quality metrics

The **AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database**<sup>(3)</sup> has been included in the scoring model. The database contains data provided by more than 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care systems and features over 1,300 hospital data points. For America's Best Maternity Hospitals, structural and organizational data of hospital facilities was used to be included in the hospital quality metrics score.

- The following indicator groups of the **AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database 2022** were used as part of the quality metrics score<sup>(4)</sup>:

### Maternity-specific indicators

- Closed unit - neonatal intensive care
- Women's health center/services
- Birthing room/LDR room/LDRP room
- Neonatal intensive & intermediate care
- Obstetrics care & Obstetric unit care level

### General indicators

- Children's wellness program
- Hospital research & screening
- Patient education center
- Technological equipment
- Workforce strategic planning

### Health equity

- Health equity goals
- DEI disaggregated data
- Health equity strategic plan

## SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

A quality metrics score was calculated for each hospital (3/3)

## 1 Hospital quality metrics

Additionally, the following accreditations and specialized program enrollment were included for the hospital quality metrics score:

- The **Joint Commission (TJC)**<sup>(5)</sup> data was available for:
  - Advanced certification in perinatal care
  - Maternal Levels of Care verification
- **Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)**<sup>(6)</sup> data was available for:
  - Hospitals' participation in programs related to maternal and child health.
- **American Nurses Credentialing Center**<sup>(7)</sup> data was available for:
  - ANCC Magnet Recognition Program
- The **WHO and UNICEFs Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative**<sup>(8)</sup> data was available for:
  - Hospitals that earned the Baby-Friendly USA (BFUSA) designation.

### SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

7 | (5) [The Joint Commission](#)  
(6) [Health Resources & Services Administration](#)  
(7) [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#)  
(8) [Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative](#)

# Patient experience data on hospitals was evaluated

## 2 Patient experience

- Publicly available data from patient surveys was used to analyze the overall patient experience in the hospital<sup>(9)</sup>.
- As a dimension of perceived quality, patient experience reflects both the **quality of care** (from the patient's perspective) as well as the **patient's satisfaction with the hospital stay**.
- Survey topics associated to maternity care:
  - Cleanliness of the hospital
  - Communication of the nurses/doctors
  - Care transition
  - Communication about medicines
  - Discharge information
  - Quietness
  - Staff responsiveness

### SCORE FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE

# Medical experts with knowledge about maternity care were surveyed nationwide

## 3 Hospital recommendations from peers

From January to February 2025, Statista invited hospital managers and medical professionals with knowledge about maternity hospitals 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 neonatal and perinatal healthcare professionals and hospital managers. Participants were invited via e-mail.



Participants were asked to recommend maternity hospitals and to rate them in the areas of: Perinatal care, operative obstetrics, patient education & counseling, accommodation & service, and nurse & midwife staffing<sup>(10)</sup>.



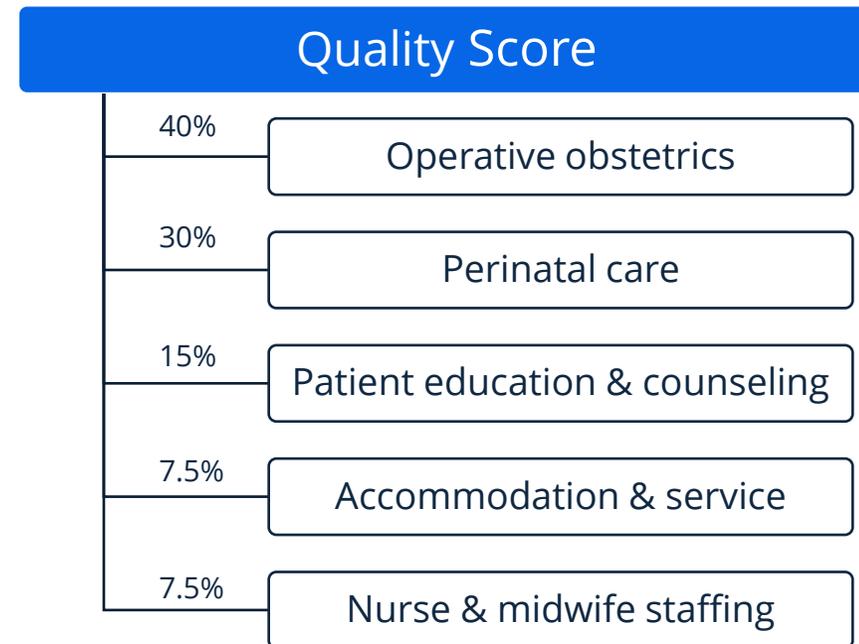
The recommendations were weighted based on the order given by the participant. Additionally, the professional experience of the participant was considered. Based on the number of weighted recommendations the **reputation score** was determined.

### REPUTATION SCORE

A quality score was included based on recommendations for each maternity hospital

### 3 Quality assessment as part of the reputation score

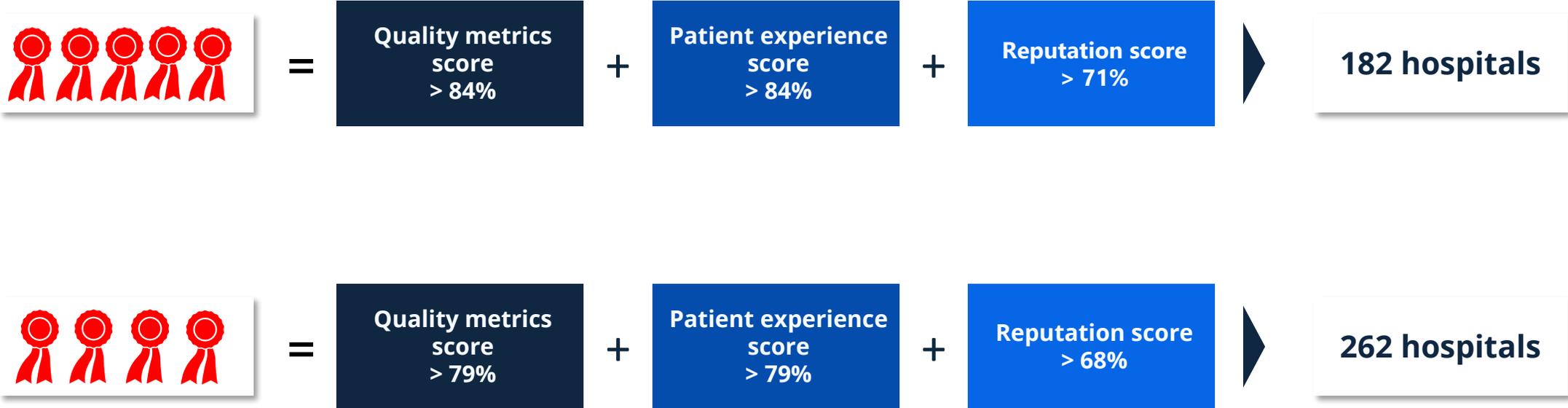
- For each recommended maternity hospital, participants were asked to assess the quality of:
  - Operative obstetrics
  - Perinatal care
  - Patient education & counseling
  - Accommodation & service
  - Nurse & midwife staffing
- The quality scale ranged from 1 (“Poor”) to 10 (“Excellent”)
- A quality dimensions score was assigned based on participant-reported importance
- A quality score was assigned to each hospital based on the weighted average of these ratings.



REPUTATION SCORE

# Maternity hospitals were categorized based on data thresholds

Only hospitals with an outstanding performance are included in the ranking. The predefined thresholds for at least 4 ribbons must be reached.



As a result, the 444 best maternity hospitals in the US were awarded

Result table

Ribbons	Hospital	City	State
	<b>AdventHealth Avista</b>	Louisville	CO
	<b>AdventHealth Littleton</b>	Littleton	CO
	<b>AdventHealth Orlando</b>	Orlando	FL
	<b>AdventHealth Shawnee Mission</b>	Merriam	KS
	<b>AdventHealth Winter Park</b>	Winter Park	FL

[...]

444 LEADING MATERNITY HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED

# America's Best Maternity Hospitals partner network

Overview of involved parties



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The Newsweek logo, consisting of the word "Newsweek" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

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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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# Legal disclaimer for the ranking America's Best Maternity Hospitals

## Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of hospitals 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 02/25/2024-02/24/2025 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.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about hospitals or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. Due to the focus on uncomplicated pregnancies, no conclusions towards high-risk pregnancies and specialized obstetrics care pertaining to these situations can be drawn from this ranking. Please note that data are subject to change and may be affected by continuing differences among states in abortion and child-birth complications. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.

# Appendix

## Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used

1. Total hospital bed (calculated)\*
2. Accountable for meeting health equity goals – CEO
3. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
4. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
5. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
6. Birthing room/LDR room/LDRP room – hospital
7. Children's wellness program - hospital
8. Closed unit - neonatal intensive care
9. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
10. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
11. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions – training
12. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and HCS governance
13. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and HCS leadership
14. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
15. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
16. Health research – hospital
17. Health screenings – hospital
18. Imaging centers
19. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
20. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning
21. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
22. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) – hospital
23. Neonatal intensive care – hospital
24. Neonatal intermediate care – hospital
25. Obstetric unit care level
26. Obstetrics care – hospital
27. Patient education center – hospital
28. Ultrasound – hospital
29. Women's health center/services – hospital