Midwifery Fact Sheet: Alabama

Midwifery Workforce Indicators, 2023

- Midwives Certified by AMCB: 66
- Births in 2022: 58,149
- Midwives per 1,000 Births: 0.6
- Midwife-attended births 2022: 1,072
- % Births Midwife-attended: 2%
- % Vaginal Births Midwife-attended: 3%
- Midwifery education programs: 1

Alabama has not achieved the 6 midwives per 1,000 births recommended by the WHO.

Board-certified midwives include certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives, who are certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board. Board-certified midwives’ professional association is the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Board-certified midwives practice authority is Ala. Code § 34-21-18, which was most recently revised in 2022.

Board-certified midwives are regulated by the Joint Committee of the Board of Nursing and Board of Medical Examiners.

Alabama has one accredited midwifery education program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Midwife-Attended Births

Opportunity: Midwives must obtain a written collaborative agreement to practice (Ala. Code § 34-21-18)

Opportunity: Midwives receive 80% the fee a physician receives for the same service (Alabama Provider Billing Manuals)

Opportunity: Certified Midwives are not eligible for licensure

Opportunity: Midwives must obtain a written collaborative agreement to prescribe (Ala. Admin. Code r. 610-X-5.23)

Opportunity: Hospitals have the option to include midwives on medical staff, but admission physical and history must be completed by a physician (Ala. Admin. Code r. 420-5-7-.09)
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- Both certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives are board certified. Standards for education and certification in midwifery are identical for both credentials.

- Board-certified midwives provide a full range of primary health care services in all stages of life, from the teenage years through menopause.

- While midwives are well-known for attending births, 55.1% of board-certified midwives identify reproductive care and 38.5% identify primary care as responsibilities in their full-time positions.

- Board-certified midwives provide general health check-ups, health screenings, and vaccinations.

- Board-certified midwives provide gynecologic care including miscarriage and abortion treatment, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

### Health Indicators

#### Percent

- Unmet Need for Contraception
- Early Prenatal Care
- Preterm Birth
- NTSV Cesarean
- Breastfeeding Initiation
- Breast Cancer Screening

### Maternity Workforce per 1,000 Births

- Obstetricians
- MFMs
- Midwives

### Birth Attendants in Alabama

- Physician
- Midwife

### By Race / Ethnicity, 2022

- More than One Category
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Hispanic
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black non-Hispanic
- White non-Hispanic

### By Payer, 2022

- More than One Category
- Self-Pay
- Medicaid
- Private Insurance