

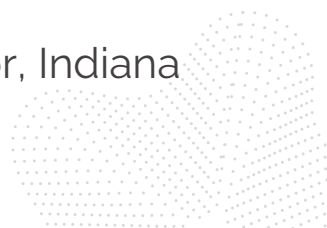


# Panel Discussion: Improving Access to Maternal and Infant Care

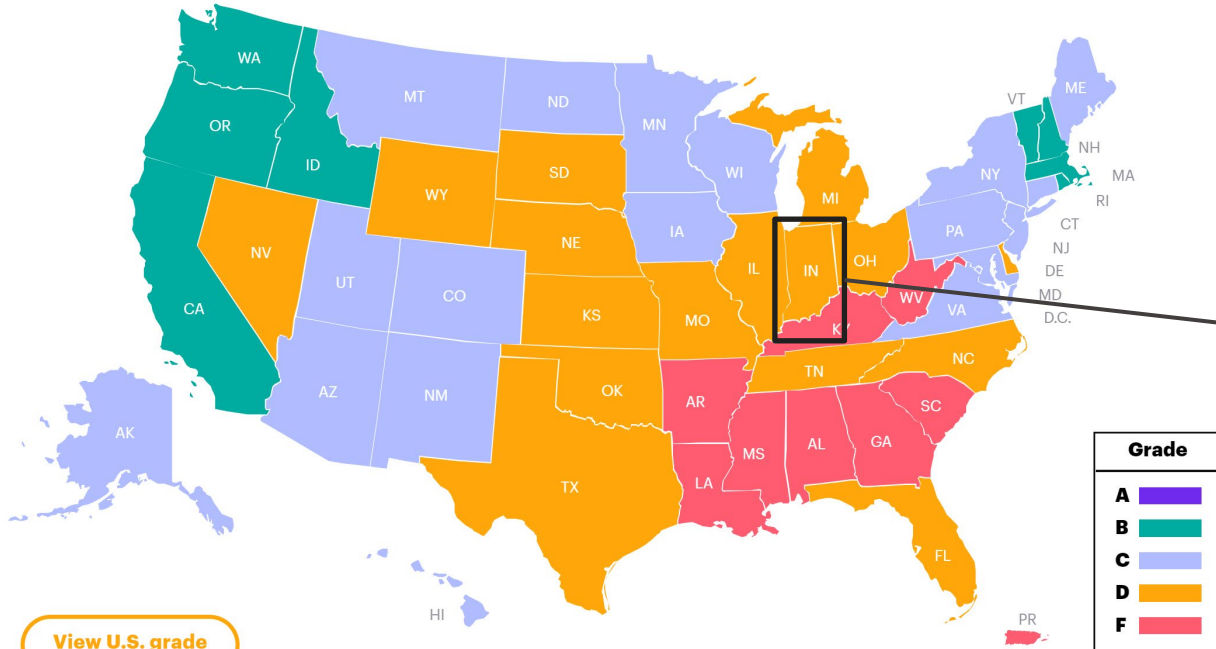
**Cameual Wright**, MD, MBA – **MODERATOR**  
President, Care Source Indiana

**Morgan McDonald**, MD, FACP, FAAP  
National Director for Population Health and Health  
Equity Leadership, Milbank Memorial Fund


**Ashley Rainey**, MSN, RNC-OB, IAP  
Maternal and Child Health Clinical Director, Indiana  
Department of Health



# 2023 March of Dimes Report Card



**2023 REPORT CARD GRADE**  
INDIANA



**Preterm birth rate**  
**10.9%**

**Black babies are 1.4 more likely to be preterm than all other babies.**

**Preterm birth grade**  
**D**

**View your state's Report Card**

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/report-card>

# Overall State Rankings and Scores\*

2024 Health of Women and Children Report

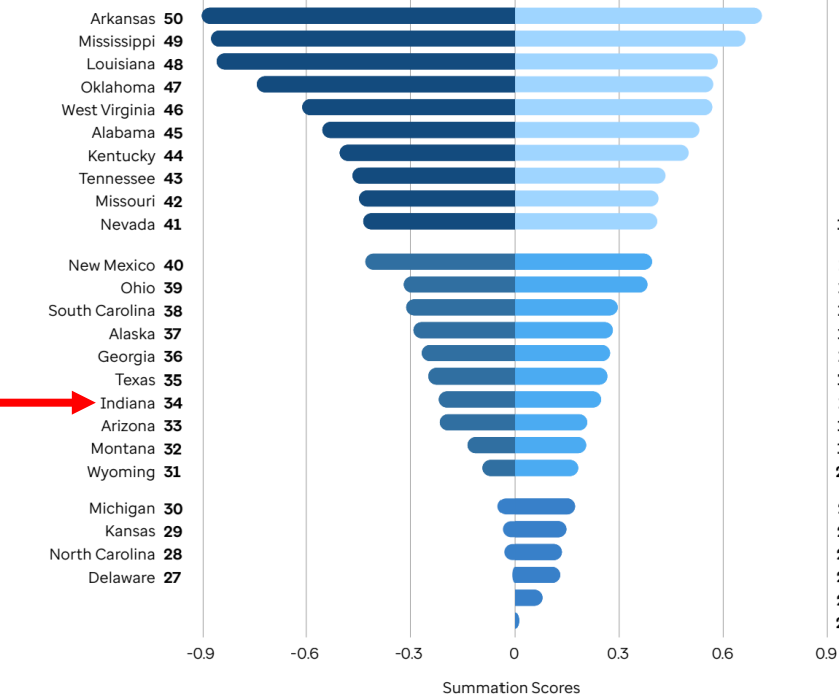
## Least Healthy States

Arkansas	50
Mississippi	49
Louisiana	48
Oklahoma	47
West Virginia	46
Alabama	45
Kentucky	44
Tennessee	43
Missouri	42
Nevada	41
New Mexico	40
Ohio	39
South Carolina	38
Alaska	37
Georgia	36
Texas	35
Indiana	34
Arizona	33
Montana	32
Wyoming	31
Michigan	30
Kansas	29
North Carolina	28
Delaware	27



## Healthiest States

1	New Hampshire
2	Massachusetts
3	Minnesota
4	New Jersey
5	Vermont
6	Utah
7	Connecticut
8	Hawaii
9	Colorado
10	Washington
11	Rhode Island
12	Maryland
13	Iowa
14	California
15	Virginia
16	Maine
17	Nebraska
18	Wisconsin
19	North Dakota
20	Oregon
21	New York
22	South Dakota
23	Illinois
24	Idaho
25	Pennsylvania
26	Florida



### Rank

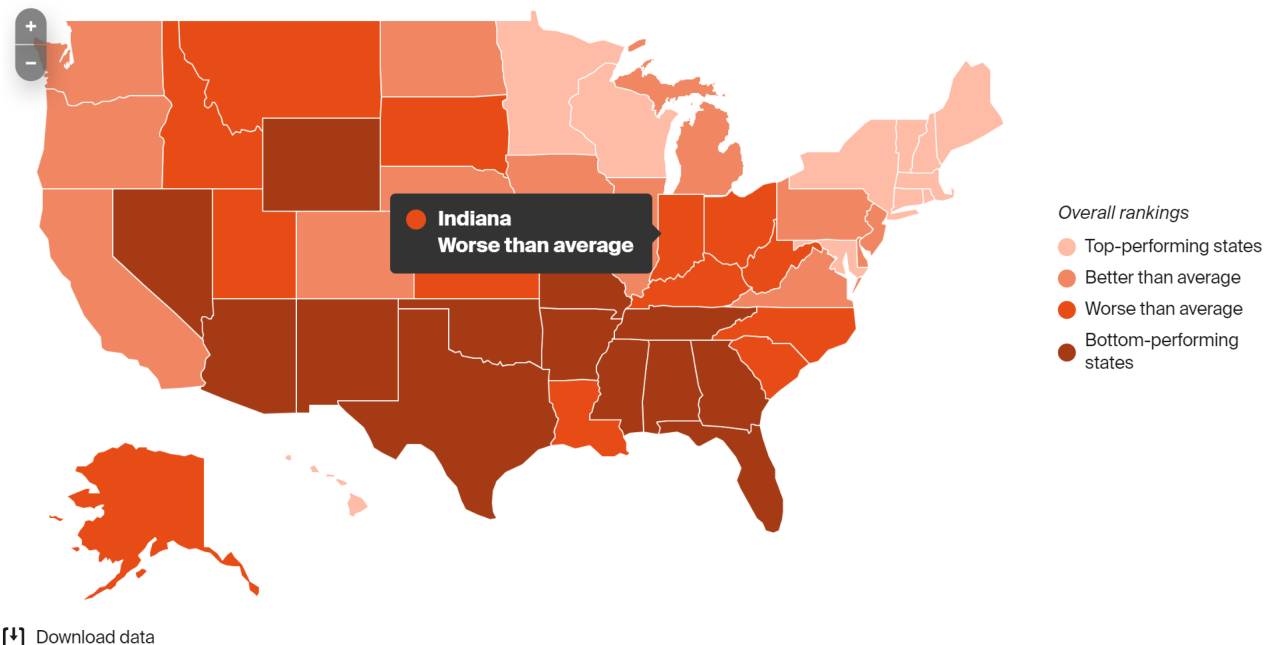


Source: America's Health Rankings Composite Measure, 2024.  
\*Sum of weighted z-scores of all ranked measures.

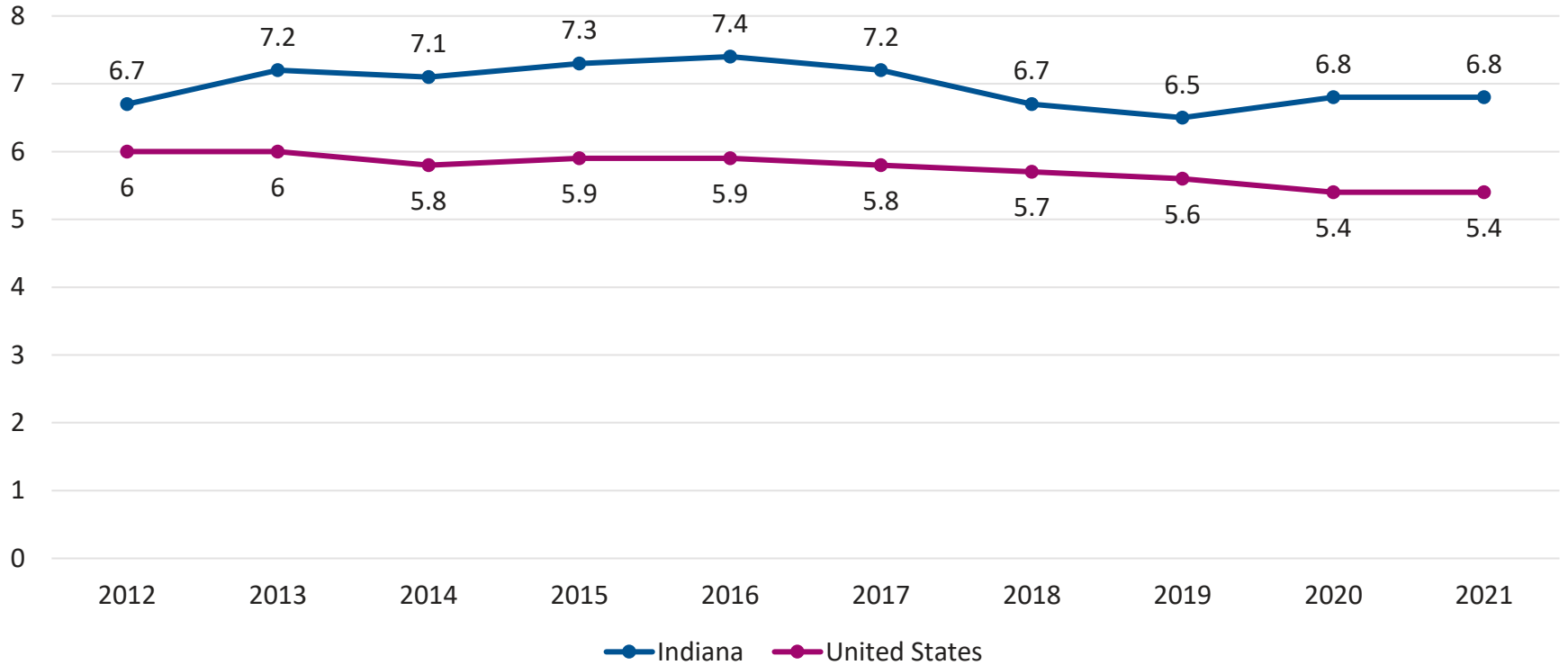
For 2024,  
Indiana  
Ranked 34<sup>th</sup>  
for Health of  
Women and  
Children



# Indiana Performs WORSE Than Average on Women's Health and Reproductive Care



## Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births



# Birthing Centers in Indiana\*



	Location
Auburn Birthing Center LLC	Auburn, IN
Blessed Beginnings Care Center, Inc	Nappanee, IN
Holy Family Birth Center	Fort Wayne, IN
New Eden Care Center Inc	Topeka, IN
Sacred Roots Birth Center Northeast	Indianapolis, IN
Sacred Roots Birth Center, Inc	Indianapolis, IN
Tree Of Life Birth Center	Jeffersonville, IN

\*As of 10/3/2024

# Decreasing Maternal Care Services in Indiana

## Riley Physicians Indiana University Health

January 19, 2024

To whom it may concern,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to inform that as of March 19, 2024, Riley Physicians Maternal Fetal Medicine will no longer provide outpatient services at the IU Health Bloomington outpatient center. Until that time, we will continue to see patients as scheduled and will be available to address requests and other medical needs.

We appreciate the trust you have placed in our team of physicians. Our staff will contact patients as needed to move any affected appointments. To our referring physicians, we will continue to serve your patients at our other locations. A referral may be placed by calling 317.944.7010, completing our online referral form or sending a Cerner to our IU Health Physicians MFM referral pool.

All medical records resulting from care with us will conveniently remain on file as part of a patient's permanent medical record. Should you choose to transfer care to a physician who is not part of Riley Physicians, please feel free to contact our office at 317.944.7010 and we will assist in transferring medical records.

Additionally, the staff at Riley Physicians Maternal Fetal Medicine is available to answer your questions. Please feel free to call 317.944.7010 and they will be happy to address any concerns you might have.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for allowing us the pleasure to care for you and/or your patients.

*Sincerely,*

*Riley Physicians Maternal Fetal Medicine*

# Labor and Delivery Unit Closures in Indiana

- **Bluffton Regional Medical Center** (Bluffton, IN) – Only places to provide this service in the county
- **Dukes Memorial Hospital** (Peru, IN) - Only places to provide this service in the county
- **Parkview Dekalb** (Auburn, IN) – One only places to provide this service in two counties
- **Parkview LaGrange** (LaGrange, IN) - One only places to provide this service in two counties
- **Parkview Whitley** (Columbia City, IN) - Closing its family birthing center and relocating it to the new Parkview Kosciusko Hospital (30 minutes away)
- **St. Vincent Dunn** (Bedford, IN) – The last hospital to provide this service in Lawrence County





# Dr. Wallace

- In October 2020, Dr. Chaniece Wallace passed away from postpartum complications two days after giving birth.
- Dr. Wallace was a Pediatric Chief Resident at IU Health Riley Hospital for Children.



— Dr. Chaniece Wallace.

Indiana University School of Medicine

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/death-black-mother-after-birth-first-child-highlights-racial-disparities-n1246841>

<https://fox59.com/news/beloved-indy-doctor-dies-after-giving-birth-spotlights-awareness-of-pregnancy-and-postpartum-conditions/>

# Mrs. Wilkinson

- 26-year-old Taysha Wilkinson-Sobieski passed away on October 12, 2023 from a “ruptured ectopic pregnancy and its complications” after being transferred from Parkview DeKalb to Parkview Regional Medical Center... The DeKalb Labor and Delivery Unit closed just week before and had no staff to care for her.
- In 2021, the Indiana Department of Health identified 37 Indiana counties that had no inpatient delivery services.



Taysha Wilkinson with her husband Clayton Sobieski and their son Reid. *Courtesy Of The Sobieski Family*

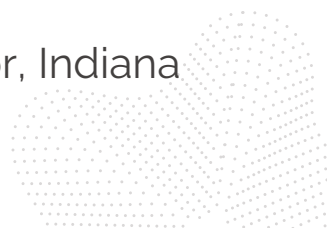


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# Maternity Care Access Resources

- Addressing the Crisis in Rural Maternity Care (Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform): [Link](#)
- Health Moms. Strong Babies. (March of Dimes): [Link](#)
- Maternity Ward Closures Exacerbating Health Disparities (Harvard): [Link](#)
- More Hospitals Across the US are Closing Maternity Wards (ABC News): [Link](#)
- SICHC, IU Health, IHC preserving OB and healthcare in Bedford (WBIW): [Link](#)

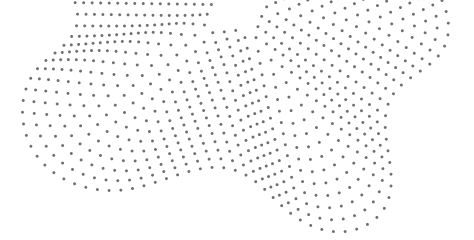
# Recommendations from Commonwealth Fund to Increase

1. Extend and provide support for evidence-based implementation of Medicaid’s postpartum coverage to 12 months.
2. Promote policies, innovative payment models, and digital tools that support the continuum of reproductive health care — from family planning, abortion services, and maternity care to postpartum and well-woman care.
3. Provide funding to community-based organizations focused on advancing maternal health outcomes and addressing racial equity.
4. Expand and diversify the maternal and reproductive health workforce by investing in teams of physicians, midwives, doulas, community health workers, and maternity care coordinators.
5. Invest in care models that support mothers with maternal mental health conditions and substance use disorders.
6. Increase financial investments in social determinants of health that influence maternal health outcomes.
7. Continue to prioritize the elimination of racial inequities in maternal health.

# Resources from the Milbank Memorial Fund

- Innovations in Rural Obstetrics to Maintain Access to Care: [Link](#)
- Supporting Black Maternal Health Clinicians as an Avenue to Improving Maternal Outcomes: [Link](#)
- Who Delivers Maternal and Child Health Services? The Contributions of Public Health and Other Community Partners: [Link](#)
- U.S. Health and Human Services Department Secretary's Postpartum Maternal Health Collaborative Expert Evidence Convening: [Link](#)





# **Multistakeholder Workgroup:** Improving Access to Maternal and Infant Care

If interested, contact Sara Otte at  
[sara@employersforumindiana.org](mailto:sara@employersforumindiana.org)

