

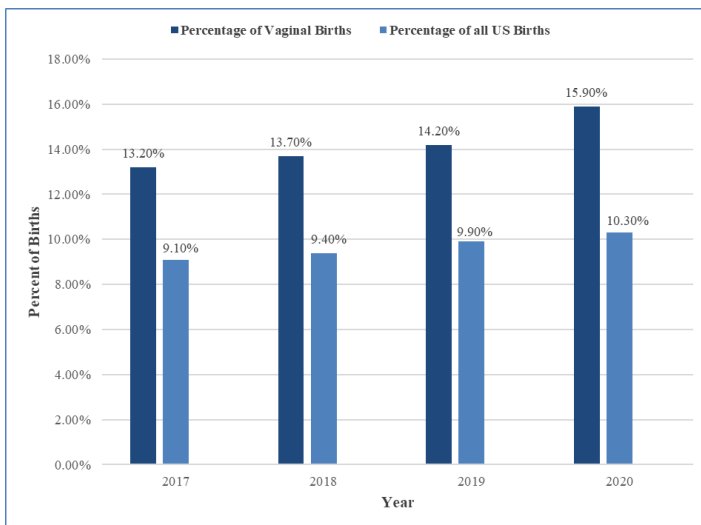
## FACT SHEET

# Essential Facts about Midwives

## Midwives and Birth in the United States

- The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the professional association representing certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) in the United States. According to the American Midwifery Certification Board, as of February 2022, there were 13,524 CNMs and CMs. Most midwives in the United States are CNMs.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2019, CNMs/CMs attended 372,991 births—a 10% increase compared to 2018. In 2019, CNMs/CMs attended 92% of all midwife-attended births and 10.3% of total US births.<sup>2</sup> (2020 is the most recent year for which birth data are available from the National Center for Health Statistics.)

*Percentage of Births Attended by Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives, 2017–2020*



United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics. Natality public-use data 2007-2020, on CDC WONDER Online Database, October 2021. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html> on Apr. 20, 2022

## Midwifery Practice

- CNMs are licensed, independent health care providers with prescriptive authority in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and USVI. CNMs are defined as primary care providers under federal law. CMs are licensed, independent health care providers who have completed the same midwifery education as CNMs.
- CMs are authorized to practice in Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. CMs have prescriptive authority in New York, Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The first accredited CM education program began in 1996.

\*Percent of respondents to the 2019 ACNM Core Data Survey

- \*While midwives are well-known for attending births, 76% of CNMs/CMs identify reproductive care and 49% identify primary care as responsibilities in their full-time positions.<sup>3</sup> Examples include annual exams, writing prescriptions, basic nutrition counseling, parenting education, patient education, and reproductive health visits.<sup>4</sup>
- \* In 2019, 89% of CNM/CMs attended births in hospitals, 9% in freestanding birth centers, and 8% occurred in homes.<sup>3</sup>
- \*More than 43% of CNMs/CMs list physician/midwife practices or hospitals/medical centers as their principal employers.<sup>3</sup>
- Medicaid reimbursement for CNM care is mandatory in all states. Most Medicaid programs reimburse CNMs/CMs at 100% of physician rates. Medicare reimburses CNMs at 100%. Most states also mandate private insurance reimbursement for CNM/CM services.

## Midwifery Education

- Standards for education and certification in midwifery are identical for CNMs and CMs.
- The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) is the official accrediting body for CNM/CM education programs. There are 40 ACME-accredited midwifery education programs in the United States.<sup>5</sup>
- \* Approximately 84% of CNMs have a master's degree.<sup>3</sup> As of 2010, a graduate degree is required for entry to midwifery practice as a CNM/CM.<sup>6</sup>
- \*20% of CNM/CMs have doctoral degrees.<sup>3</sup>

## REFERENCES

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