

# TRAVEL TIME TO DELIVERY FACILITIES FOR ARKANSAS MOTHERS

JUNE  
2024

Closures of labor and delivery services at Arkansas hospitals in recent years have led to longer travel times for mothers in some areas of the state. As of April 2024, 59% of rural hospitals did not provide labor and delivery services.<sup>1</sup> Increased travel times to delivery facilities have been associated with higher risks of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes.<sup>2-4</sup> ACHI reviewed data on birth events occurring between 2016 and 2022 to estimate travel times to delivery facilities.<sup>a</sup>

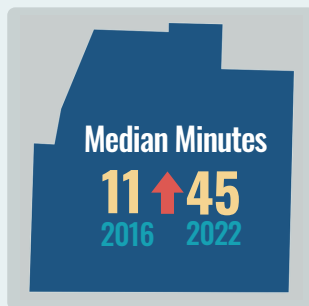
## Percentages of Arkansas Mothers Traveling 30+ or 60+ Minutes to Delivery Facilities

	2016	2022
30 MINUTES OR MORE	<b>26%</b> n = 9,500	<b>28%</b> n = 9,401
60 MINUTES OR MORE	<b>7%</b> n = 2,690	<b>8%</b> n = 2,808

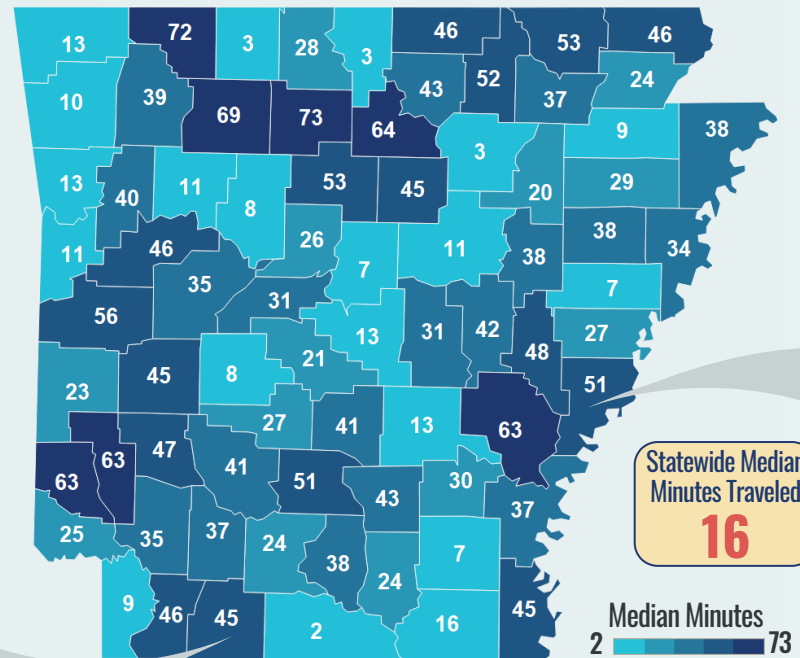
"n" = Number of Mothers

### Columbia County

- The median minutes traveled by Columbia County residents increased threefold from 2016 to 2022, the third-highest increase in any county.
- In 2016, Magnolia Regional Medical Center delivered around 68% of births in the county. The hospital's labor and delivery unit closed in 2021. The next closest birthing hospital for the majority of mothers is 52 minutes away.



## Median Minutes Traveled to Delivery Facilities in 2022, by County of Residence



### Phillips County

- The median minutes traveled by Phillips County residents increased sevenfold from 2016 to 2022, the highest increase in any county.
- In 2016, Helena Regional Medical Center delivered around 65% of births in the county. The hospital's labor and delivery unit closed in 2020. The next closest birthing hospital for the majority of mothers is 47 minutes away.

