

**SOUTH CAROLINA MATERNAL HEALTH  
INNOVATION COLLABORATIVE**

# **Maternal Health Task Force**

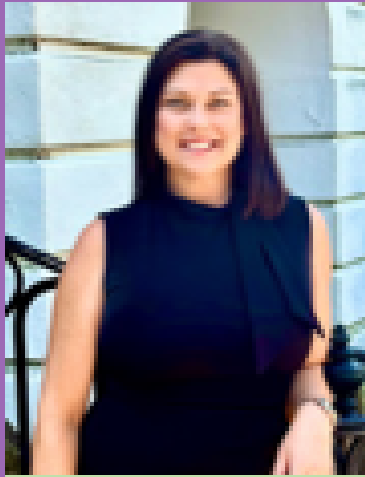
**MEETING**



*December 3, 2024  
10 am to 12 pm  
Microsoft Teams*



  
**Institute for Families  
in Society**  
at the  
University of South Carolina



**Kristen Shealy**

SC Department of Public Health

Principal Investigator



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Co-Principal Investigator



**Sarah Gareau**

Institute for Families in Society  
University of South Carolina

Co-Principal Investigator

# MHIC Leadership Team

# Agenda

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DATA REVIEW

BREAK

WORKGROUPS

DEBRIEF

NEXT STEPS

ADJOURN

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# Reminders

## ■ MUTE

To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

## ■ CHAT

Feel free to use the chat for any questions or comments, and we will do our best to address them during the meeting.

## ■ ENGAGE

Stay engaged and fully participate!

## ■ RESPOND

Complete the post-meeting survey to share your valuable feedback.



# Introduce Yourself!

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## IN THE CHAT PLEASE SHARE...

- Name
- Organization/Community
- What's one thing that always makes you smile?



# Maternal Health in SC

*Sarah Gareau, DrPH, MEd, MCHES*



**Institute for Families  
in Society**  
at the  
University of South Carolina

# Maternal Health Data Walk (CY 2023)

**Presented by: Sarah Gareau, DrPH, MEd, MCHES**  
South Carolina Maternal Health Innovation Collaborative  
(SCMHIC) Taskforce Meeting  
December 3rd, 2024



## We would like to thank the following team members at IFS for their contribution to this work:

- Ana López – De Fede, PhD; Distinguished Research Professor Emerita and Associate Director
- Chloe Rodriguez Ramos, MPH; Translation and Implementation Products Coordinator
- Linga Murthy Kotagiri, MD, MPH; Senior Maternal & Child Health Data Manager
- Chen Zimin, MBA, MSc; Population Health Analyst/Biostatistician
- Angela Kneece, BS; GIS Manager I
- Rajat Das Gupta, MBBS, MPH, PhD Candidate; Graduate Research Assistant
- Prince Addo, MPH, PhD Candidate; Graduate Research Assistant
- James Edwards; Research Associate
- Verna Brantley; Senior Research Associate/SAS Programmer
- Carol Reed, MPH; Senior Qualitative Research Associate
- Chanell Haley, PhD; Mixed Methods Health Scientist
- Nathaniel Bell, PhD; Associate Professor and Director of Research and Evaluation

Additional thanks to Chris Finney from the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office and Aunyika Moonan from the South Carolina Hospital Association for their data and hospital outreach support.

*This work was performed under contract with the South Carolina Department of Public Health through the South Carolina Maternal Health Innovation Grant.*

### **SUGGESTED CITATION:**

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# Acknowledgments

## Data Snapshots

- Perinatal Mental Health
- Co-occurring Conditions
- Newborn Outcomes
- High Maternal Vulnerability

## Service Delivery

- Change in Women of Childbearing Age
- High MVI, Maternity Care Deserts, and OB Adequacy
- Hospital Perinatal Level
- ED Visits

## Access to Care

- Drive Distance



# Contents



# Data Snapshots

*“I was worried about miscarrying again. I was worried about what kind of mom I was going to be. I was worried about stuff going wrong and not getting the correct attention. That was the most emotional nine months ever.”*

-Voices/Voces Birthing Person Participant





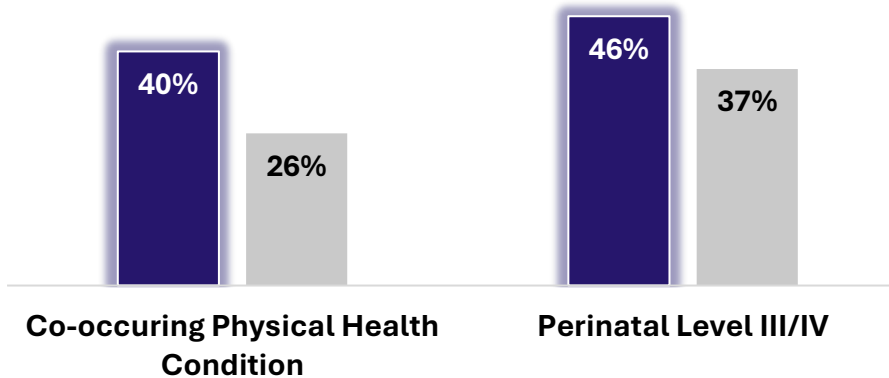
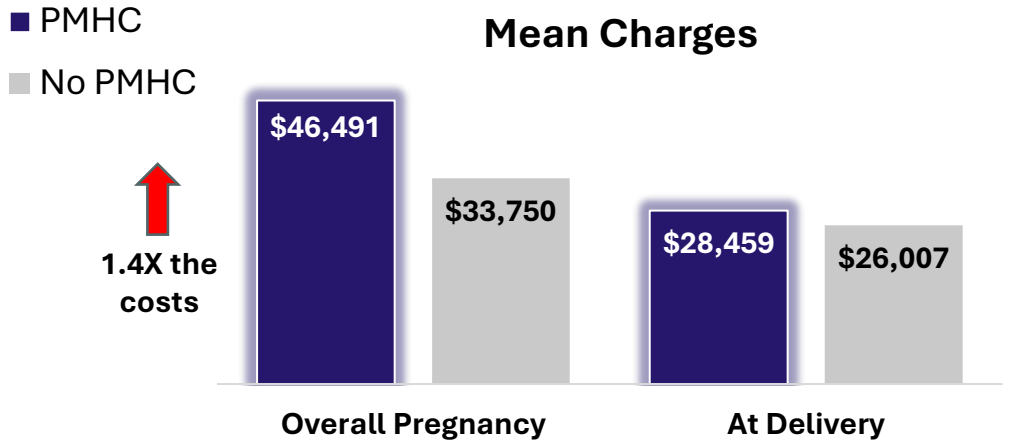
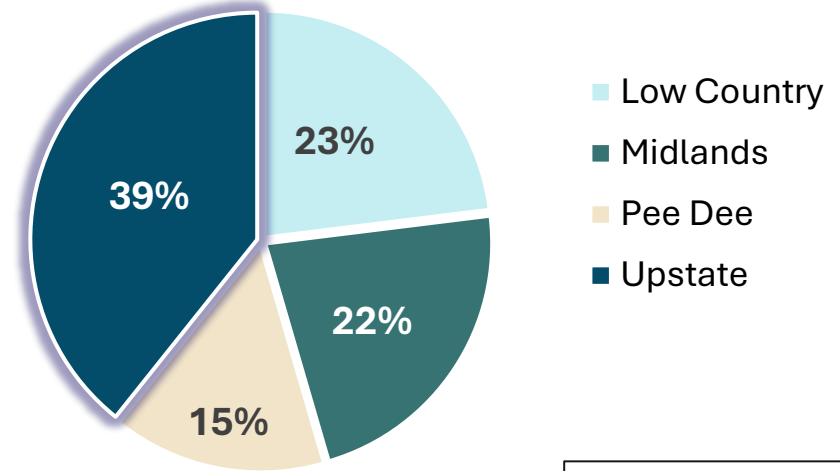
# Perinatal Mental Health Conditions in SC



In CY2023, about **1 in 5** deliveries had a Perinatal Mental Health Condition (PMHC)

**N = 9,493**

Proportion of Deliveries with PHMC



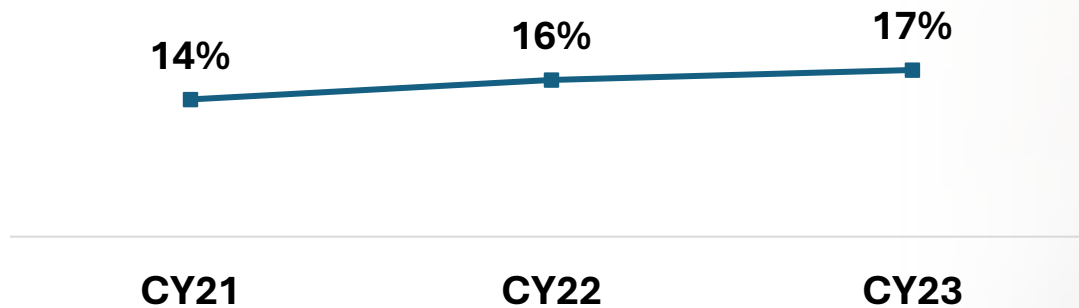
## TAKEAWAY

Compared to non-PMHC deliveries, **those with PMHC had higher charges and greater rates** of co-occurring physical health (PH) conditions and of delivery in a perinatal level III/IV facility.

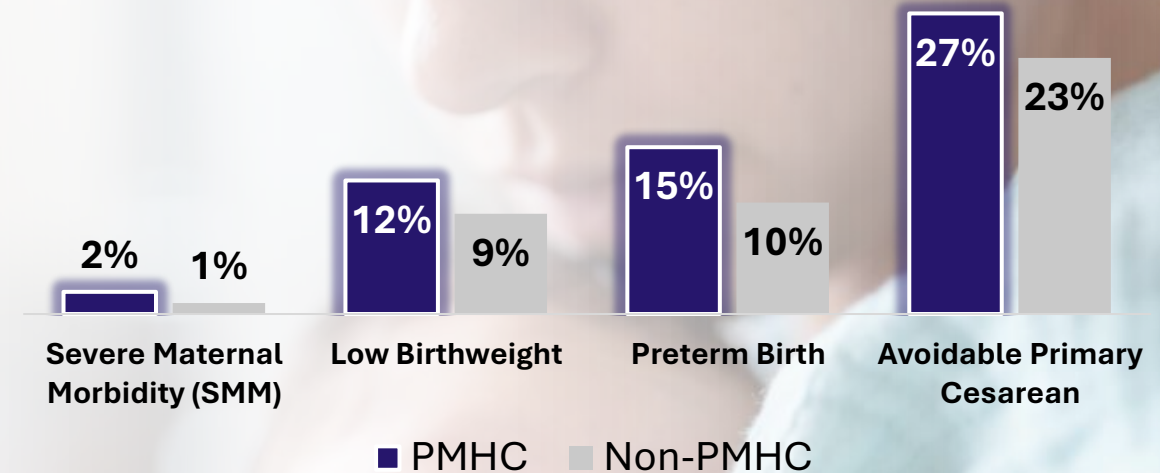
**NOTE:** Postpartum records for CY 2023 deliveries are incomplete. Final Ns and rates will be higher.

# Trend and Outcomes among PMHC Deliveries

## Statewide PMHC Trend



## Outcomes (CY 2023)



**NOTE:** PMHC is captured within 12-months prior to or at delivery and refers to mood, anxiety, and anxiety-related disorders. Cochran Armitage test was used to calculate trends.

### TAKEAWAY

The statewide PMHC rate increased significantly over time (**22%**,  $p < .05$ ). This relative increase was even higher among birthing persons in the Upstate (**29%**) and Pee Dee regions (**32%**).

Increases were also seen across all race, payer, and residence groups with the largest relative increase among birthing persons identifying as **Hispanic (40%)** or who were **uninsured (86%)**.

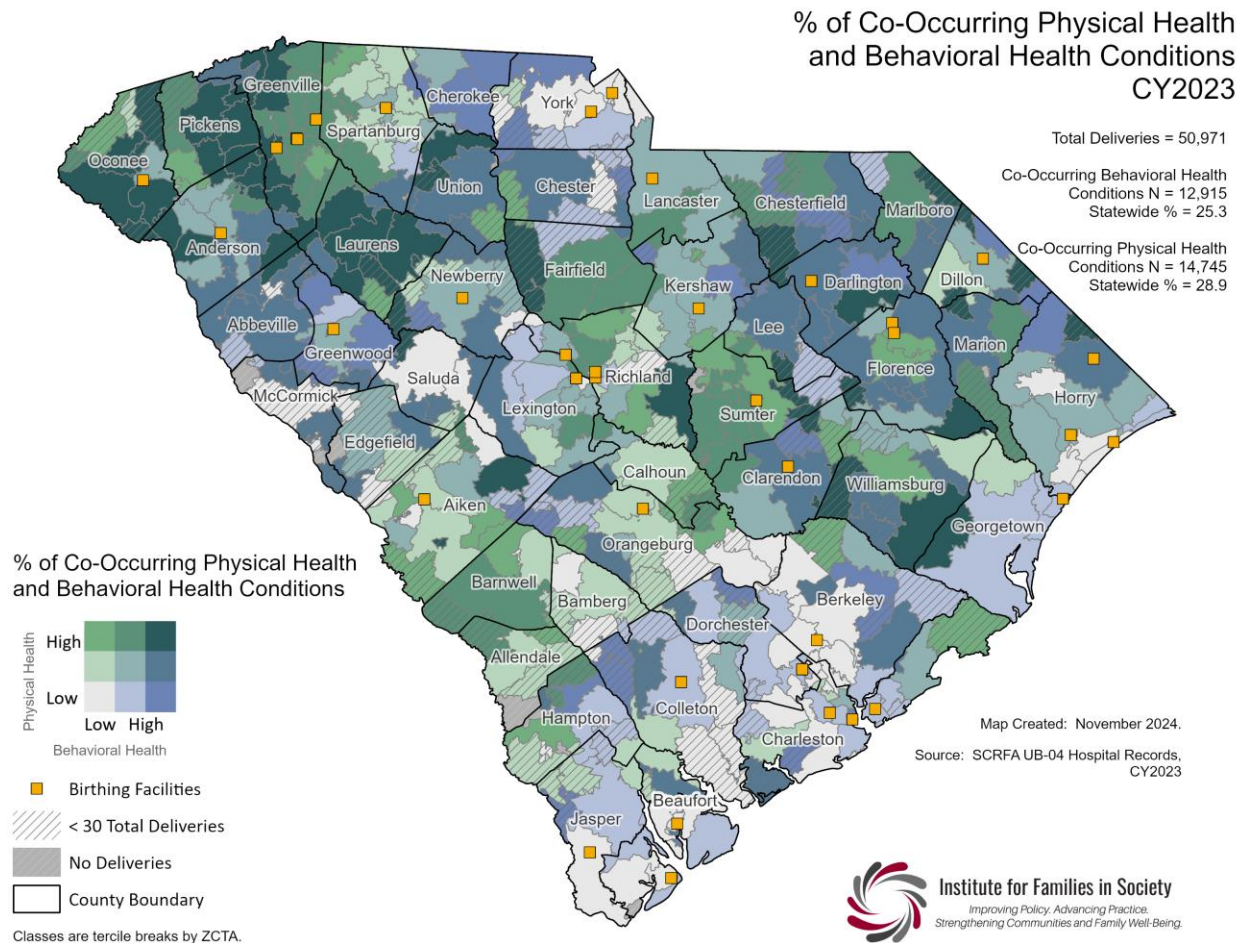
Indicating potential missed opportunities for timely screening and intervention, **1 in 5 birthing persons** who had a mental health diagnosis on an ED visit or inpatient stay in the year prior to their delivery also had one postpartum.



To learn more about PMHC deliveries in SC, visit the [statewide and hospital SCBOI dashboards](#).

You can also access the AIM PMHC Learning Series Sessions [here](#).

# Co-Occurring Conditions



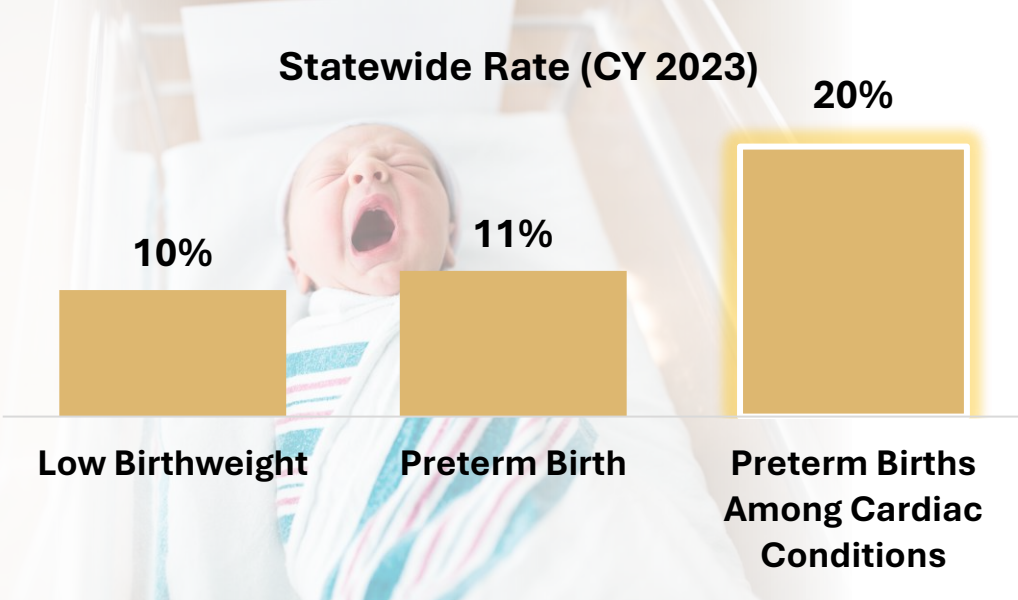
## TAKEAWAY

This map identifies within each county the areas with greatest need. **Overall, rates of co-occurring behavioral health (BH) and physical health (PH) conditions were highest in six SC counties;** four in the Upstate (Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Laurens) and two in the Pee Dee (Chesterfield and Darlington). Of these, half (Pickens, Laurens, and Chesterfield) did not have a birthing facility within their county, indicating greater potential need for care coordination.

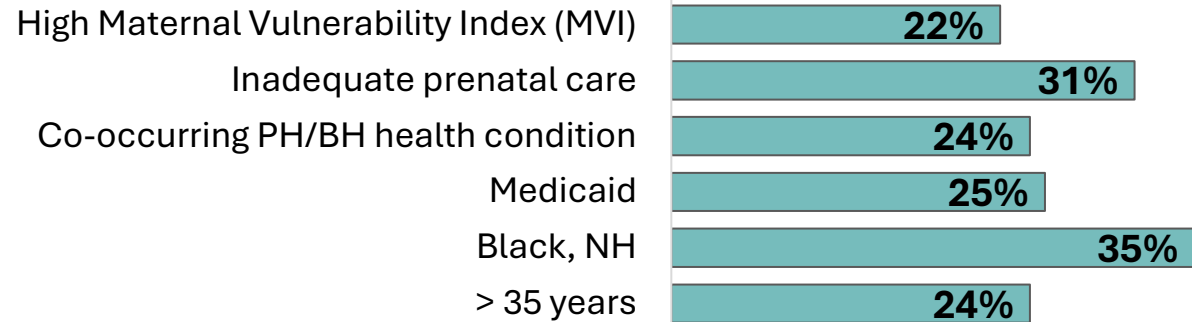
**Interpreting the map:** The **bright green** is high for physical health only, the **bright blue** is high for behavioral health only, and the **dark green-blue** counties are high for both.



# Newborn Outcomes



Disparities were present for all newborn outcomes, with the highest rates seen for **preterm births among cardiac conditions**.



**NEW!**  
**PC-06**  
**Unexpected Newborn Complications**



**1 in 7**

SC newborns have unexpected complications (89.6% moderate, 1.5% severe, 8.8% both).

TOP 3 CONDITIONS	%
Moderate Respiratory Complications with Length of Stay (LOS)	45%
Moderate Respiratory Complications with LOS procedures	25%
Moderate Birth Trauma with LOS	22%

Compared to the CY 2023 statewide rate (14%), **disparities** were seen among those:

- >35 years of age (15%)
- who delivered via cesarean (18%)
- with perinatal obesity (16%)
- with co-occurring PH/BH health conditions (17%)

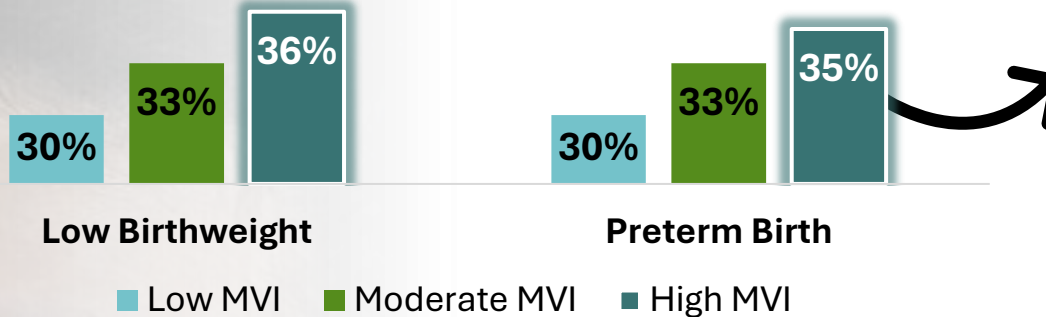
# Maternal Vulnerability Index Snapshot

## What is the Maternal Vulnerability Index?



The US Maternal Vulnerability Index (MVI) measures vulnerability for adverse maternal health outcomes across reproductive, physical, mental health/substance abuse, and general healthcare, socioeconomic determinants, and physical environment.

## Low Birthweight and Preterm Birth by MVI (CY 2023)



High MVI had **23%** higher odds of **preterm birth** (aOR=1.23), and **31%** higher odds of **low birthweight** (aOR=1.31) compared to low MVI.

## Top Three Factors with a High Distribution among the High MVI Group



Residing in a rural area (63%)



Having less than a high school education (42%)



Being younger <20 (46%)

## SMM at Delivery or Postpartum by MVI (CY 2022)



When assessing maternal outcomes by vulnerability, **those with high MVI had higher rates of SMM** during delivery or postpartum. This trend was **also seen when observing rates of ICU** (N=109 for high MVI vs. N=64 for low MVI) **and postpartum inpatient stays** (5.1% for high MVI vs. 3.8% for low MVI).



# Service Delivery

*“I think all of us as an agency or as agencies need to take a look at how we are providing our services and how people are able to access our services.”*

- Voices/Voces MCH Leader Participant



# Change in Women of Childbearing Age



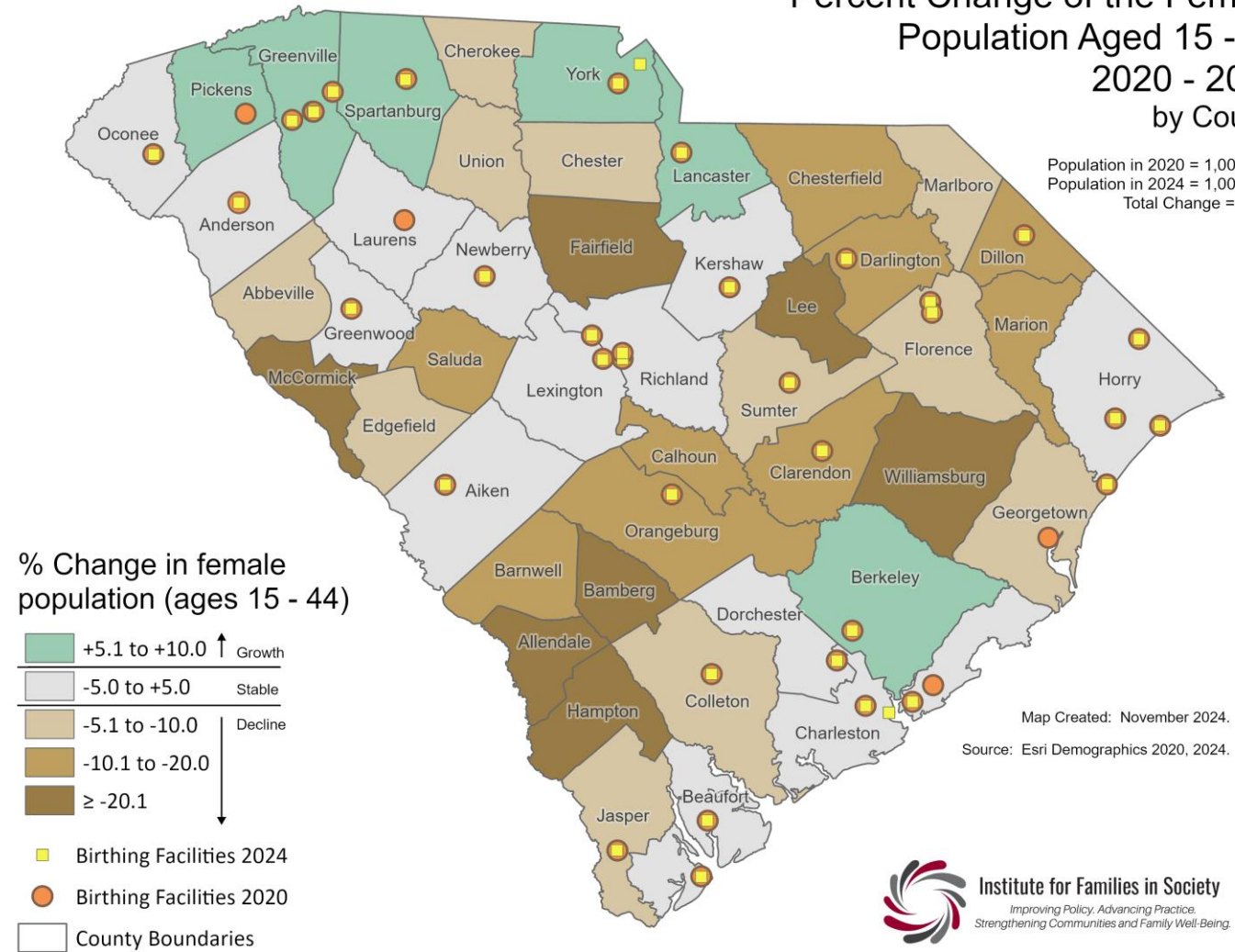
## TAKEAWAY

From 2020 – 2024, six SC counties (**Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg, York, Lancaster, and Berkeley**) saw upwards of a 5.1% to 10% growth in the child-bearing age population. This suggests additional providers and services may be needed in these areas as reflected by recent birthing facility openings in the Piedmont and Berkeley.

Seven others (**McCormick, Fairfield, Lee, Williamsburg, Bamberg, Allendale, and Hampton**) saw a decrease of over 20% in the population. **Of note:** None had a birthing facility indicating challenges of maintaining service delivery with fewer patients.

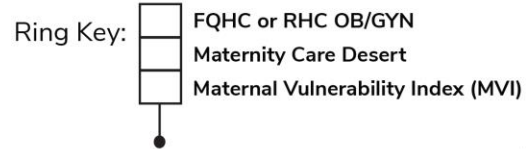
## Percent Change of the Female Population Aged 15 - 44 2020 - 2024 by County

Population in 2020 = 1,006,831  
Population in 2024 = 1,009,644  
Total Change = 0.3%



# High MVI, Maternity Care Deserts, and OB Adequacy

Number of OB/GYN Practitioners per Deliveries with Safety Net OB/GYN Services, Maternity Care Deserts & Maternal Vulnerability



Ring Classifications:

**FQHC or RHC OB/GYN**

- No OB/GYN present
- OB/GYN present

**Maternity Care Desert**

- Maternity Care Desert
- Low Access to Maternity Care
- Full Access to Maternity Care

**Maternal Vulnerability Index (MVI)**

- High Vulnerability
- Moderate Vulnerability
- Low Vulnerability

**Basemap:**

Number of OB/GYN providers per number of deliveries for CY2023

- Lowest tertile\*
- Moderate tertile
- Highest tertile

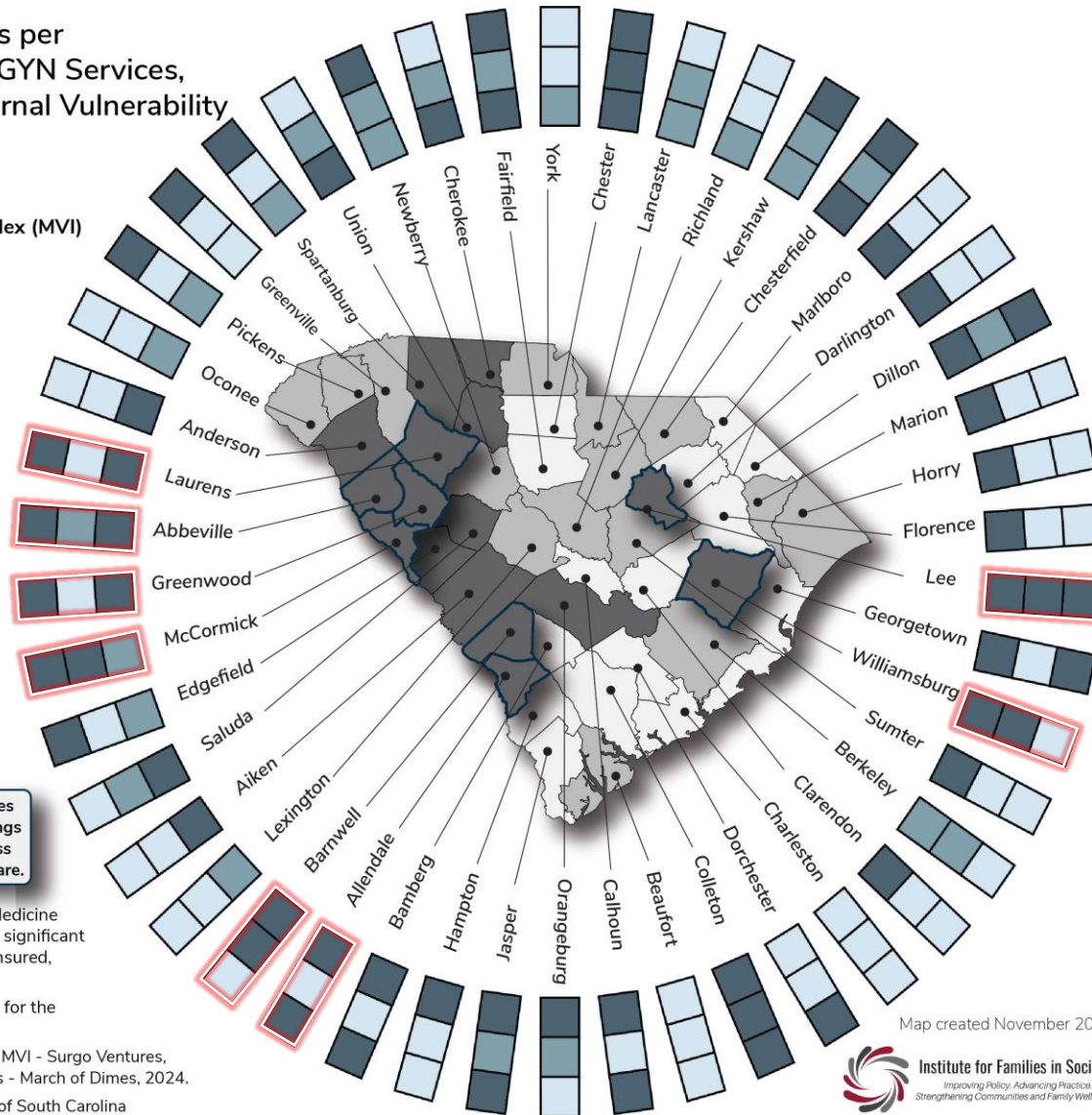
\*Highlighted counties have at least two rings indicating less access to maternal healthcare.

Safety-Net practices are defined by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) as "those providers that organize and deliver a significant level of health care and other needed services to uninsured, Medicaid and other vulnerable patients."

Note: There are no "Moderate Access" class counties for the Maternity Care Desert in South Carolina.

Source: US Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2024. MVI - Surgo Ventures, data accessed September 2023. Maternity Care Deserts - March of Dimes, 2024.

USC Institute for Families in Society © 2024 University of South Carolina



Map created November 2024



**Lowest Tertile (Highest Need) Counties**

Abbeville

Allendale

Barnwell

Greenwood

Laurens

**Lee**

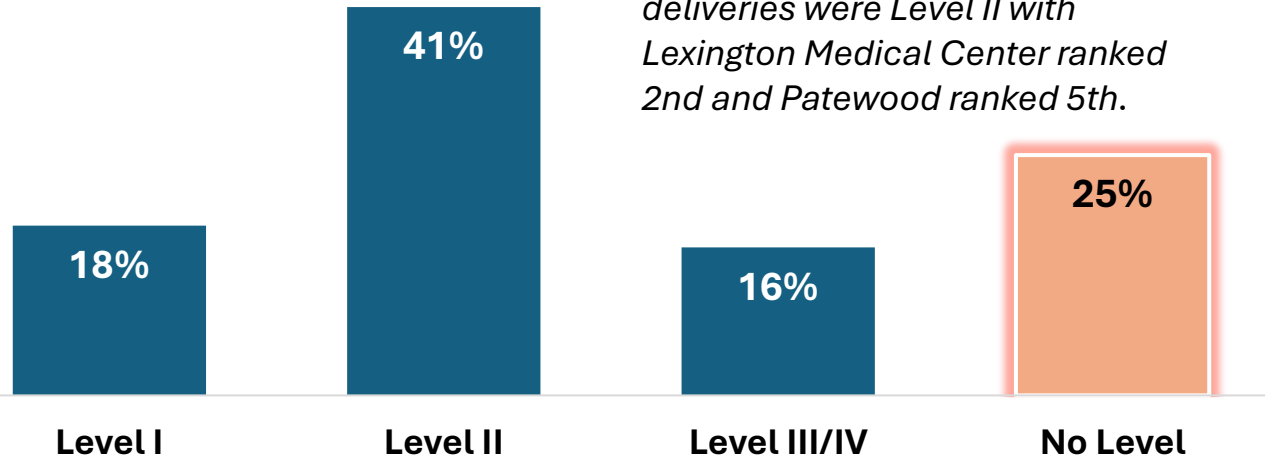
McCormick

Williamsburg



# SC Hospital Profile (CY 2023)

## Hospital Perinatal Level (% of total hospitals)

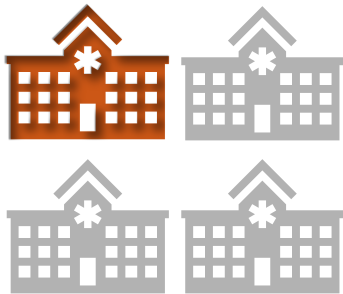


Half of the top 10 hospitals by N deliveries were Level II with Lexington Medical Center ranked 2nd and Patewood ranked 5th.

**Colleton, Kershaw, McLeod Health Dillon, Hilton Head, and Newberry County had fewer than 300 deliveries.** Kershaw is currently closing with OB staff moving to MUSC NE Columbia. MUSC Orangeburg was the only Level II with fewer than 400 deliveries.



1 in 4



SC hospitals do not have a labor and delivery unit and may have greater need for emergency department staff OB training.

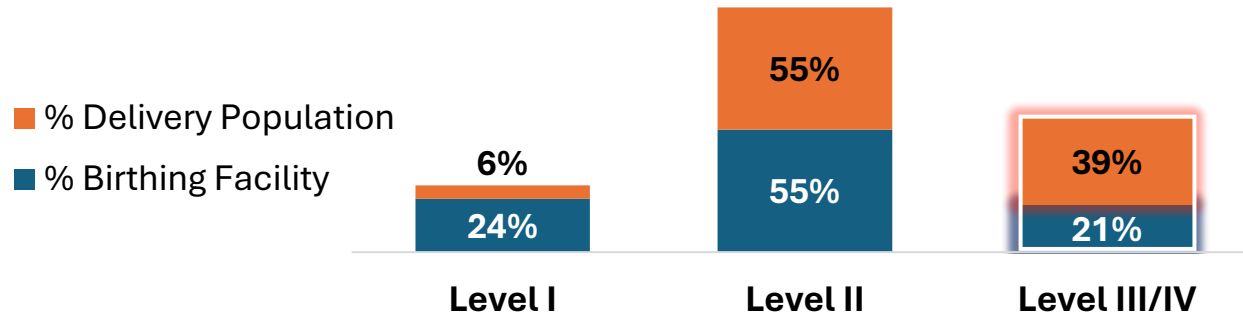
### TAKEAWAY

- Since 2012, 13 labor & delivery units have closed.
- Of the 13 “No level” facilities, 6 (46%) were a “never birthing” facility and 7 (54%) had closed their OB services.

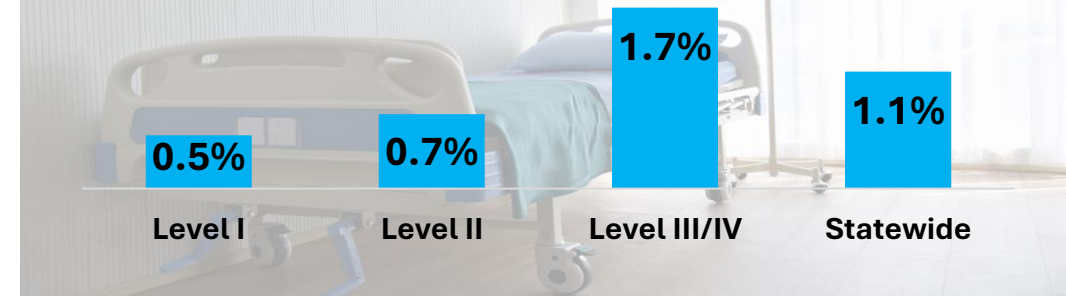


# Perinatal Level Analysis of Birthing Facilities (CY 2023)


Perinatal Level of Birthing Facilities in Comparison to Delivery Population Served





Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) by Perinatal Level



## QUICK FACTS

 **43%** of perinatal level I delivery patients resided in rural areas, almost 2x the statewide rate.

 **72%** of perinatal level I deliveries were covered by Medicaid, compared to 60% of deliveries statewide.

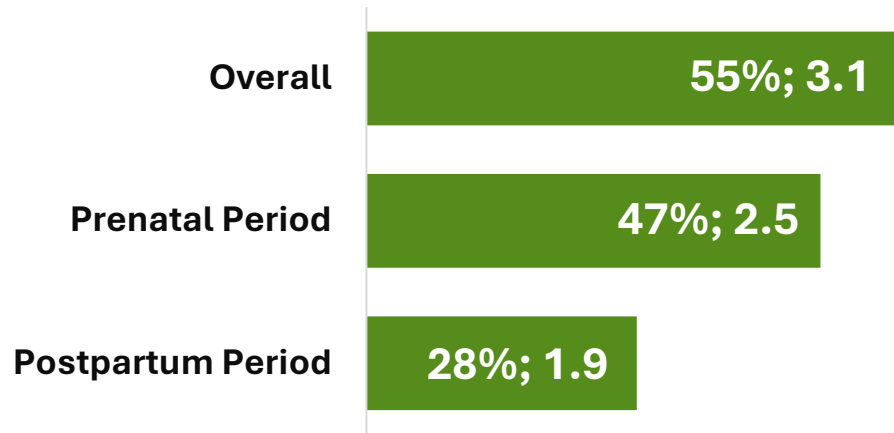
 **1 in 3** perinatal level III/IV deliveries were to birthing persons with co-occurring physical health conditions. This is compared to 9% of perinatal level I and 26% of perinatal level II.

## TAKEAWAY:

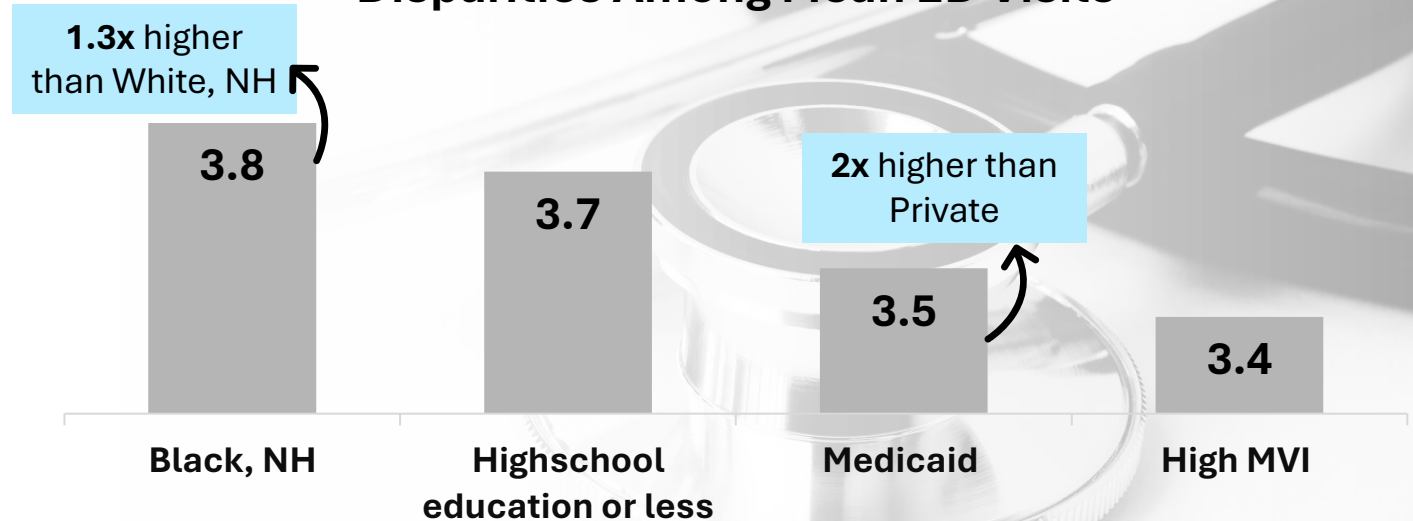
- Perinatal III/IV facilities see a disproportionate number of obstetric patients in comparison to the number of facilities.
- Perinatal level III/IV obstetric patients often exhibited co-occurring conditions and experienced SMM, preterm (55%), and low birthweight (58%). This suggests that complex deliveries are often transferred or admitted to these facilities ( $p < .001$ ) indicating potential need to implement ACOG's maternal levels of care.
- Lower-level facilities require proper resources to provide adequate and equitable care/services to all birthing persons.

# Characteristics of ED Visits (CY 2022)

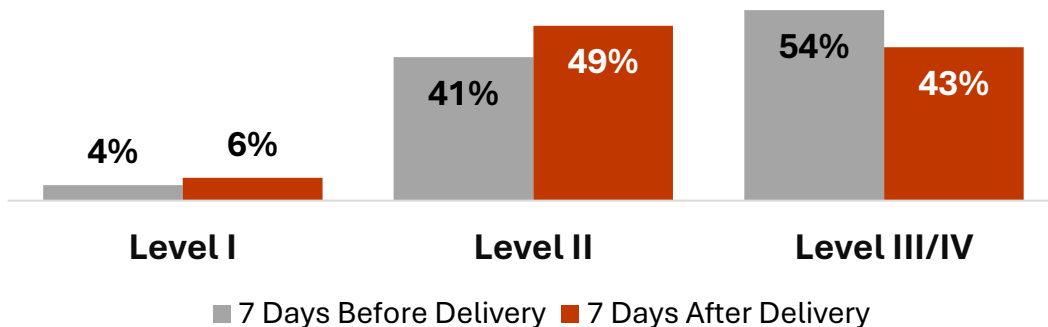
**ED Visits**  
Rate (%); Mean



**Disparities Among Mean ED Visits**



**ED Visits 7 Days Pre- and Post-Delivery by Perinatal Level**



**TAKEAWAY:**

Statewide, 3,558 delivery patients showed up in an ED in the week prior to delivery and another 2,021 in the week after. Most visits were in a birthing facility, indicating the need for these ED providers to also be trained to recognize maternal early warning signs.

**Non-obstetric diagnoses on these visits:** 1 in 3 hypertension; 1 in 10 mental health; 1 in 16 cardiac or circulatory system.



# Access to Care

*“Access has everything to do with can you take time off from your work or your family obligations? Do you have transportation? At this point, do you have connection to internet, do you have a device? Like, there’s so many layers of things where you could see the inequities start happening more and more.”*

*- Voices/Voces MCH Leader Participant*

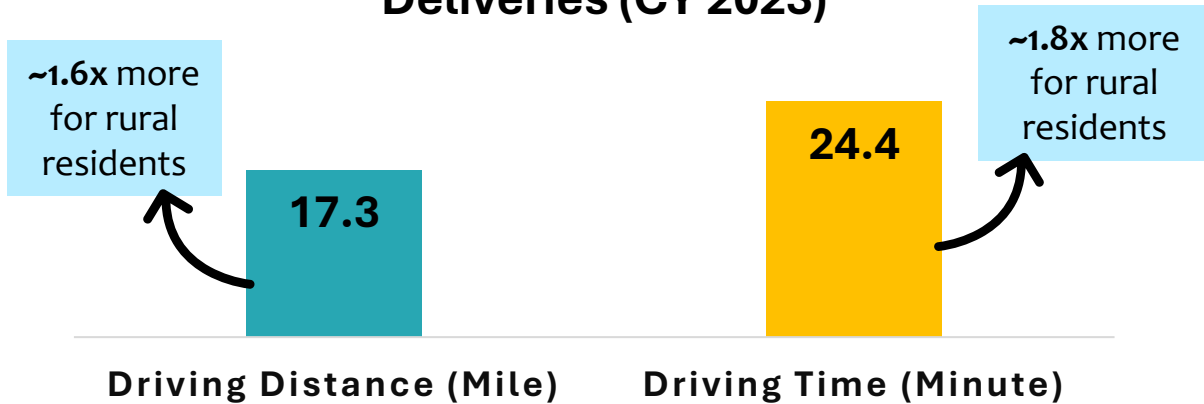


# Drive Distance Analysis



**Drive distance** is defined as the distance from the center of the zip code tabulation area (ZCTA) where the birthing person resides to the birthing facility they attended.

## Average Driving Distance and Time for Deliveries (CY 2023)



### TAKEAWAY:

Both adjusting for co-occurring conditions and not, in CY 2023, drive time was associated with poor outcomes. **The farther a birthing person travels to their birthing hospital, the greater the risk of maternal morbidity outcomes**, including increasing rates of SMM, avoidable C-section, low birthweight and prematurity ( $p < 0.5$ ).

# Drive Distance Analysis (cont.)

Additional analysis shows that in CY 2023:



**2 out of 5**

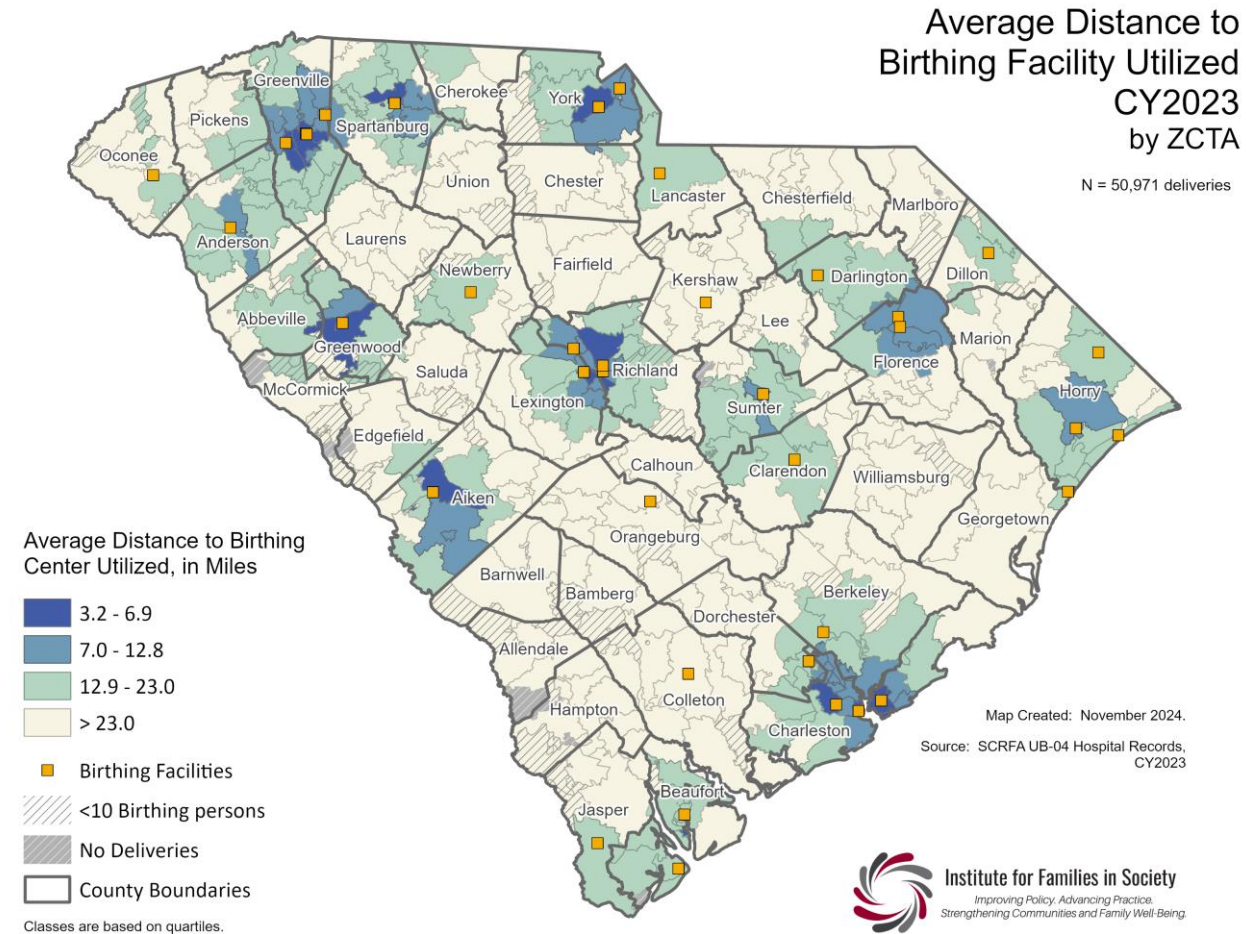
birthing persons traveled outside of their residential county for their delivery.



Of those who traveled 60 miles or more for care (1,242) over **80%** continued to seek care outside of their residential county, even though a birthing facility was available within their county. Further investigation of **commuting patterns and realized access** are needed.



Compared to those who traveled the shortest distance to their birthing facility, those who traveled the furthest were **more likely** to be Medicaid beneficiaries, have a co-occurring PH/BH health condition, reside in a rural area, and have high MVI.

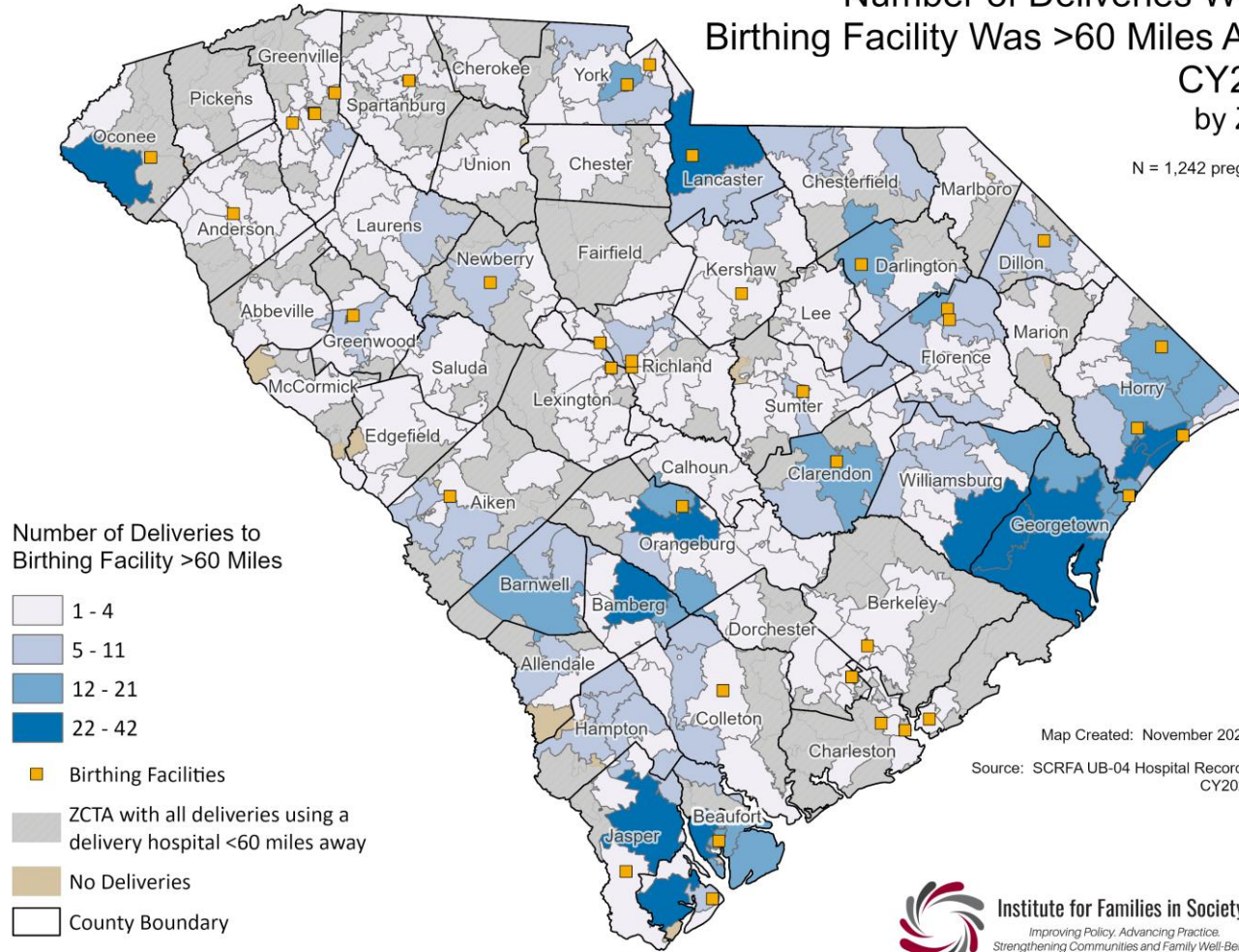




# Drive Distance Analysis (cont.)

Number of Deliveries Where  
Birthing Facility Was >60 Miles Away  
CY2023  
by ZCTA

N = 1,242 pregnancies



## TAKEAWAY

In this map, county areas in **dark blue** represent the greatest number of deliveries which traveled over 60 miles to their birthing facility. Those who traveled the furthest resided in Jasper/Beaufort, Georgetown/Horry, Orangeburg, Lancaster, Williamsburg, Bamberg, and Oconee.





# Next Steps

*“If you want to give really good care, you have to go deeper. You have to meet your patients where they are, and you have to let them teach you. They are the experts on their own bodies. We are the experts in medicine. And so, allowing it to be a mutual learning relationship is the key to giving the best care.”*

- Voices/Voces MCH Leader Participant

# ***NEW!* SCMHIC WEBSITE**

**[schealthviz.sc.edu/scmhic](https://schealthviz.sc.edu/scmhic)**



SCHealthViz 

[schealthviz.sc.edu/county-profiles](https://schealthviz.sc.edu/county-profiles)

**Arriving 2025.**

More data. More options.

- New CY23 ZCTA-Level Data
- Key Findings
- Contextual Information

SCHealthViz 







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MCH & Health Equity Evaluation Projects Team Lead  
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# Contact



# Break

# MHI Grant Requirements

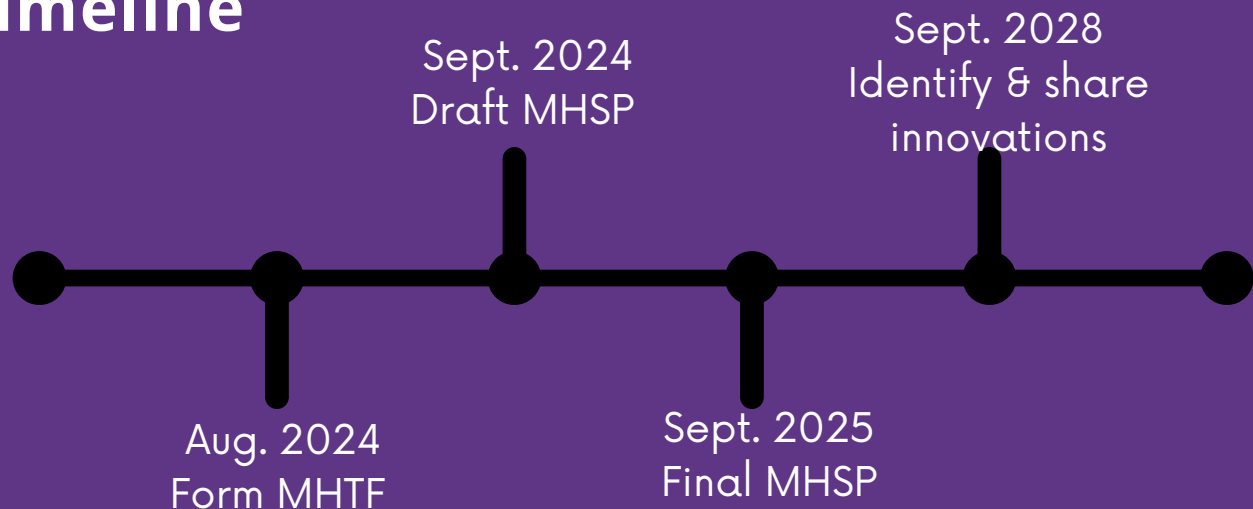
## HRSA Funded

Certain required key actions, timelines, & focus areas

## Key Actions

- Establish a state-focused MHTF
- Improve state-level maternal health data & surveillance
- Promote & execute innovation in maternal health service delivery
- Measure & track performance & conduct a program evaluation
- Foster collaborate learning with traditional & non-traditional partners

## Timeline





# MHTF Work Groups

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Data Collection,  
Analysis, & Distribution



Service Delivery



Workforce  
Development



Empowerment &  
Literacy

# MHTF Work Groups

- Meet your workgroup members
  - Flexibility to change groups if needed
- Facilitators & notetakers will be present
- Be prepared to share!
  - Each workgroup will present their insights



# Workgroups

If you do not automatically move to a breakout room, please wait in the main room.



# Debrief

## GROUP SHARING

---

Please share a brief overview of your workgroup's discussion.

- *under two minutes please*
  - *focus on key questions for strategic planning*
-

# WORKGROUP MEETINGS

Scheduled based on discussions and results of a post meeting survey

Expect a calendar invite for sometime in February



# MHTF MEETING

March 3, 2025

10 am to 3 pm

Location: TBD

# Next Meetings



# Next Meetings



<b>December 2024</b>	<b>January 2025</b>	<b>February 2025</b>	<b>March 2025</b>	<b>April 2025</b>
MHTF <i>virtual</i>	X	Workgroup Meetings	MHTF <i>in-person</i>	X
<b>May 2025</b>	<b>June 2025</b>	<b>July 2025</b>	<b>August 2025</b>	<b>Sept. 2025</b>
Workgroup Meetings	MHTF <i>virtual</i>	X	Workgroup Meetings	MHTF <i>in-person</i>



# Next Steps

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## Post-Meeting Survey

Share feedback & thoughts  
Workgroup leadership & meeting schedules

## MHSP Review Survey



<https://redcap.link/scmhic2>

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## Reflection Activity

“The one thing I will take with me from this meeting is...”