

# ***CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIVES IN CALIFORNIA***

## **Nurse-Midwifery in California**

- Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) have been practicing in California since 1960. The first CNM practice was established in Madera County in the San Jaquin Valley after a State Department of Health recommendation that nurse-midwives could be valuable additions for prenatal care and could reduce infant mortality.
- California's CNMs practice in all settings including private hospitals, public health departments, HMOs, family planning clinics, homebirth practices, and universities.

## **Statistics**

- Since the Nurse-midwife Practice Act passed in 1974, California's population of CNMs has grown to one of the largest in the country. Currently, there are approximately 877 CNMs in the state.
- There are 335 nurse-midwifery practice sites in California.\*
- In 2004, California's CNMs attended the births of 43,5784 babies. This accounts for 11.3% of all births in the state for that year.

## **Education**

- There are currently 43 accredited education programs in the United States offering post-baccalaureate certificate and masters degree programs in nurse-midwifery and midwifery. A number of these programs have distance learning education options.
- There are three California graduate programs in nurse-midwifery: California State University Fullerton, San Diego State University and San Francisco/San Francisco General Hospital.
- For more information, see <http://www.midwife.org/map.cfm>.

## **Practice and Reimbursement Issues**

- California grants prescriptive authority to nurse-midwives.
- CNMs have been authorized to get DEA numbers for intrapartum prescribing.
- Third-party reimbursement is mandated for CNMs in California. They receive Medicaid reimbursement at 100% of physician fee levels.

This information was provided by the midwives of California.

\*Number may be underestimation given that source only includes ACNM member self-reported info.

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