FACT SHEET

CNM/CM-attended Birth Statistics in the United States

Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) attended 332,107 births in 2014, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. (This is the most recent year for which final birth data are available.) This represents 12.1% of all vaginal births, or 8.3% of total US births.

CNMs/CMs Represent Majority of Midwives

CNMs/CMs have accounted for more than 90% of all midwife-attended births since 1989—the first year that CNM/CM statistics were made available. In 2014, CNMs/CMs attended 91.3% of midwife-attended births.

Trends in CNM/CM-attended Births

Since 1989, the percentage of CNM/CM-attended births has risen nearly every year. In 2013, CNMs/CMs attended 8% of all hospital births, an 11.1% increase since 2005. The percentage of out-of-hospital births attended by CNMs also increased 9.8% over this period, from 28.6% in 2005 to 31.4% in 2014. Both the number and percentage of CNM/CM-attended births in the United States slightly increased from 2013 to 2014. The percentage of total US births increased from 8.2% to 8.3%, and the percentage of vaginal births rose from 11.8% to 12.1%.

CNMs/CMs Provide Midwifery Care in All Settings

CNMs/CMs practice wherever women give birth. In 2014, the majority of CNM/CM-attended births occurred in hospitals (94.2%), while 3% occurred in freestanding birth centers, and 2.7% occurred in homes.

Site of Births Attended by Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives, 2014

Additional Resources

- ACNM Online Media Kit: www.midwife.org/newsroom
- ACNM Communications Department, Phone: 240-485-1826, Fax: 240-485-1818, E-mail: pr@acnm.org, www.midwife.org
- Consumer Information: www.ourmomentoftruth.com

REFERENCES


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