

State Fact Sheet: California

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the national organization representing the interests of certified nurse-midwives (CNM) and certified midwives (CM) practicing in the United States. CNMs and CMs are highly trained providers who earn graduate degrees and must pass a national certification examination to demonstrate that they meet ACNM's core competencies, which meet or exceed international recommendations for midwifery care. Midwives are trained to offer a full range of primary health care services for women from adolescence beyond menopause.

Number of AMCB Certified Midwives, 2014: 1026

Number of CNM/CM Attended Births, 2012: 42567

Percent of CNM/CM Attended Births, 2012: 8.45%

Midwifery services are provided in partnership with women and families in diverse settings such as ambulatory care clinics, private offices, community and public health systems, homes, hospitals and birth centers. According to the CDC, in 2012 the vast majority of midwifery-attended births occurred in the hospital setting (94.8%). Other birth locations included birth centers (2.6%), home births (2.6%), and approximately 0.1% in a clinic or other setting.

Number of Birth Centers in State, 2014: 24

A 2012 meta-analysis of midwifery outcomes when compared to labor and delivery care provided by physicians concluded that there was no difference in CNM versus MD care and, for some variables, that midwifery care demonstrated better outcomes. The study concluded that midwifery care "is safe and effective" and urged that midwives "should be better utilized to address the projected health care workforce shortages."

ACNM considers the scope of midwifery practice to include primary care, gynecologic and family planning services, preconception care, care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, care of the normal newborn during the first 28 days of life, and treatment of male partners for sexually transmitted infections. Midwives provide initial and ongoing comprehensive assessment, diagnosis and treatment. They conduct physical examinations; prescribe medications including controlled substances and contraceptive methods;



admit, manage and discharge patients; order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests and order the use of medical devices. Midwifery care also includes health promotion, disease prevention, and individualized wellness education and counseling.

State Scope of Practice Statement: The statute defines the scope of practice of nurse-midwifery as “the furthering or undertaking...to assist a woman in childbirth so long as progress meets criteria accepted as normal.” This scope of practice specifically excludes “the assisting of childbirth by any artificial, forcible, or mechanical means” and “the performance of any version” of these practices [Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §2746.5]. The statute authorizes CNMs “to attend cases of normal childbirth and to provide prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care, including family-planning care, for the mother, and immediate care for the newborn” [Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §2746.5].

Regulatory Environment (Autonomous Practice, Collaborative Requirement, or Supervisory): California requires a supervisory relationship with a physician as a condition for practice.

Medicaid Coverage: Medicaid covers approximately half of all births in the United States, with the percent ranging from 20 to over 60 percent among states. As such, it is a key payer for midwifery services and it is critical that midwives understand when their patients may qualify for Medicaid coverage, what services are covered, and how to get paid for their services to Medicaid beneficiaries. The fee-for-service Medicaid reimbursement rate for midwives is currently 100% of the physician rate.

Regulatory Board: Board of Registered Nurses

<http://www.rn.ca.gov/>

Recognized Midwifery Credentials: CNM, CPM

Midwifery Education Programs: California State University - Fullerton; San Diego State University; University of California - San Francisco



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