

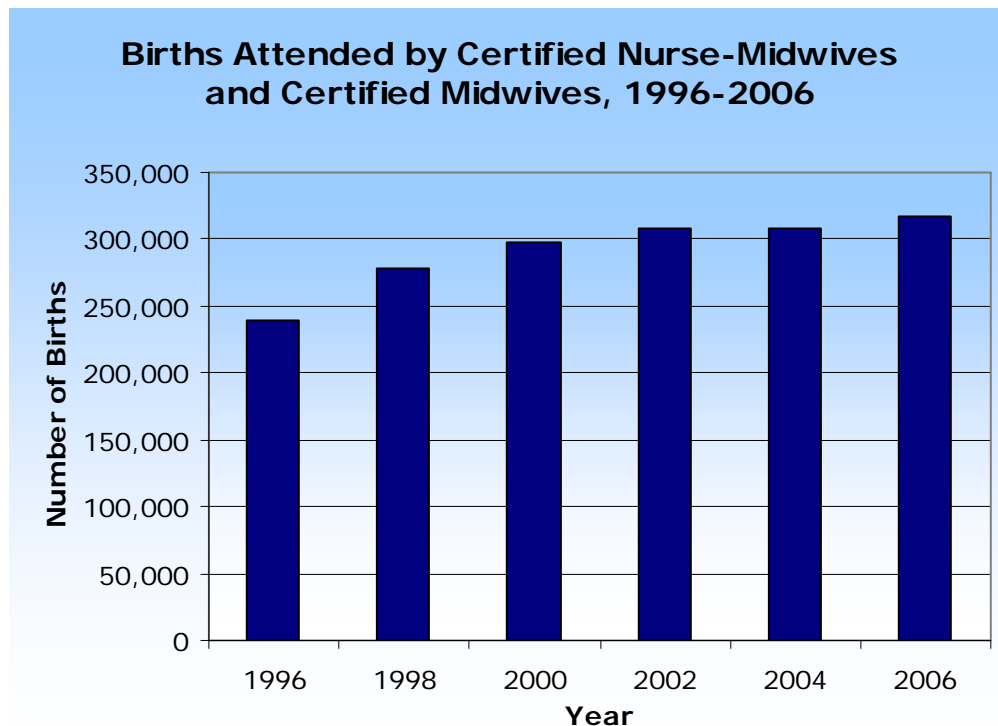
CNM/CM-Attended Birth Statistics

Midwives attend record number of births in 2006

In 2006, the most recent year for which statistics are available from the National Center for Health Statistics, certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) attended 317,168 births—a record number. This represents 7.4% of all US births or 10.8% of all vaginal births. These data should be considered lower estimates of the actual number of midwife-attended births due to underreporting of midwife-attended deliveries.

CNM/CM-Attended Births Rise

The number of CNM/CM-attended births has risen nearly every year since 1989, which is the first year that CNM-attended birth statistics were reported. That year, CNMs attended 132,286 births, or 3.2% of all US births. In 2006, CNMs/CMs attended 317,168 births—a 33% increase since 1996.



Births: Final Data for 2006. National Vital Statistics Reports: Vol 57, No 7. 2009.

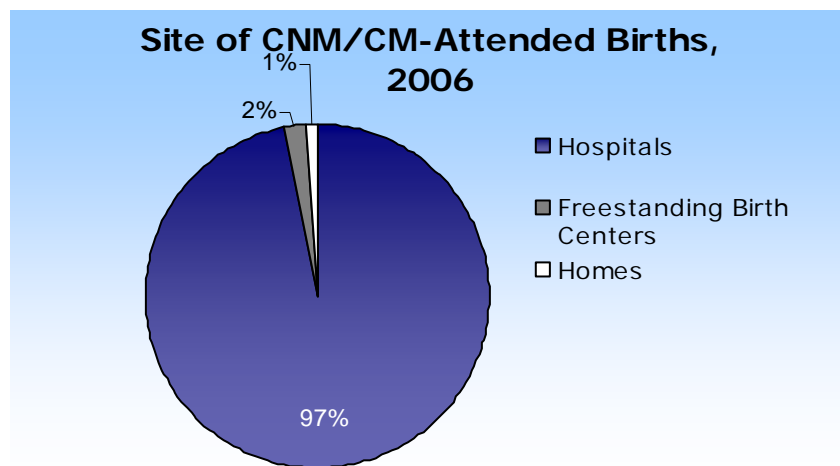
CNMs/CMs Represent Majority of Midwives

In 1989, the birth certificate form was altered to distinguish between different types of midwives. Since 1989, CNMs/CMs have accounted for more than 90% of all midwife-attended births in the US. In 2006:

- CNMs/CMs attended 94.3% of all midwife-attended births in the US.
- Other midwives attended 19,179 births, or 0.45% of all births; 56.4% of these births occurred in homes.

CNMs/CMs Provide Midwifery Care in All Settings

CNMs/CMs practice wherever women give birth. In 2006, the majority of CNM/CM-attended births occurred in hospitals.



Births: Final Data for 2006. National Vital Statistics Reports: Vol 57, No 7. 2009.

CNMs/CMs Care for Diverse Populations

CNM/CM-attended births reflect the diversity of the US population. In 2006, CNM/CM-attended hospital births were most frequent among American Indian/Alaska Native women (17.2%), followed by Hispanic women (8.4%), White women (7.5%), Black women (7.1%), and Asian or Pacific Islander women (6%).

Additional Resources

ACNM Online Media Kit: www.midwife.org/media_kit.cfm

ACNM Communications Department

Phone: 240-482-1822

Fax: 240-485-1818

Email: pr@acnm.org

www.midwife.org

Consumer Information: www.myMidwife.org

Source: Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Sutton PD, Ventura SJ, Menacker F, Kirmeyer S, Matthews TJ. Births: Final Data for 2006. National Vital Statistics Reports; Vol 57, No 7. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2009.

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