## Arkansas 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>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births in 2022</td>
<td>35,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwives per 1,000 Births</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife-attended births in 2022</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife-attended births per midwife</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Births Midwife-attended</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Vaginal births midwife-attended</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery education programs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arkansas 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 Ark. Code Ann. § 17-87-102, which was most recently revised in 2021.

Board-certified midwives are regulated by the Board of Nursing.
Arkansas’ maternity care workforce density is smaller than the United States as a whole.

Arkansas’ 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 Arkansas

Change in Midwife Attended Births Over Time

USA
Arkansas

Year: 1985 to 2021

Graph showing the percentage of midwife-attended births in Arkansas compared to the USA over time.
Births by Payer Source, 2022

Sources of Payment for Birth

Percent of Births Midwife-Attended by Payer, Arkansas 2022

- Other: 3%
- Self-Pay: 2%
- Medicaid: 1%
- Private Insurance: 0%
Births by Race or Ethnic Category, 2022

Race & Ethnicity Distribution of Births, 2022

Midwife-Attended Births by Race / Ethnicity

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

Maternal Residence, 2022

Birth Attendants in Arkansas

USA
Arkansas
Arkansas Midwives

Metro
non-Metro

Physician
Midwife

Metro
non-Metro
Increasing the midwifery workforce size could help Arkansas:

- Meet the need for contraception
- Reduce the rate of preterm birth and cesarean birth
- Increase breastfeeding initiation
- Increase access to breast cancer screening
Arkansas Midwifery Regulation Assets & Opportunities

**Asset:** Midwives practice independently (Ark. Code Ann. § 17-87-302)

**Opportunity:** Midwives receive 80% the fee a physician receives for the same service (See Fee Schedules)

**Opportunity:** Certified Midwives are eligible for licensure, but have a limited scope of practice relative to certified nurse-midwives (Arkansas State Board of Health Rules Governing the Practice of Licensed Lay Midwifery in Arkansas)

**Opportunity:** Midwives must have a collaborative agreement to prescribe schedule II narcotics for labor (Ark. Code Ann. § 17-87-310)

**Opportunity:** Hospitals cannot appoint midwives to medical staff, midwives are not able to admit patients (Rules for Hospitals, Section 6 Medical Staff)