Midwifery Fact Sheet: Massachusetts

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 244 Mass. Code Regs. 4.03, which was most recently revised in 2012. Board-certified midwives are regulated by the Board of Registration in Nursing.

Massachusetts has one midwifery education program located at Baystate Medical Center.

### Midwifery Workforce Indicators, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwives Certified by AMCB</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births in 2022</td>
<td>68,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwives per 1,000 Births</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife-attended births 2022</td>
<td>11,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife-attended births per midwife</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Births Midwife-attended</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Vaginal births midwife-attended</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery education programs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Change in Midwife Attended Births Over Time

![Graph showing the change in midwife attended births over time between 1985 and 2021 for USA and Massachusetts.](image)

### Policy Assets & Opportunities

- **Asset**: Midwives are licensed for independent practice (244 CMR 4.00)
- **Opportunity**: Midwives receive 85% the fee a physician receives for the same service (See Fee Schedule)
- **Opportunity**: Certified Midwives are not eligible for licensure

- **Asset**: Midwives prescribe independently (244 CMR 4.07)
- **Asset**: Hospitals can grant staffing privileges to nurse-midwives 105 CMR 130:616(c)
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**

- 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 Massachusetts**

- Physician
- Midwife

**By Race / Ethnicity, 2022**

- Other Categories
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Hispanic
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black non-Hispanic
- White non-Hispanic

**By Payer, 2022**

- Other
- Self-Pay
- Medicaid
- Private Insurance