American College of Nurse-Midwives State Chartbook

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California 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 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §2746.5, which was most recently revised in 2023. Board-certified midwives are regulated by the Board of Registered Nurses.

California has two midwifery education programs located at California State University and University of California at San Francisco.
California Maternity Care Workforce Density

California’s maternity care workforce density is smaller than the United States as a whole.

California’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 California

Change in Midwife Attended Births Over Time
Births by Payer Source, 2022

Sources of Payment for Birth

- **USA**
- **California**
- **California Midwives**

Percent of Births Midwife-Attended by Payer, California 2022

- **Other**
- **Self-Pay**
- **Medicaid**
- **Private Insurance**

- **Private Insurance**: 20%
Births by Race or Ethnic Category, 2022

Race & Ethnicity Distribution of Births, 2022

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

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 California

Metro

non-Metro

USA

California

California Midwives
Increasing the midwifery workforce size could help California:

• Increase access to breast cancer screening
California Midwifery Regulation Assets & Opportunities

Opportunity: Midwives are required to obtain a written collaborative agreement (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §2746.5)

Asset: Midwives receive 100% the fee a physician receives for the same service (See Fee Schedules)

Opportunity: Certified Midwives are not eligible for licensure

Opportunity: Midwives must have a collaborative agreement to prescribe (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §2746.5)

Opportunity: Hospitals can not appoint midwives to medical staff, midwives are not able to admit patients (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 22 § 71503; Cal. Code Regs. tit. 22 § 71517)