

# U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST REGIONAL HOSPITALS FOR MATERNITY CARE



U.S. News & World Report is the global authority in health care rankings. Ratings are based entirely on objective measures of quality such as C-section rates in lower-risk pregnancies, severe unexpected newborn complication rates, and birthing-friendly practices, and more.

SERVICES EVALUATED	Washington Regional	Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas	Mercy Hospital Fort Smith	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Designated High Performing for Maternity Care	Yes (2023-2026)	Yes (2026)	No	No
Childbirth Classes	Yes, always offered	Yes, always offered	No	Yes, always offered
Private Rooms or Suites	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Partner May Stay Overnight Post-Delivery	Yes, always allowed	Yes, always allowed	Yes, always allowed	Yes, always allowed
Midwives Can Attend Births	No	No	Yes	Yes
NICU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Immersive Tube Hydrotherapy During Labor	No	No	No	No
Breastfeeding & Lactation Consultants Available Before and/or After Discharge	In Hospital: Yes At Home: No	In Hospital: Yes At Home: No	In Hospital: Yes At Home: No	In Hospital: Yes At Home: Yes
Baby-Friendly designation from Baby-Friendly USA	No	No	No	No
Implements the Ten Steps for Successful Breastfeeding	No	Yes	No	Yes
Valet Parking Available	No	No	No	No
Hospital employs Doulas	No	No	No	No
Perinatal Depression Screening and Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Postpartum Depression Screening and Services	Yes, after birth through 12 months	Yes, after birth through 12 months	Yes, after birth through 12 months	Yes, after birth through 12 months
IUD placement immediately post-delivery	No	No	No	Yes
Tubal ligation immediately post-delivery	Yes	No	No	Yes
C-Sections	Excellent at Minimizing Avoidable C-Sections 23.6% of first-time, low-risk pregnancies at full-term were C-Section.	Excellent at Minimizing Avoidable C-Sections 23.9% of first-time, low-risk pregnancies at full-term were C-Section.	Performs More C-Sections than Most Hospitals More than 30% of first-time, low-risk pregnancies at full-term were C-Section.	Performs More C-Sections than Most Hospitals More than 30% of first-time, low-risk pregnancies at full-term were C-Section.
Severe Newborn Complications	Rare	Newborn Complications are Average	Newborn Complications are Average	Newborn Complications are Average
Breast Milk Feeding	53.0% of babies were exclusively breastfed or fed breast milk during their hospital stay.*	52.3% of babies were exclusively breastfed or fed breast milk during their hospital stay.*	35.9% of babies were exclusively breastfed or fed breast milk during their hospital stay.*	34.3% of babies were exclusively breastfed or fed breast milk during their hospital stay.*
Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC)	VBAC support at this hospital is 1.2 percentage points higher than the state average	VBAC support at this hospital is 11.8 percentage points higher than the state average	VBAC support at this hospital is 2.8 percentage points lower than the state average	VBAC support at this hospital is 7.8 percentage points higher than the state average
Episiotomy	This hospital's episiotomy rate is less than 5%.	This hospital's episiotomy rate is less than 5%.	This hospital's episiotomy rate is less than 5%.	This hospital's episiotomy rate is less than 5%.
Birthing-Friendly	This hospital met criteria to be recognized as Birthing-Friendly.	This hospital met criteria to be recognized as Birthing-Friendly.	This hospital met criteria to be recognized as Birthing-Friendly.	This hospital met criteria to be recognized as Birthing-Friendly.
Reports on Racial/Ethnic Disparities	This hospital tracked and reported its race- and ethnicity-specific performance.	This hospital tracked and reported its race- and ethnicity-specific performance.	This hospital tracked and reported its race- and ethnicity-specific performance.	This hospital tracked and reported its race- and ethnicity-specific performance.

NOTE: Data was submitted by six Arkansas Hospitals: Washington Regional, Mercy NWA, Mercy Fort Smith, UAMS, Conway Regional and NEA Baptist.

\*The Average in the South for breastfeeding is 38.8% and the national average is 49%.