

In 2024, there were 127,330 live births in Pennsylvania. The following data provide insights into access to care and birth outcomes in PA by region and county.

Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity

Severe maternal morbidity (SMM) is the unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short- and/or long-term impacts on a woman's health. In Pennsylvania, SMM increased by 7% between 2016 and 2022. [1] While hemorrhage complications are the leading cause of SMM, mental health conditions, including overdose and substance use disorder, are the leading cause of pregnancy related mortality. To learn more about maternal mortality and SMM in PA, access the corresponding data briefs using the QR codes. [2]

Maternal Mortality



SMM



Table 1. Regional Maternal and Infant Health Data, 2024

Region	# Live Births	# Births with No Prenatal Care	% Prenatal Care in 1st Trimester	% Medicaid Births	% Low Birth Weight	% Preterm Birth
Northwest	7,217	332	68.5	40.1	8.4	10.2
Southwest	26,117	667	74.4	30.8	8.6	10.2
Lehigh/Cap	33,731	263	72	32.9	7.9	9.5
Northeast	16,698	246	70.8	42.6	7.8	9.4
Southeast	43,567	956	70.5	36.2	8.8	9.8
PA	127,330	2,464	71.6	35.2	8.4	9.8

Source: Pennsylvania Birth Certificate Dataset, Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange (EDDIE). Location is based on the birthing person's address not the location of the birth.

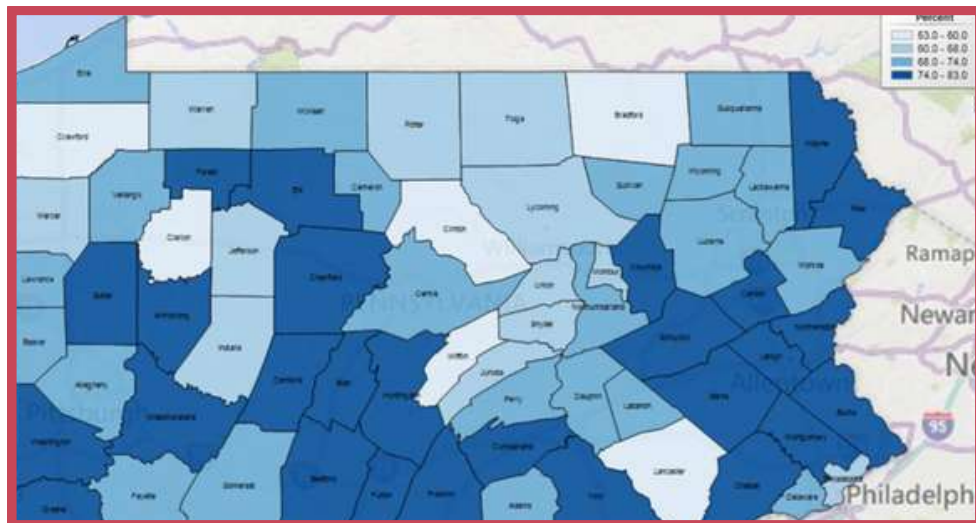
[1] PA Department of Health, Severe Maternal Morbidity in Pennsylvania, 2016-2022, https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/health/documents/topics/documents/programs/SMM%202016_2022%20report_April%202024.pdf

[2] PA Department of Health, 2025 PA Maternal Mortality Review Annual Report, <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/health/documents/topics/documents/programs/2025%20MMR%20Report.pdf>

Prenatal Care

Ensuring connections and access to prenatal care is vital to improving birth outcomes. It is recommended that prenatal care is initiated in the first trimester. In 2024, most birthing people in PA initiated prenatal care in the first trimester (71.6%), however there are many that received no prenatal care (2,464). [1]

Map 1: Percent Prenatal Care in 1st Trimester, 2024



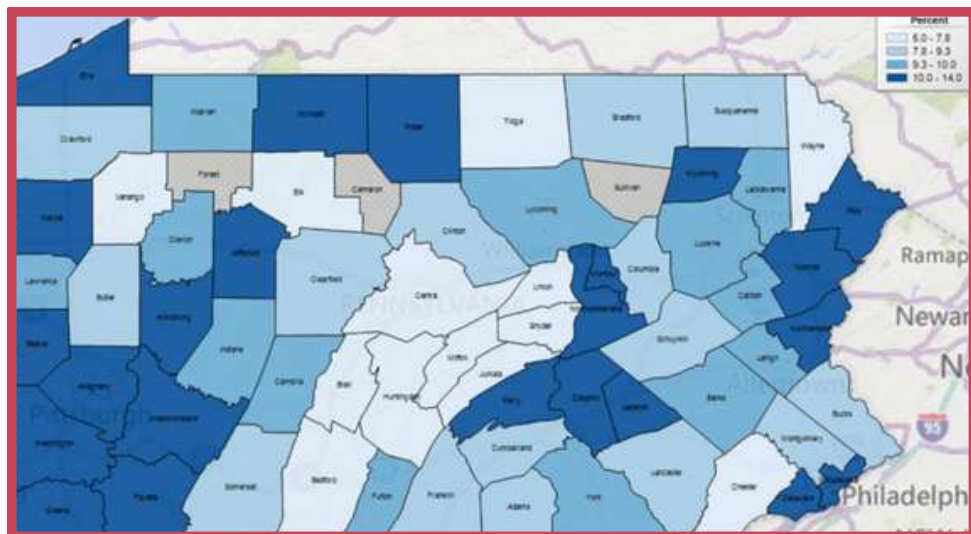
Prenatal care was initiated in the first trimester at higher rates for white birthing people (75.8%) than for Black (61.2%), Hispanic (63.3%), multi-race (66.8%), and Asian/pacific islander (72.1%) populations.

Source: Pennsylvania Birth Certificate Dataset, Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange (EDDIE). Location is based on the birthing person's address not the location of the birth.

Premature Birth

A premature birth is one that occurs before the 37th week of gestation. The leading cause of infant mortality in Pennsylvania is prematurity, accounting for 41% of infant deaths. Of those deaths caused by prematurity, only 55% had some level of prenatal care. [2] In 2024, 9.8% (12,399) of infants were born prematurely in PA. [1]

Map 2: Percent Preterm Birth, 2024



When analyzed by race, Black (14.3%), multi-race, (11.8%), Hispanic (10.2%) and Asian/pacific islander (9.1%) populations had a higher percentage of premature births when compared to live births of white infants (8.9%).

Source: Pennsylvania Birth Certificate Dataset, Enterprise Data Dissemination Informatics Exchange (EDDIE). Location is based on the birthing person's address not the location of the birth.

[1] <https://www.phaim.health.pa.gov/EDD/Default.aspx>

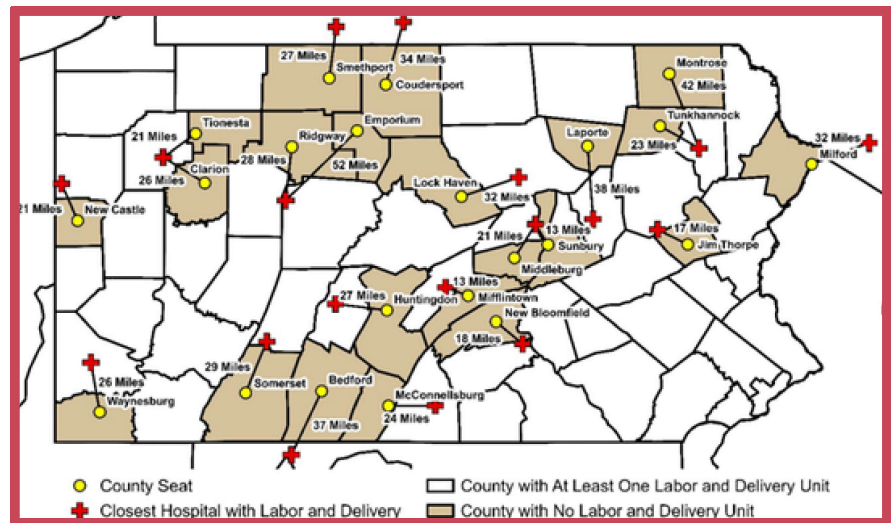
[2] PA Child Death Review 2025 Annual Report, <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/healthy-living/child-death-review>

Disclaimer: These data were provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations, or conclusions.

Access to Care in Rural Pennsylvania

A report from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania provides data on the location of acute care hospitals and hospitals with labor and delivery services. For counties without a hospital with labor and delivery services the report also provides information on the distance from county seats to the next closest hospital with labor and delivery services to illustrate the distance for the largest population centers in that county to those services. It should be noted that the distance between the county seat and the nearest hospital is an estimated straight-line planar distance. It does not account for road networks or terrain. The farthest distance is from Emporium, 52 miles to the next closest hospital with labor and delivery, Penn Highlands DuBois. [1]

Map 3. Nearest Hospitals with a Labor and Delivery Unit for Counties in Pennsylvania Without Labor and Delivery Services, 2025



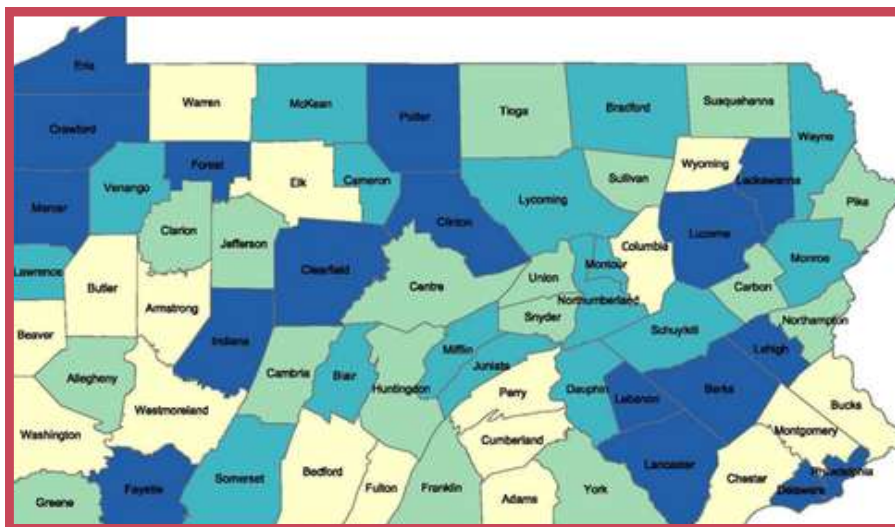
Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Access to Maternity Care in Pennsylvania: Labor and Delivery Services, May 2025

Counties in the highest quartile of vulnerability ($\geq 75\%$): Berks, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mercer, Philadelphia, and Potter.

Social Vulnerability Index

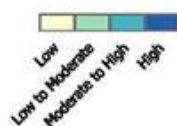
Map 4 shows the level of social vulnerability in PA by county for 2020. The SVI estimates are derived from the American Community Survey (ACS), 2020 data. Overall social vulnerability is measured by summing all four SVI themes (Socioeconomic, Household Composition & Disability, Minority Status & Language, and Housing Type & Transportation). The ranking is presented in quartiles. The lightest color indicates counties in the lowest quartile for overall SVI. The dark blue indicates counties in the highest quartile and are classified as the most socially vulnerable. [2]

Map 4: Overall SVI Score, 2020



Source: PA Department of Health, Severe Maternal Morbidity in Pennsylvania, 2016-2022

Overall SVI Score, 2020



[1] Center for Rural PA, Access to Maternity Care in Pennsylvania: Labor and Delivery Services, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/download.cfm?file=Resources/PDFs/Access%20to%20Maternity%20Care%20in%20Pennsylvania%20Labor%20and%20Delivery%20Services%20Fact%20Sheet%20Web.pdf>
 [2] PA Department of Health, Severe Maternal Morbidity in Pennsylvania, 2016-2022, https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/health/documents/topics/documents/programs/SMM%202016_2022%20report_April%202024.pdf

Maternal Mental Health

The Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health’s map to the right shows the maternal mental health risk and number of mental health providers in each county. The risk factor is based on known factors associated with poor maternal mental health and over two dozen datasets were collected and standardized.[1] This is an interactive map that can be accessed via the QR code.

Map 5: U.S. Maternal Mental Health Risk and Resources Maps



Source: Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health

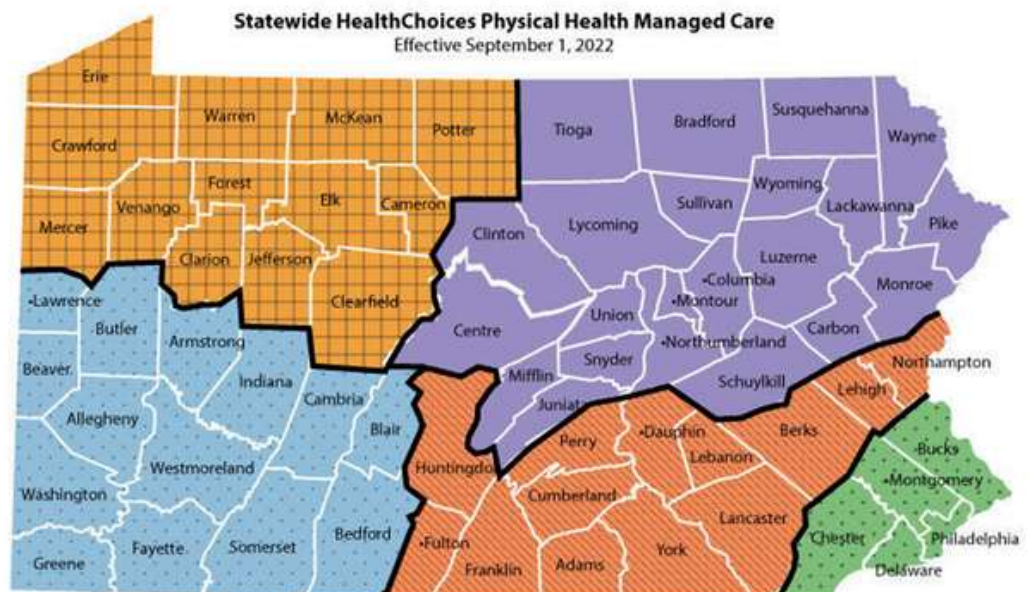
Managed Care Organization (MCO) Regions

Healthcare effectiveness data and information set (HEDIS) measures are reported by PA Department of Human Services (PA DHS) to evaluate the ability of Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) to provide care. In 2024, on average, MCOs provided prenatal and postpartum depression screening for 28% and 31% of patients respectively, and follow up on positive prenatal and postpartum depression screening for 54% and 61% of patients respectively. For more specifics, visit the PA DHS website to learn more.

PA DHS MCO Data



Map 6: Pennsylvania MCO Regions



- HealthChoices Northwest**
AmeriHealth Caritas PA, Geisinger**, Health Partners**, UPMC
 - HealthChoices Northeast**
AmeriHealth Caritas PA, Geisinger, Health Partners**, UPMC**
 - HealthChoices Southwest**
AmeriHealth Caritas PA**, Geisinger**, Health Partners**, Highmark Wholecare (formerly Gateway), UPMC
 - HealthChoices Lehigh/Capital**
AmeriHealth Caritas PA, Geisinger**, Health Partners**, Highmark Wholecare (formerly Gateway), UPMC
 - HealthChoices Southeast**
Geisinger**, Health Partners, Keystone First, United, UPMC**
- ** New MCO in Zone

[1] Maternal Mental Health Policy Center, <https://mmhmap.com/>

[2] PA Department of Human Services, 2025 HEDIS Performance Measures Rate Chart, <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/medicaid/hc/hc-publications#accordion-e9b2c9479d-item-d61153ca68>