



## INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy

### **Analysis of Indiana's Primary Care Physicians Providing Obstetric Services**

#### ***Background***

Reducing infant mortality is a top health policy priority in the State of Indiana. Information on the workforce delivering obstetric services in Indiana is critical to related initiatives. Obstetric services are a part of routine service line of physicians that specialize in obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN); however, physicians from other specialties, such as family medicine or general internal medicine, may also provide obstetric services. The purpose of this report is to quantify and describe the primary care physicians that report providing some level of obstetric care in Indiana.

#### ***Methods***

Primary care physicians were identified through self-reported specialty in the 2017 Physician Re-Licensure survey.<sup>1</sup> Specialty for these physicians, as well as survey non-respondents, were obtained and/or verified as part of the Primary Care Needs Assessment provider data management.<sup>2</sup> In order to identify the primary care physicians providing obstetric services, a series of questions were administered to all primary care physicians.<sup>3</sup> The questions posed to physician offices are provided below:

1. *Do you provide pre-natal services?*
2. *Do you provide labor and delivery services?*
3. *Do you provide post-natal services?*

The Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) definitions and criteria for a community based primary care physicians was used to identify qualifying physicians. A diagram describing the report sample is found in Figure 1.

---

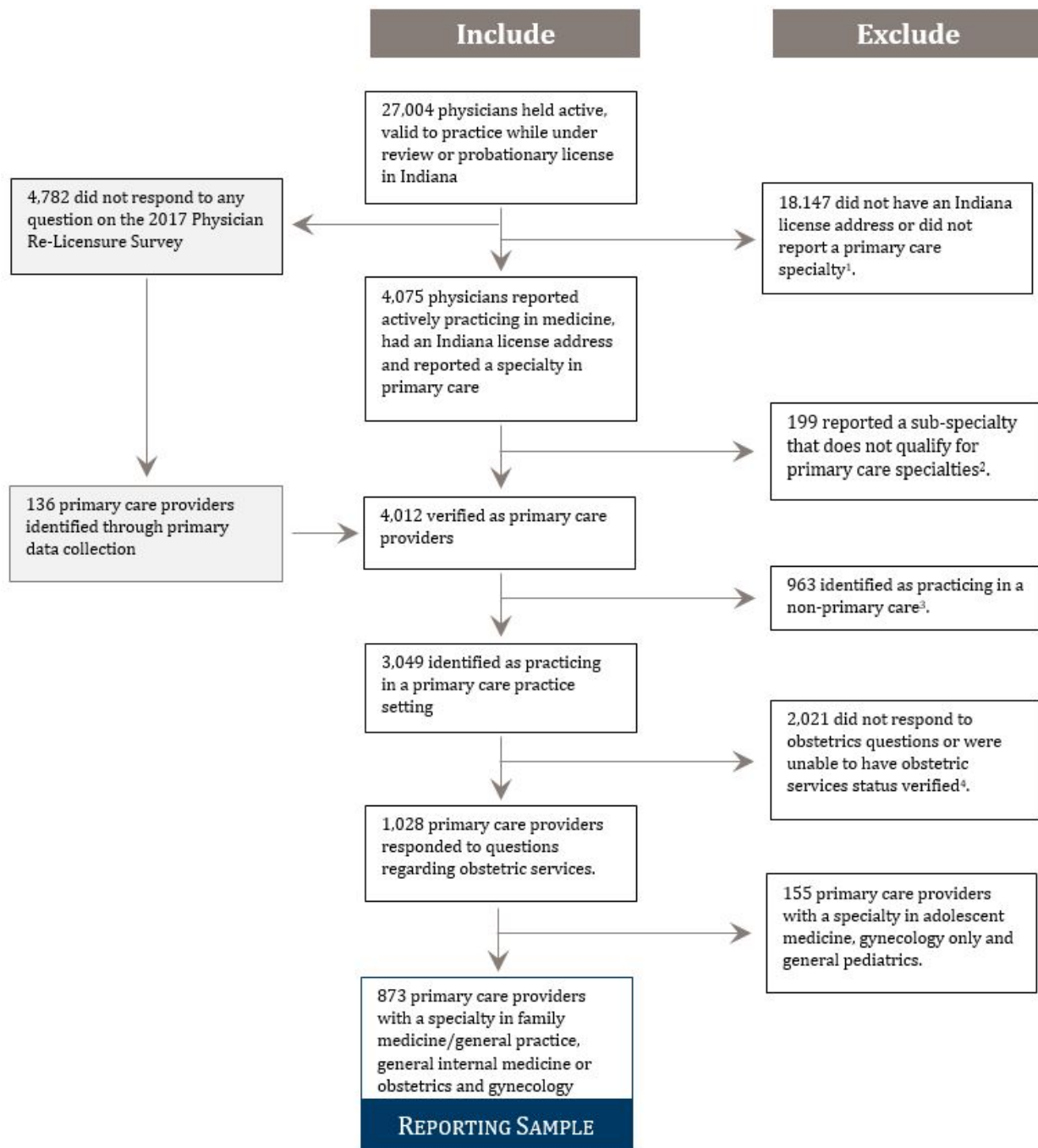
Document produced by the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research & Policy in September 2018.

<sup>1</sup> Additional information about this survey or related data management processes can be found in the Data Report: 2017 Indiana Physician Licensure Survey at <https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/handle/1805/16654>

<sup>2</sup> Per published provider verification protocol at <https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/handle/1805/11773>

<sup>3</sup> In order to administer this survey, a data clerk contacted the provider's office and administered these survey questions to the office practice manager. Responses were coded as "Yes," "No," "Unsure," or "Non-response." Only those responses as "Yes" were included in the maps presented in this report.

Figure 1. Report sample selection criteria



1 The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) defines primary care specialties as: Family Medicine/General Practice, Internal Medicine (General), Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatric (General).

2 As outlined by HRSA, sub-specialties of the primary care specialties that do not qualify for consideration in the primary care workforce are not included among primary care providers.

3 Practice settings which are not considered primary care settings as defined by HRSA include: Hospital – Ambulatory Care Center, Hospital – Emergency Department, Hospital – Inpatient, Research Laboratory, Medical School, Nursing Home or Extended Care Facility, Home Health Setting, Hospice Care, Local Health Department, Telemedicine, Volunteer in a Free Clinic, Veteran Affairs Hospital or Clinic, Urgent Care, Correctional Facilities, State Mental Health Hospitals and Other settings such as locum tenens and Corporate Care.

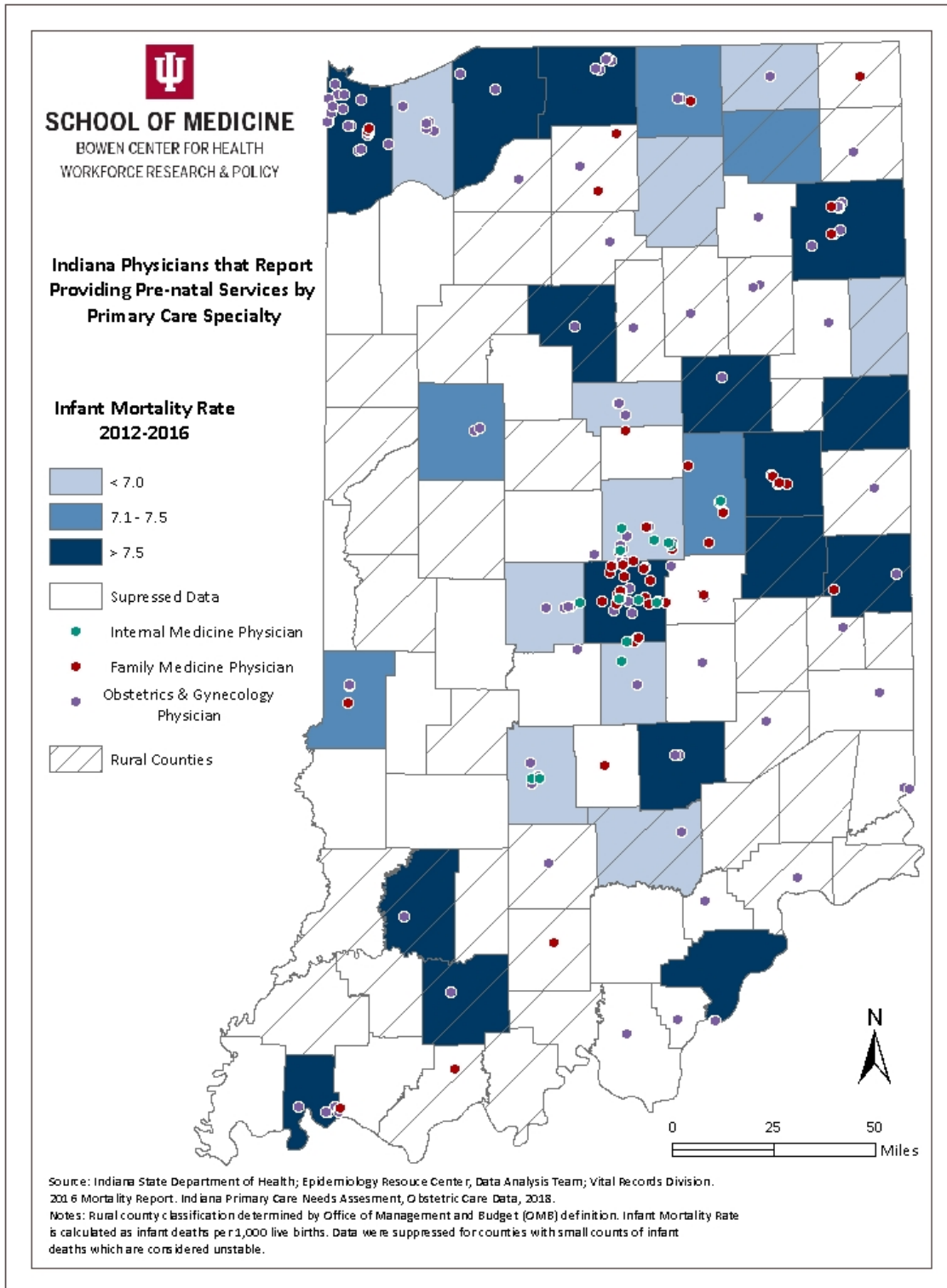
4 1,616 primary care providers were unable to have their obstetric services verified by administrative/office staff.

Results

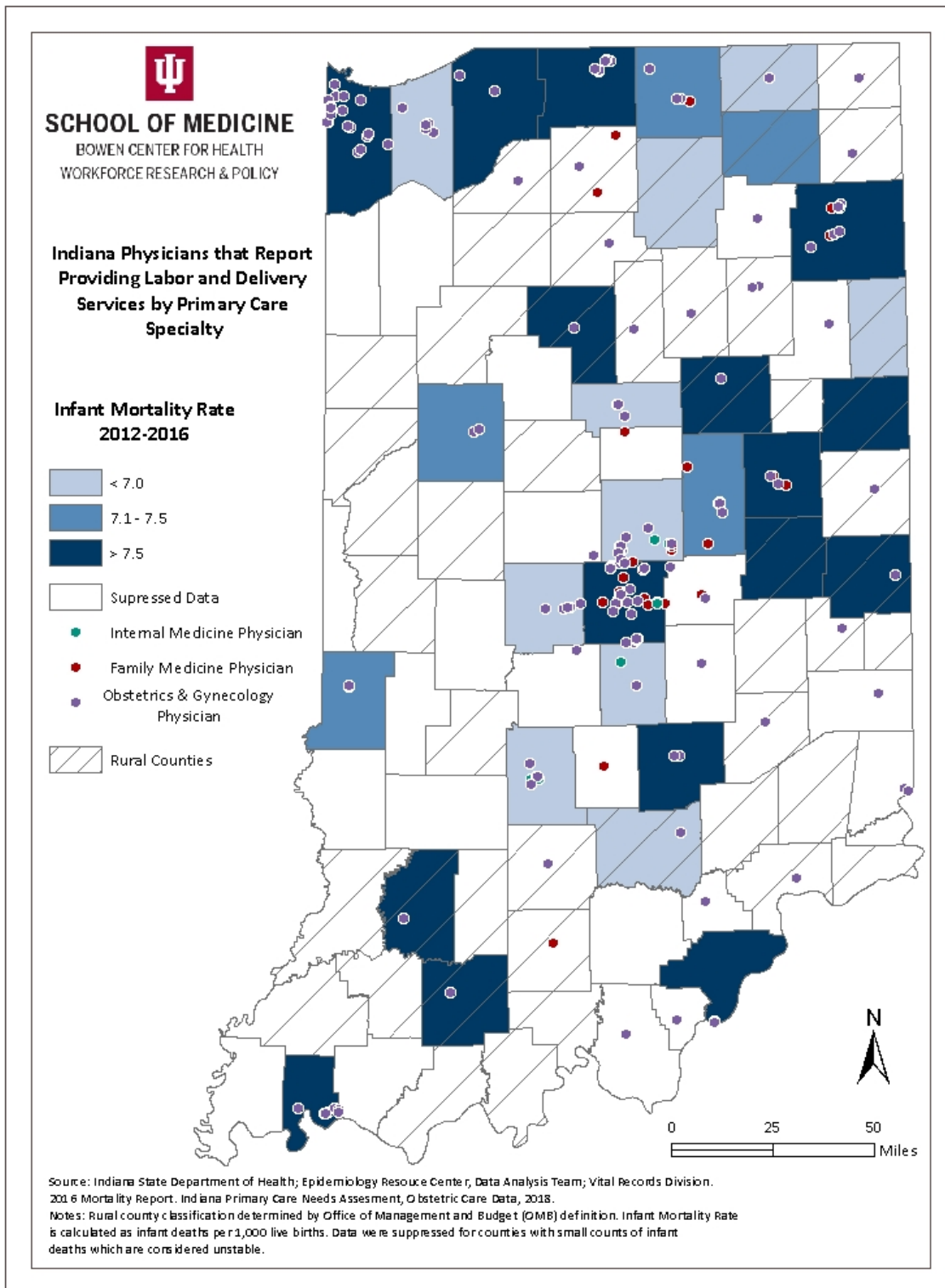
**Table 1.** Frequency of obstetric services by primary care physician specialty

<i>Primary Care Specialty</i>	<b>Pre-natal Services</b>		<b>Labor and Delivery Services</b>		<b>Post-natal services</b>		<b>Comprehensive obstetric services (pre-natal, L&amp;D, &amp; post-natal)</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>Family Medicine/General Practice</b>	147	276	131	292	178	245	131	292	<b>423</b>
<b>General Internal Medicine</b>	22	97	20	99	20	99	20	99	<b>119</b>
<b>Obstetrics/Gynecology</b>	329	2	329	2	329	2	329	2	<b>331</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>873</b>

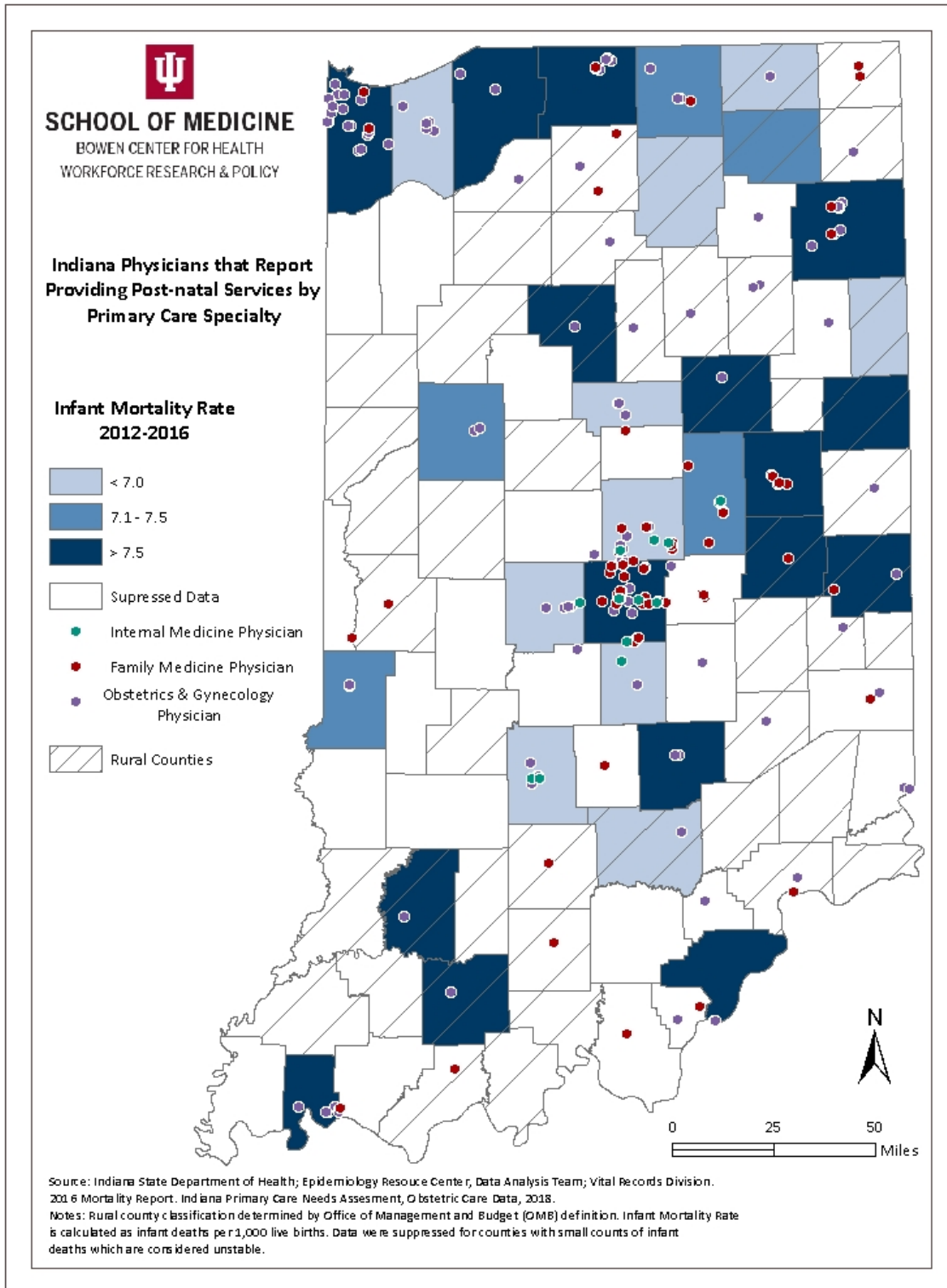
Map 1: OB and Non-OB/GYN Primary Care Physicians Providing Pre-natal Services



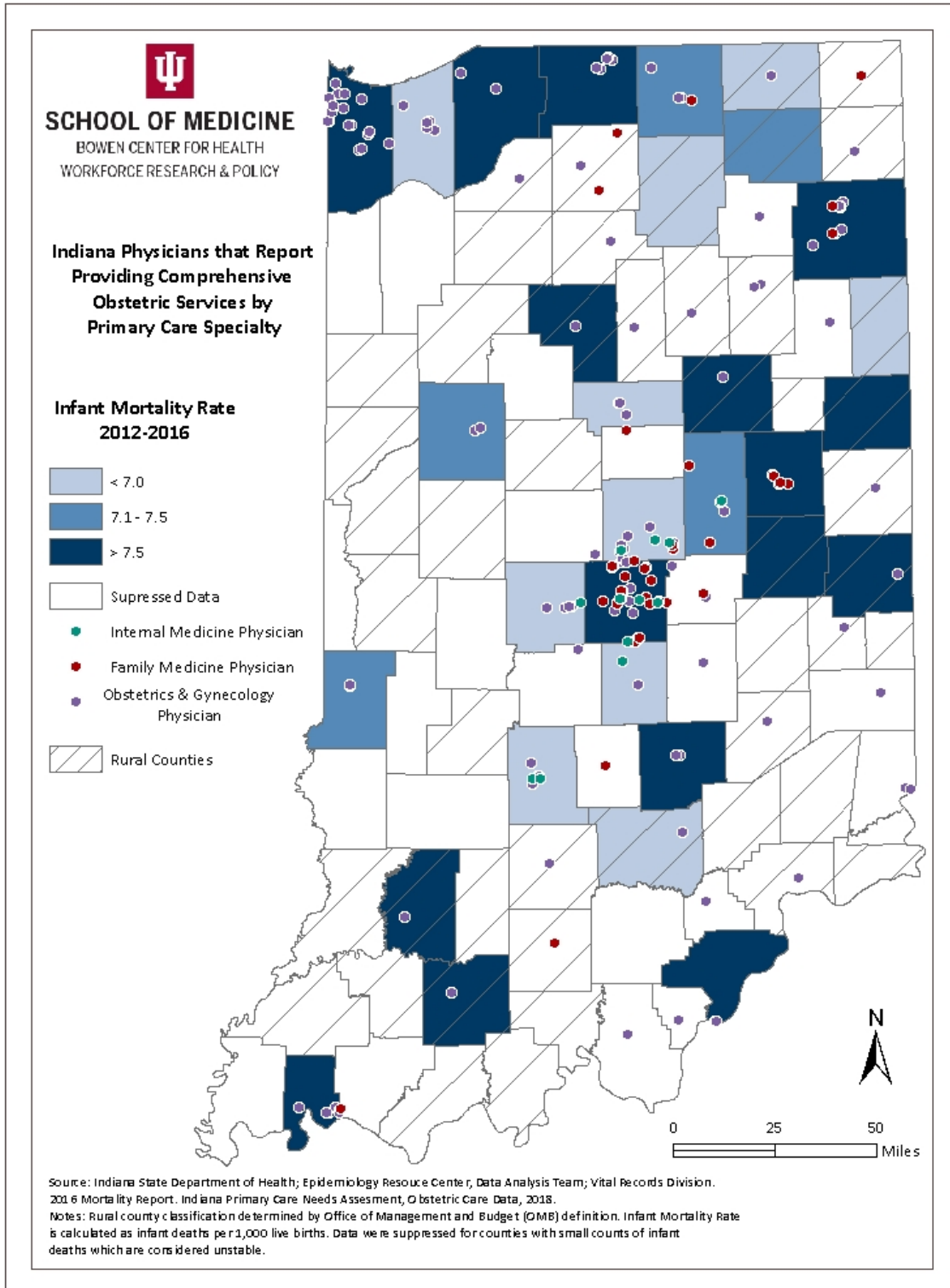
Map 2: OB and Non-OB/GYN Primary Care Physicians Providing Labor & Delivery Services



Map 3: OB and Non-OB/GYN Primary Care Physicians Providing Post-natal Services



Map 4: OB and Non-OB/GYN Primary Care Physicians Providing Comprehensive Obstetric Services (Pre-natal, Labor & Delivery, Post-natal)





## Results

While OB/GYNs specialize in obstetric and maternal care, other physicians also provide some level of obstetric care. The majority of family medicine and internal medicine physicians do not report offering any level of obstetric care. This study found that, of our sample, 45.1% of family medicine physicians (n=178), 18.5% of general internal medicine physicians (n=22), and 99.4% of OB/GYN physicians (n=329) report offering some level of obstetric care. In total, 480 primary care physicians (131 family medicine, 20 internal medicine, and 329 OB/GYN) report offering comprehensive obstetric services (including pre-natal, labor & delivery, and post-natal care).

Of the obstetric service questions posed to respondents, the most common service provided was post-natal services, which was offered by 60.3% of all respondents. Notably, 31.0% of family medicine physician respondents reported providing labor and delivery services.

## Discussion & Implications

The information provided in this report has important implications for measuring and evaluating access to obstetric services. The Indiana State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan identifies reducing infant mortality as a flagship priority.<sup>4</sup> An objective under this goal is to “decrease the number of counties that do not have an obstetric provider.”<sup>4</sup> Currently, this plan states that there are no identified measures for the workforce providing these services. This likely reflects challenges associated with quantifying this workforce. The findings of this brief analysis suggest that specialty alone is not a reliable indicator for whether a provider delivers obstetric services.

In addition to contributing to agency priorities to reduce infant mortality, physician specialty information is critical to implementation of “Perinatal Levels of Care” facility designations (per the *Guidelines for Perinatal Care* guidelines developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists).<sup>5,6</sup> Perinatal Levels of Care Designations were authorized through 2018 Senate Enrolled Act No. 360 to be implemented by the Indiana State Department of Health. Comprehensive information on physician specialty would also support the perinatal levels of care initiative.

Fortunately, 2018 Senate Enrolled Act No. 223,<sup>7</sup> signed by Governor Holcomb in 2018, authorizes the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency to collect information on specific services, including obstetric services, provided by physicians when they renew their medical license each biennium. SEA 223 will be implemented in January of 2019. Beginning with the 2019 medical license renewal, Indiana will have a more complete picture of the workforce providing obstetric services to Hoosiers.

---

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/18\\_SHA%20SHIP%20FINAL%20DOC\\_v4.pdf](https://www.in.gov/isdh/files/18_SHA%20SHIP%20FINAL%20DOC_v4.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> 2018 Senate Enrolled Act No. 360. Available at: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2018/bills/senate/360#document-c95f6f26>

<sup>6</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. 2012. Guidelines for Perinatal Care. Available at: <https://www.buckeyehealthplan.com/content/dam/centene/Buckeye/medicaid/pdfs/ACOG-Guidelines-for-Perinatal-Care.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2018/bills/senate/223>