

# ***CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIVES and CERTIFIED MIDWIVES IN RHODE ISLAND***

## **Nurse-Midwifery in Rhode Island**

- Certified Nurse-Midwives have been practicing in Rhode Island since 1979. The first nurse-midwifery practice was established in Providence.
- CNMs in Rhode Island practice in a wide variety of settings including health centers, hospital clinics, HMOs, hospitals, birth centers, and private practices. Of all the hospitals that have an obstetric unit, all but one employ a CNM.
- CMs can also practice in Rhode Island.

## **Statistics**

- There are approximately 48 CNMs in Rhode Island.\*
- The major cities where CNMs practice are Providence, Pawtucket, Warwick, and Newport.
- There are currently 40 nurse-midwifery practice sites in Rhode Island.
- In 2004, Rhode Island CNMs attended approximately 1,494 births. These deliveries account for approximately 16.5% of the total number of Rhode Island births 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.
- Although there are no programs in Rhode Island, there is a graduate program in nurse-midwifery at Baystate Medical Center in Massachusetts, Yale University in Connecticut, and four in New York.
- For more information, see <http://www.midwife.org/map.cfm>.

## **Practice and Reimbursement Issues**

- Nurse-midwifery is regulated in Rhode Island by the Department of Health.
- In 1994, the State Health Department's Primary Care Division established a task force to discuss barriers to practice for nurse-midwives.
- Rhode Island CNMs obtained mandatory third-party reimbursement in 1990.

This information was provided by the midwives of Rhode Island.

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

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