

# Update on Maternal Health Initiatives in Arkansas

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# Arkansas Maternal and Infant Health: Current Status

	Rate	State Rank
Preterm Births	12.1%	47th
Infant Mortality	8.2 per 1,000 births	51st
Inadequate Prenatal Care	20.3%	39 <sup>th</sup>
Severe Maternal Morbidity	66.4 per 10,000 hospital deliveries	5th
Maternal Mortality	35.3 per 100,000 births	44th

Source: [2025 March Of Dimes Report Card For Arkansas](#) | [PeriStats](#) | [March of Dimes](#)



[humanservices.arkansas.gov](https://humanservices.arkansas.gov)

# Arkansas Strategic Committee for Maternal Health

Governor Sanders issued an executive order in March 2024 to engage legislators, advocacy organizations, health care providers, and other stakeholders in a Maternal Health Working Group

September 2024:  
Committee issued  
recommendations  
covering:

- Health care access & Medicaid,
- Clinical & practice improvements
- Data, reporting & technology



# 2025 Legislative Actions: Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Act

- Requires Medicaid to cover:
  1. Prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services
  2. Depression screening for pregnant women
  3. Remote blood pressure monitoring and ultrasounds
- Ends global billing
- Increases OB reimbursement by 70%
- Establishes presumptive eligibility for pregnant women



# 2025 Legislative Actions: Other Maternal Health Initiatives

- Act 627 requires Medicaid and other health plans to cover **lactation consultation** services
- Act 965 establishes state certification for **doulas** and requires Medicaid and other health plans to cover their services
- Act 435 establishes state certification for **community health workers** and requires Medicaid and other health plans to cover their services
- Act 866 requires Medicaid to cover services provided at a **birthing center**



# Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Grant

- \$17 million, 10-year federal grant to improve maternal health in Arkansas
- Current efforts include:
  - Workforce and integration assessments/toolkits for doulas and midwives
  - Certified Nurse Midwifery (CNM) program
  - Training additional doulas
  - Training perinatal CHW
  - CHW certification in perinatal mental health
  - Training for group perinatal care model
  - Training and technical assistance with telemedicine and remote monitoring

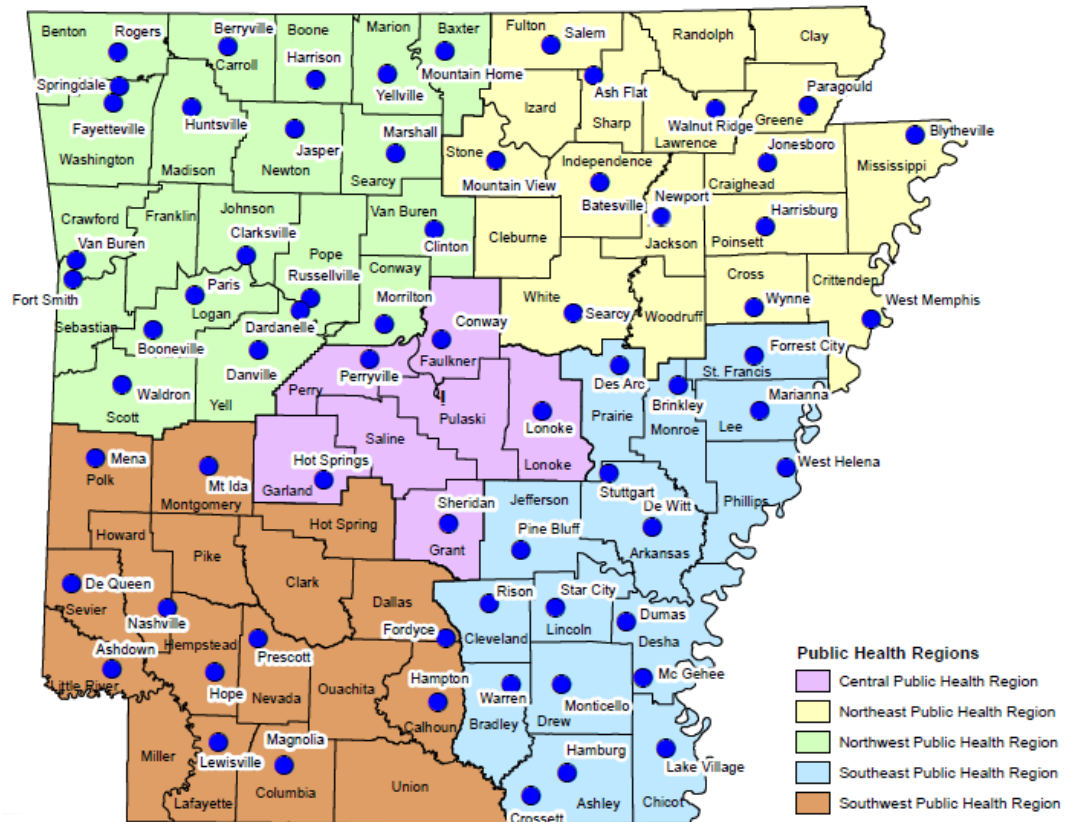


# Maternal Health Services in Local Health Units

## Prenatal Services Include:

- Routine prenatal clinic visits
- Prenatal education and counseling
- Postpartum services
- Treatment and referrals

## Arkansas Department of Health Maternity Clinics October 2025



# Other State Initiatives

- Pregnancy Plus app
- Healthy Start
- Delivering HOPE
- Telemom
- Maternal mental health
- UAMS postpartum call center
- DHS outbound pregnancy call center
- Pregnancy and new mom toolkit
- Life360 HOME program



[afmc.org/pregnancy-and-new-mom-toolkit](https://afmc.org/pregnancy-and-new-mom-toolkit)

