

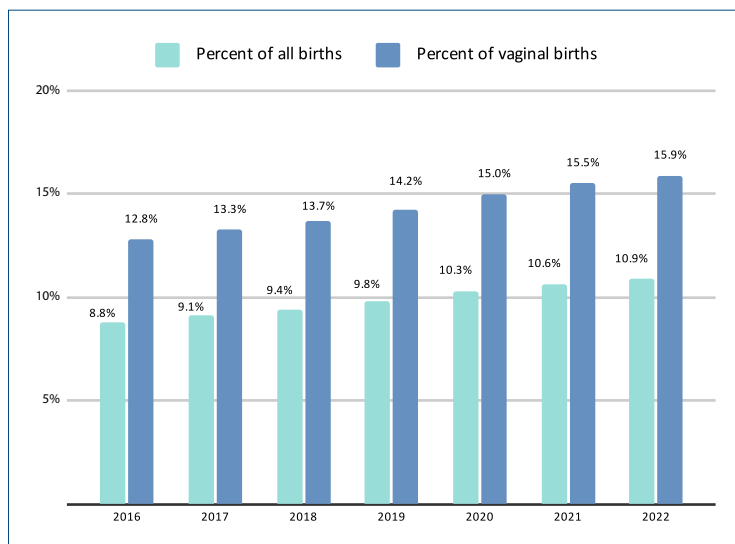
Essential Facts about Midwives

Midwives and Birth in the United States

- The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the professional association representing certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) in the United States. According to the American Midwifery Certification Board, as of August 2023, there were 14,215 CNMs and CMs. Most midwives in the United States are CNMs.¹
- In 2022, CNMs/CMs attended 10.9% of total US births and 90% of all midwife-attended births.²

- CMs are licensed, independent health care providers who have the same scope of practice, accredited education, and national certification as CNMs. CMs are authorized to practice in Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. CMs have prescriptive authority in New York, Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.
- While midwives are well-known for attending births, 55.1% of CNMs/CMs identify reproductive care and 38.5% identify primary care as responsibilities in their full-time positions.³ Examples include annual exams, writing prescriptions, nutrition counseling, parenting education, patient education, and reproductive health visits.
- In 2022, 94% of CNM/CMs births were in hospitals, 3% in freestanding birth centers, and 3% occurred in homes.²
- Medicaid reimbursement for CNM care is mandatory in all states. Most Medicaid programs reimburse CNMs/CMs at 100% of physician rates. Medicare reimburses CNMs at 100%. Most states also mandate private insurance reimbursement for CNM/CM services.

Percentage of Births Attended by Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives, 2016-2022



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Natality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the Natality Records 2016-2022, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html> on Oct 20, 2023 10:58:37 AM

Midwifery Practice

- CNMs/CMs can provide a full range of primary health care services in all stages of life, from the teenage years through menopause, including general health check-ups, screenings, and vaccinations; pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and newborn care; gynecologic care including miscarriage and abortion treatment; treatment of sexually transmitted infections; and prescribing medications, including all forms of pain control medications and birth control.
- CNMs are licensed, independent health care providers with prescriptive authority in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and USVI. CNMs are defined as primary care providers under federal law.

Midwifery Education

- Midwifery education for CNMs/CMs is at the graduate level resulting in a master's or a doctoral degree.
- Standards for education and certification in midwifery are identical for CNMs and CMs.
- The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) is the official accrediting body for CNM/CM education programs.
- There are 46 ACME-accredited or pre-accredited midwifery education programs in the United States.⁴

References

1. American Midwifery Certification Board. Number of CNM & CM by State - Aug 2023. 2023. Published 2023. Accessed November 3, 2023. https://www.amcbmidwife.org/docs/default-source/reports/number-of-cnm-cm-by-state---aug-2023.pdf?sfvrsn=1ff953a2_6
2. National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Vital Statistics System, CDC WONDER Online Database. Published 2023. Accessed November 3, 2023. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-expanded-current.html>
3. Thumm EB, Emeis CL, Snapp C, et al. American Midwifery Certification Board Certification Demographic and Employment Data, 2016 to 2020: The Certified Nurse-Midwife and Certified Midwife Workforce. *J Midwifery Womens Health*. 2023;68(5):563-574. doi:10.1111/JMWH.13511
4. American Midwifery Certification Board. ACME Accredited Programs. Published 2023. Accessed November 3, 2023. <https://theacme.org/accredited-midwifery-education-programs/>