

METHODOLOGY

# America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2024



# Methodology – America’s Best Maternity Hospitals 2024

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> time to identify “America’s Best Maternity Hospitals”.
- The **America’s Best Maternity Hospitals 2024** ranking awards the **leading 404 hospitals** in the field of maternity in the U.S.
- The list is based on three pillars:
  - 1. 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.
  - 2. Results from patient experience surveys.**
  - 3. Hospital quality metrics** with a focus on indicators relevant to maternity care.
- 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 were grouped into two categories (**5 ribbons/4 ribbons**).

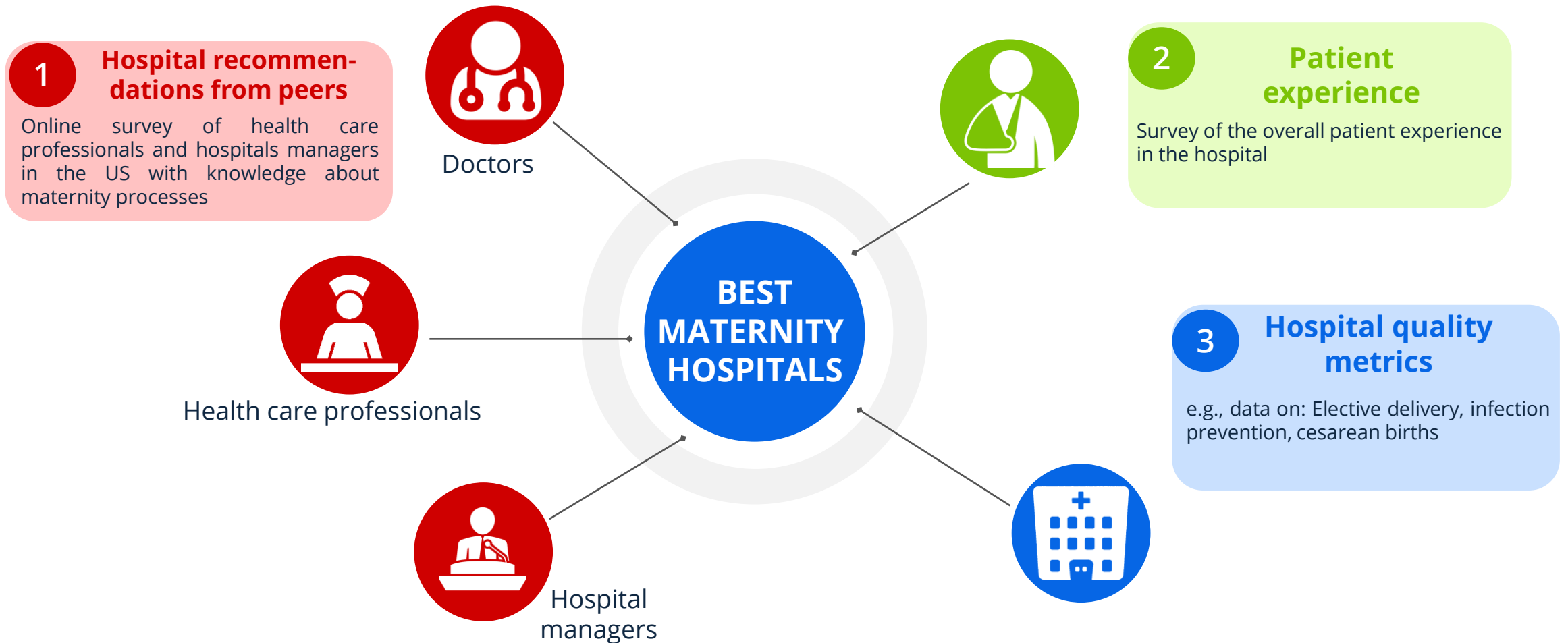
# New features and changes in the 2024 edition

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

- **Increased thresholds:** The threshold values for both categories were increased with the aim to incentivize continuous improvement within maternity care.
- **Additional eligibility criteria:** Hospitals with a 1-star rating from CMS were not eligible for the ranking.
- **Inclusion of additional quality metrics:**
  - Data on sepsis care from CMS as part of infection prevention.
  - Data on personnel vaccination from CMS, which includes Influenza vaccination as well as COVID-19 vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel.
  - Data from the Health Resources & Services Administration on hospitals' participation in the grantee programs related to Maternal and Child Health.

# The maternity hospital evaluation is based on three pillars

Data sources



# Medical experts with knowledge about maternity care were surveyed nationwide

## 1 Hospital recommendation from peers

From January to February 2024, 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>(2)</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

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

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

## 1 Quality assessment as part of the reputation score

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



REPUTATION SCORE

# 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>(3)</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

A quality metrics score was calculated for each hospital

### 3 Hospital quality metrics

Hospital quality metrics relevant to maternity care from a variety of public sources were collected<sup>(4,5,6)</sup>.

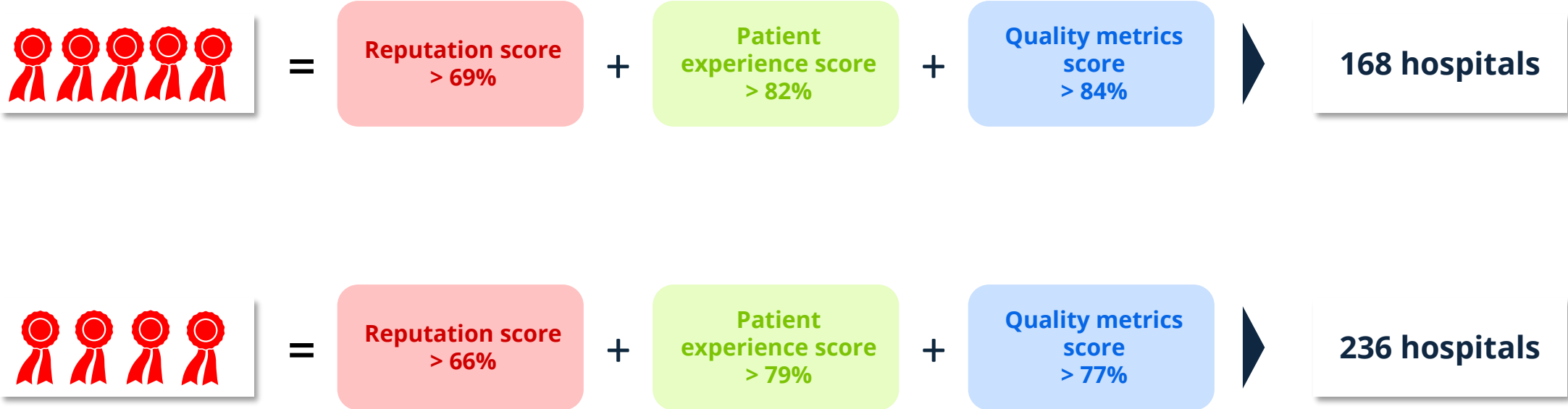
- **Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** data was available for:
  - Maternal care:
    - Elective delivery
    - Exclusive breast milk feeding
    - Maternity morbidity structural measure
  - Infection prevention
    - MRSA Bacteremia
    - Clostridium Difficile
    - Sepsis care
  - Patient satisfaction
  - Personnel Vaccination
    - COVID-19 vaccination coverage
    - Influenza vaccination coverage
- The **Joint Commission (TJC)** data was available for:
  - Cesarean birth
  - Perinatal care: Unexpected complications in term newborns per 1,000 livebirths
  - Advanced Certification in Perinatal Care
  - Maternal Levels of Care Verification
- **Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)** data was available for:
  - Hospitals' participation in programs related to Maternal and Child Health.

## SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS








# 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 404 best maternity hospitals in the US were awarded

Result table

Ribbons	Hospital	City	State
	<b>AdventHealth Central Texas</b>	Killeen	TX
	<b>AdventHealth Littleton</b>	Littleton	CO
	<b>AdventHealth Orlando</b>	Orlando	FL
	<b>AdventHealth Shawnee Mission</b>	Shawnee Mission	KS
	<b>AdventHealth Wesley Chapel</b>	Wesley Chapel	FL

[...]

404 LEADING MATERNITY HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED

# America's Best Maternity Hospitals 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 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 03/15/2023-03/15/2024 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.

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.