



**Discover
Midwives**



Discover Midwives

Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives

Who is a midwife?

- An advanced practice clinician that specializes in providing primary, sexual, and reproductive care to people from all communities; from adolescence through menopause and beyond
- Qualifications
 - Masters or doctoral education
 - National certification





What do certified midwives (CM) and certified nurse-midwives (CNM) do?

- Provide care throughout pregnancy including during labor and birth
- Care for infants the first 28 days of their lives
- Provide annual exams and preventative visits
- Address gynecological concerns such as vaginal infections or heavy period bleeding
- Do procedures such as pap smears, IUD insertions, circumcisions, or endometrial biopsies
- Assist physicians during surgery
- Prescribe medications and order diagnostic tests such as labs or ultrasounds
- Identify and treat abnormal findings
- Provide primary care and gender affirming care for transgender and non-binary people
- Discuss and prescribe birth control/family planning

Why do people choose to see a midwife?

Midwives

- take extra time to listen to their clients
- encourage clients to participate in their care
- think about a person's feelings, emotions, values, and well-being when planning their care



What are important elements in midwifery care?

1

Focus on promoting healthy choices throughout the lifespan

2

Partner with clients and families to help them decide what care is best

3

Empower people to be an important part of their care team and work towards holistic wellness

4

Practice evidence-based care

5

Incorporate education into healthcare

Where do midwives practice?

- Clinics/Offices
- Hospitals
- Birth centers
- Homes





Can a midwife care for me?

Yes!

Everybody can benefit from a midwife and some may need specialized care with a physician

How do we know that CNMs and CMs provide safe quality care?

- Midwifery is linked to the same or better birth outcomes compared to physicians (with a similar population)
 - Fewer interventions during labor (such as episiotomies and labor induction)
(Sandal et al., 2013; Vedam et al., 2018)
 - Fewer preterm births and infant deaths
(Vedam et al., 2018)
 - More vaginal births
(Souter, Nethery, Kopas, Wurz, Sitcov, & Caughey, 2019; Vedam et al., 2018)
 - Fewer mothers dying globally
(World Health Organization, n.d.)
 - More breastfeeding
(Vedam et al., 2018)
 - Greater satisfaction with care
(Vedam et al., 2018)

“We felt our midwives *really cared* about us and not just about the physical aspects of the pregnancy, but the emotional as well. They didn't just help me birth a baby; they helped us become a family.”



“My midwife was so *calm* and treated my labor as something normal and not scary... I saw her confidence in me and my ability to give birth... we cannot imagine going to anyone but a midwife for our next child.”

(American College of Nurse-Midwives, 2012)

What do people say about their experiences with midwives?

What do people say about their experiences with midwives?

“To say that I love my midwife is nothing short of an understatement. She unselfishly gave me the support and **encouragement** that I needed to confidently obtain a wonderful **natural** healthy birth for my daughter.”



“I am so grateful that I had a full **spectrum** of choices for navigating labor and birth and a care provider I could **trust** to guide me through the difficult patches without abandoning my values and wishes. I’ll continue visiting my midwife for my gynecologic care and without a doubt will return for my next birth.”

What do experts say about midwives?

“Midwives understand and protect the normal physiology of childbirth and provide safe, satisfying and supportive care”

— Maureen P. Corry, MPH,
Executive Director, Childbirth
Connections

“Bringing midwifery care back into our community is bringing wellness and wholeness back into our community.” — Jamari Amani, LM, Director
Southern Birth Justice Network

“Investing in midwifery is an effective solution to deliver on women’s rights and reproductive health...” — Mama Glow Foundation, website



References

- Sandal, J., Soltani, H., Gates, S., Shennan, A., & Devane, D. (2013). Midwife-led continuity models versus other models of care for childbearing women. *The Cochrane Database of Systemic Reviews*, 21(8), CD004667. <https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD004667.pub3>
- Souter, V., Nethery, E., Kopas, M. L., Wurz, H., Sitcov, K., & Caughey, A. (2019). Comparison of Midwifery and Obstetric Care in Low-Risk Hospital Births. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 134(5), 1056-1065. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000003521>
- Vedam, S., Stoll, K., MacDorman, M., Declercq, E., Cramer, R., Cheyney, M., et al. (2018). Mapping integration of midwives across the United States: Impact on access, equity, and outcomes. *PLoS ONE*, 13(2), e019523. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0192523>
- World Health Organization. (n.d.). *The case for midwifery*. https://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/quality-of-care/midwifery/case-for-midwifery/en/



Call a Midwife!

[Find a Midwife >](#)