Alabama Midwifery Workforce, 2023

Midwifery Workforce Indicators, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwives Certified by AMCB</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births in 2022</td>
<td>58,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwives per 1,000 Births</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwife-attended births 2022</td>
<td>1,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Births Midwife-attended</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Vaginal Births Midwife-attended</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwifery education programs</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Alabama has not achieved the 6 midwives per 1,000 births recommended by the WHO.

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 Ala. Code § 34-21-18, which was most recently revised in 2022.

Board-certified midwives are regulated by the Joint Committee of the Board of Nursing and Board of Medical Examiners.

Alabama has one ACME accredited midwifery education program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.
Alabama’s maternity care workforce density is small compared to the United States as a whole.

Alabama’s midwife density does not meet the World Health Organization recommended minimum midwifery workforce size of 6 midwives per 1,000 births.
Midwife-attended Births in Alabama

- USA
- Alabama
Births by Payer Source, 2022

Sources of Payment for Birth

Percent of Births Midwife-Attended by Payer, Alabama 2022

- Private Insurance
- Medicaid
- Self-Pay
- Other
Births by Race or Ethnic Category, 2022

Race & Ethnicity Distribution of Births, 2022

Midwife-Attended Births by Race / Ethnicity

- White non-Hispanic
- Black non-Hispanic
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- More than One Category
Births by Maternal Residence

Maternal Residence, 2022

Birth Attendants in Alabama
Increasing the midwifery workforce size could help Alabama:

• Increase use of contraception
• Increase access to early prenatal care
• Increase the rate of breastfeeding initiation
• Reduce the rate of preterm birth and cesarean birth
Alabama Midwifery Regulation Assets & Opportunities

Opportunity: Midwives must obtain a written collaborative agreement to practice (Ala. Code § 34-19-2)

Opportunity: Midwives receive 80% the fee a physician receives for the same service (Alabama Provider Billing Manuals)

Opportunity: Certified Midwives are not eligible for licensure

Opportunity: Midwives must obtain a written collaborative agreement to prescribe (Ala. Admin. Code r. 610-X-5.23)

Opportunity: Hospitals have the option to include midwives on medical staff, but admission physical and history must be completed by a physician (Ala. Admin. Code r. 420-5-7-.09)