

METHODOLOGY

# America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2026

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista 

**Newsweek**



# Methodology – America’s Best Maternity Hospitals 2026

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> time to identify “America’s Best Maternity Hospitals”.
- The **America’s Best Maternity Hospitals 2026** ranking awards the **leading 461 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. Patient experience** from public hospital survey data.
  - 3. Reputation score:** 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 score at least 60% in 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 2026 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 2025 ranking:

- **New hospital data source:** Data from the Leapfrog Hospital and Surgery Center Survey, providing standards-based measures for hospital quality, maternity service availability, and maternity care performance.
- **Removal of data source:** The American Hospital Association (AHA) dataset has been removed to reduce reliance on primarily structural service-availability indicators.

# 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>(1)</sup> is available for over 4,600 hospitals publicly reporting quality information on the Care Compare platform. It includes information on hospital characteristics, quality measures, performance metrics, and Medicare reimbursements.

The following indicators from CMS were used as part of the quality metrics score:

### Maternal care

- Percentage of newborns that were exclusively fed breastmilk
- Rate of cesarean birth among nulliparous women
- Unexpected complications in term newborns per 1,000 live births
- Hospital participation in statewide or national maternal morbidity structural measures

### General indicators

- Number of *methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) laboratory-identified events
- Number of *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff) laboratory-identified events
- Percentage of healthcare workers receiving annual vaccinations against influenza
- Compliance with Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock early management measures

## SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

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

## 1 Hospital quality metrics

The comprehensive standards-based dataset, provided by **The Leapfrog Group**<sup>(2)</sup>, is available for over 2,500 hospitals publicly reporting achievement on the Leapfrog ratings platform. It includes information on patient rights and ethics, medication safety, staffing, patient safety and error management, maternal healthcare standards, and maternal care provision.

The following indicators from Leapfrog were used as part of the quality metrics score:

### Patient rights & ethics

- Health equity
- Informed consent

### Patient safety and errors

- Safe practice measures
- Hand hygiene
- Serious errors
- Safe surgery checklist

### Physician and nurse staffing

- Adult ICU staffing
- Care hours per day
- Nurse education

### Medication safety

- Computerized ordering
- Barcode administration
- Reconciliation

### Maternity care scores

- NTSV cesarean section
- Episiotomy
- Newborn bilirubin screening
- Appropriate DVT prophylaxis
- High risk delivery

### Maternity services

- Certified nurse-midwives for delivery
- Doulas for labor and delivery
- Breastfeeding & lactation services
- Postpartum tubal ligation
- Neonatal intensive care unit

## SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

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

## 1 Hospital quality metrics

The following accreditations and specialized program enrollments were additionally included for the hospital quality metrics score:

- **The Joint Commission (TJC)**<sup>(3)</sup> data were available for:
  - Advanced certification in perinatal care
  - Maternal Levels of Care verification
- **Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)**<sup>(4)</sup> data were available for:
  - Hospitals' participation in programs related to maternal and child health.
- The **WHO and UNICEFs Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative**<sup>(6)</sup> data were available for:
  - Hospitals that earned the Baby-Friendly USA (BFUSA) designation.

### SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

(3) [The Joint Commission](#)  
(4) [Health Resources & Services Administration](#)  
(5) [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>(6)</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 and hospital administrators with knowledge about maternity care were surveyed nationwide

### 3 Hospital recommendations from peers

From January to February 2026, 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>(7)</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<sup>(8)</sup>.

## REPUTATION SCORE

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

(8) Recommendations from the previous survey cycle were included to ensure stability over time, with a lower weighting.

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

### 3 Quality assessment as part of the professional survey

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”).

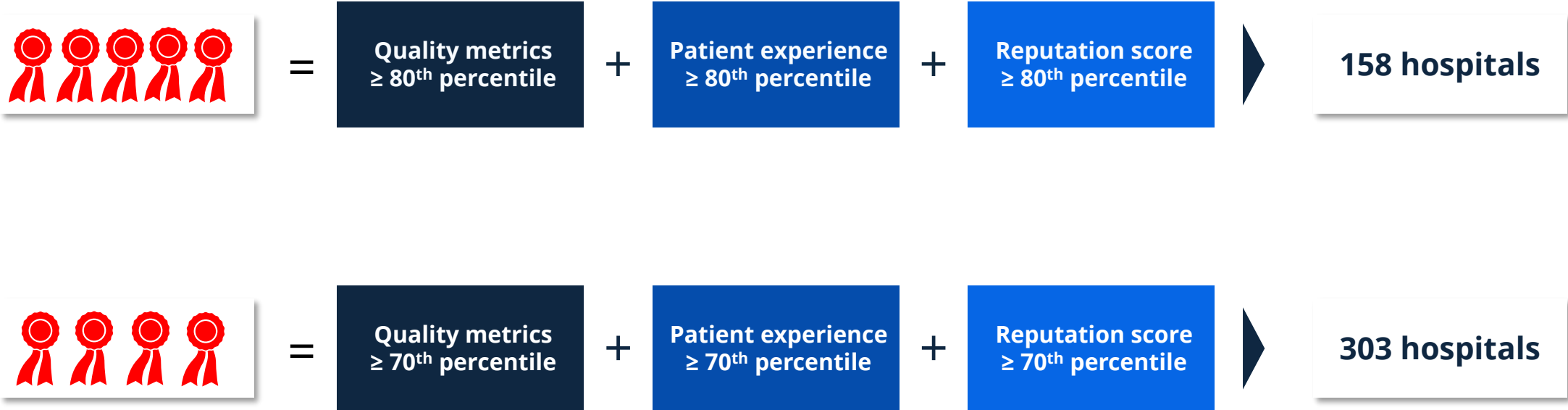
A quality dimensions score was assigned based on participant-reported importance.

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 performance reaching at least 4 ribbons were included in the published ranking.



As a result, the 461 best maternity hospitals in the US were awarded

Result table

Ribbons	Hospital	City	State
	<b>AdventHealth Orlando</b>	Orlando	Florida
	<b>Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital</b>	Downers Grove	Illinois
	<b>Ascension St. Vincent Carmel</b>	Carmel	Indiana
	<b>Banner Gateway Medical Center</b>	Gilbert	Arizona
	<b>Baptist St Anthony's Hospital</b>	Amarillo	Texas

[...]


461 LEADING MATERNITY HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED

# America's Best Maternity Hospitals partner network



## About Statista R

Statista R is a world leader in the creation of company, brand, and product rankings and top lists, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: Statista R recognizes the best. With a team of over 100 expert analysts and in cooperation with more than 40 high profile media brands across all continents, Statista R creates transparency for consumers and business decision makers and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories. Visit [r.statista.com](https://www.r.statista.com)

Statista R is a division of **statista** . The leading data and business intelligence portal provides an extensive collection of statistics, reports, and insights on over 80,000 topics from 22,500 sources in 170 industries.

Find out more at [statista.com](https://www.statista.com)

## 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.

Find out more at [newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com)



## About The Leapfrog Group

The Leapfrog Hospital Survey was created and is administered by The Leapfrog Group - a leading independent, national not-for-profit organization advocating for hospital transparency.

They strive to make giant "leaps" forward in the U.S. by promoting transparency through their data collection and public reporting initiatives. With their goal of saving lives by reducing errors, injuries, accidents, and infections, The Leapfrog Group focuses on measuring and publicly reporting hospital performance through the annual Leapfrog Hospital Survey. The survey is a trusted, transparent and evidence-based national tool in which over 2,400 hospitals voluntarily participate free of charge.

The Leapfrog Group advocates for public access to quality and safety data from all U.S. hospitals.

Find out more at <https://www.leapfroggroup.org/>

# 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 02/25/2026-02/24/2026 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.