

TRAVEL TIME TO DELIVERY FACILITIES FOR ARKANSAS MOTHERS, 2019-2024

JUNE
2026

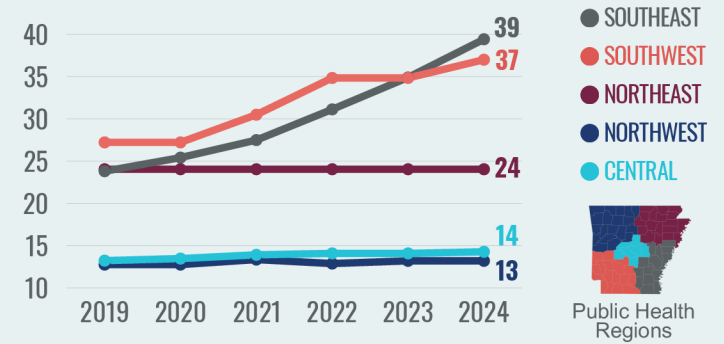
Closures of labor and delivery services at Arkansas hospitals in recent years have led to longer travel times for mothers in some areas of the state. As of March 2026, 69% of rural hospitals did not provide labor and delivery services.¹ Increased travel times to delivery facilities have been associated with higher risks of adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes.²⁻⁴ ACHI reviewed data on birth events occurring between 2019 and 2024 to estimate travel times to delivery facilities.^a

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

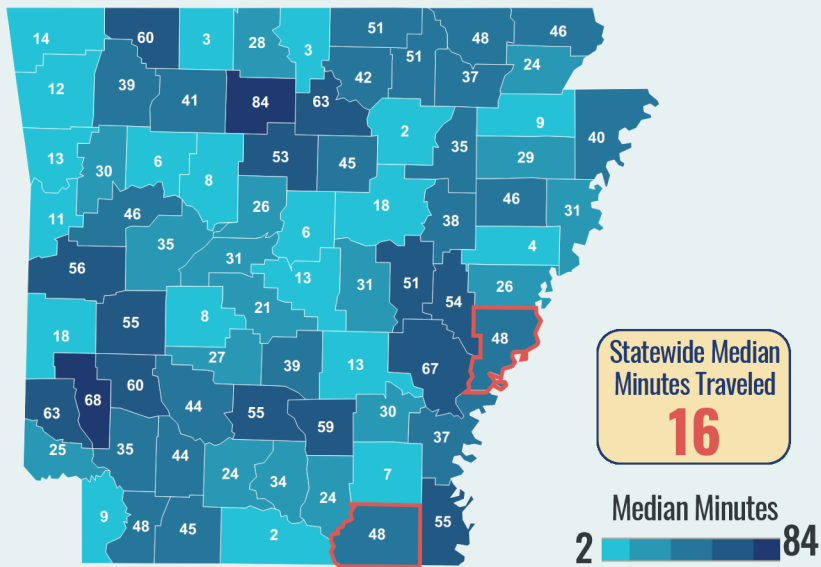
| | 2019 | 2024 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 30 MINUTES OR MORE | 26% n = 9,101 | 29% n = 9,504 |
| 60 MINUTES OR MORE | 7% n = 2,600 | 8% n = 2,807 |

"n" = Number of Mothers

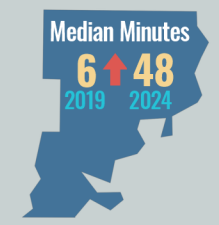
Median Minutes Traveled to Delivery Facilities by Region, 2019-2024



Median Minutes Traveled to Delivery Facilities in 2024, by County of Residence

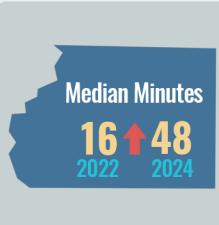


Phillips County



- The median minutes traveled by Phillips County residents increased eightfold from 2019 to 2024.
- In 2019, Helena Regional Medical Center delivered 69% 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 48 minutes away.

Ashley County



- The median minutes traveled by Ashley County residents increased threefold from 2022 to 2024.
- In 2022, Ashley County Medical Center delivered 66% of births in the county. The hospital's labor and delivery unit closed in 2023. The next closest birthing hospital for the majority of mothers is 48 minutes away.

¹⁻⁴ For references: achi.net/library/travel-time-to-delivery

^a Mothers' home ZIP codes and delivery facilities' addresses were used to estimate travel times to delivery facilities, including some out-of-state facilities.

Data sources: Arkansas Department of Health birth records and the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative's All-Payer Claims Database.