InfoByte: Availability of Obstetric Services in Wisconsin

Courtesy of the Wisconsin Health Information Organization

July 2026

This InfoByte was created from HealthSCAPE, a new WHIO data file. HealthSCAPE includes data from the American Hospital Association's hospital survey and public sources such as the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and The Joint Commission. HealthSCAPE can be used alone or with other WHIO data.

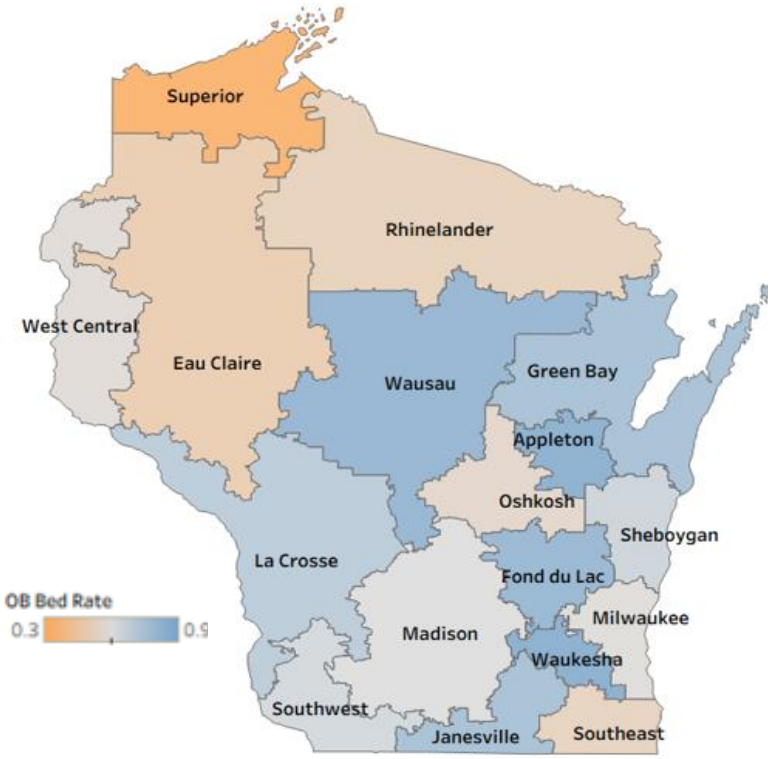
In Wisconsin, 7.9% of babies are born with low birth weight, 10.1% are born prematurely and 9.5% were admitted to the NICU in 2022-2024. (Wisconsin Department of Health Services).

The number of rural hospitals that provide obstetric services has declined from 62 hospitals in 2012 to 43 hospitals in 2023. (Wisconsin Office of Rural Health).

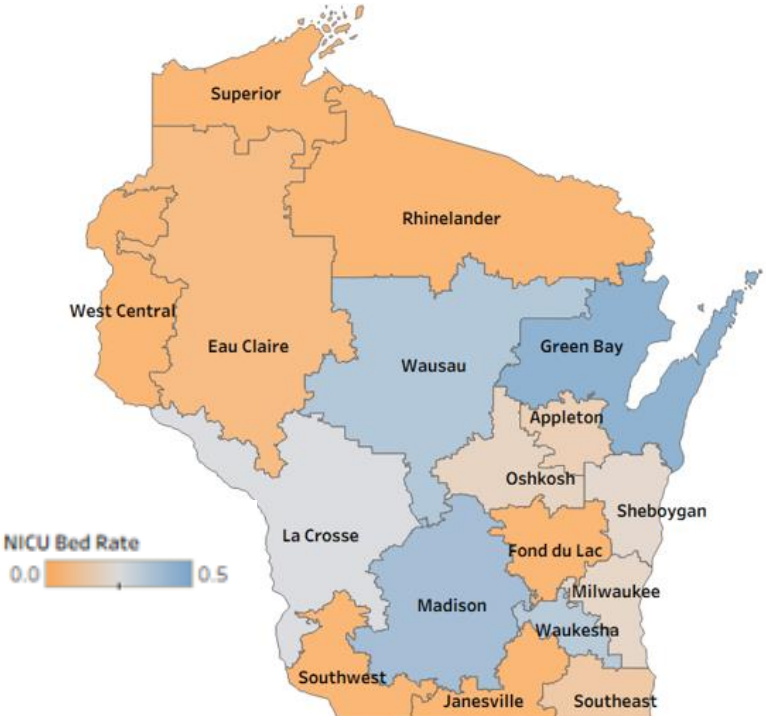
The information in this report is arranged by Health Services Area (HSA) to reflect local health care markets focused on hospital care and patient travel patterns. The rate per 1,000 is based on the number of women in the WHIO data base age 15-54 years of age that live in each HSA.

The upper map shows the availability of obstetric services and the lower map, the location of critical care level services. The US NICU rate is 0.44 NICU beds per 1,000 women age 15-54 according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Obstetric Beds Per 1,000 Women by HSA, 2024



Neonatal ICU Beds Per 1,000 Women by HSA, 2024



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The table at the right tells us the number of obstetric beds by severity level and the total number of obstetric beds per HSA.

The location of air and ground ambulance services certified by the DHS as critical care level paramedics are shown on the lower map. There may be other critical care transportation services that are not be shown on this map.

This InfoByte provides a statewide view of Wisconsin's "birth system of care" including the location and volume of general hospital and critical care obstetric services, and critical care transport services. Wisconsin families rely on this system of care to provide high quality, accessible hospital based obstetric services.

The WHIO will publish driving distances to hospital based obstetric services in an upcoming InfoByte.

For more information, contact the WHIO at 608-442-3876 or info@whio.org

Severity Level of Obstetric Beds by HSA, 2024

HSA	Serious	Complicated	Uncomplicated	Unspecified	Total
Appleton	43	28	0	0	71
Eau Claire	0	31	6	5	42
Fond du Lac	0	0	35	0	35
Green Bay	23	18	22	24	87
Janesville	4	12	35	0	51
La Crosse	16	14	17	4	51
Madison	92	9	20	5	126
Milwaukee	156	51	0	0	207
Oshkosh	0	16	5	0	21
Rhinelander	0	6	0	5	11
Sheboygan	0	22	0	9	31
Southeast	0	17	44	0	61
Southwest	0	0	10	0	10
Superior	0	0	5	0	5
Waukesha	0	12	39	12	63
Wausau	0	63	13	0	76
West Central	0	8	19	0	27
State Totals	334	307	270	64	975

Critical Care Air and Ground Ambulances by HSA, 2026

