

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD

2021 Demographic Report



Background/Introduction

The mission of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is to protect and serve the public by leading the certification standards in midwifery. The AMCB fulfills this mission through three primary activities: developing and administering a validated certification exam to assess the entry-level competencies of Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM) and Certified Midwives (CM), requiring a mandatory certificate maintenance program and recertification for all CNM/CMs, and maintaining professional discipline.

Reporting demographic trends within the midwifery profession provides insight into how the midwifery workforce is adapting to meet the needs of birthing families and the US healthcare system. AMCB maintains a secure database containing demographic data of all AMCB-certified midwives. Analysis of this data provides a snapshot of the CNM/CM workforce that is summarized in this report.

Methodology

Certificants voluntarily self-report their demographic characteristics at the time of their initial certification and at the time of subsequent recertification, which occurs every 5 years. The data reported here were therefore collected over a 5-year timeframe between January 2017 and December 2021 and reflect each certificant's demographic characteristics at the time of their certification or recertification, with the exception of age which was calculated at the time of the generation of this report based upon the birth date provided by the certificant. Variation in responses to each demographic data point may reflect changes in data collection methodology over the 5-year period. General demographic, employment, and education data of CNM/CMs are reported herein to provide a reference for describing the demographic characteristics of the CNM/CM workforce.

General Demographic Data

As of December 31, 2021, there were a total of 13,409 AMCB-certified midwives in the United States of which 13,287 (99.1%) were CNMs and 122 (0.9%) were CMs. The average age of midwives was 49 years old (SD 12.8). Midwives 65 or older represented 16.1% (2,160) of all CNM/CMs. Almost all, 99.0%, of AMCB-certified midwives identify as female. The majority of CNMs/CMs identified as White (84.9%) and as non-Hispanic or Latino (90.3%), with midwives who identified as Black or African American being the next most common group (7.3%), which represents a small increase in the number of midwives who identify as Black or African American from the 2020 report (6.9%). Other self-reported minorities comprised less than 5% of the total sample. The majority of AMCB-certified midwives identified English as their primary language (95.7%), and approximately 32% provided care in other languages.

Age		
	<i>n</i>	%
20-29	383	2.9%
30-39	3460	25.8%
40-49	3633	27.1%
50-59	2434	18.2%
60-69	2747	20.5%
Over 70	752	5.6%

Sex		
	<i>n</i>	%
Female	13274	99.0%
Male	39	0.3%
Other	84	0.6%
I choose not to respond	12	0.1%

Race		
	<i>n</i>	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	81	0.6%
Asian	228	1.7%
Black or African American	976	7.3%
More than one race	131	1.0%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	23	0.2%
White or Caucasian	11380	84.9%
Other Race	168	1.3%
I choose not to respond	422	3.1%

Ethnicity		
	<i>n</i>	%
No, Not Hispanic/Latino	12102	90.3%
Yes, Hispanic/Latino	673	5.0%
I choose not to respond	634	4.7%

Primary Language is English		
	<i>n</i>	%
No	576	4.3%
Yes	12833	95.7%

Provides Services in Another Language*		
	<i>n</i>	%
Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, other varieties)	100	0.7%
English	9720	67.6%
French, French Creole, or Haitian Creole	332	2.3%
Spanish	3630	25.2%
Other Language	598	4.2%

*select all that apply

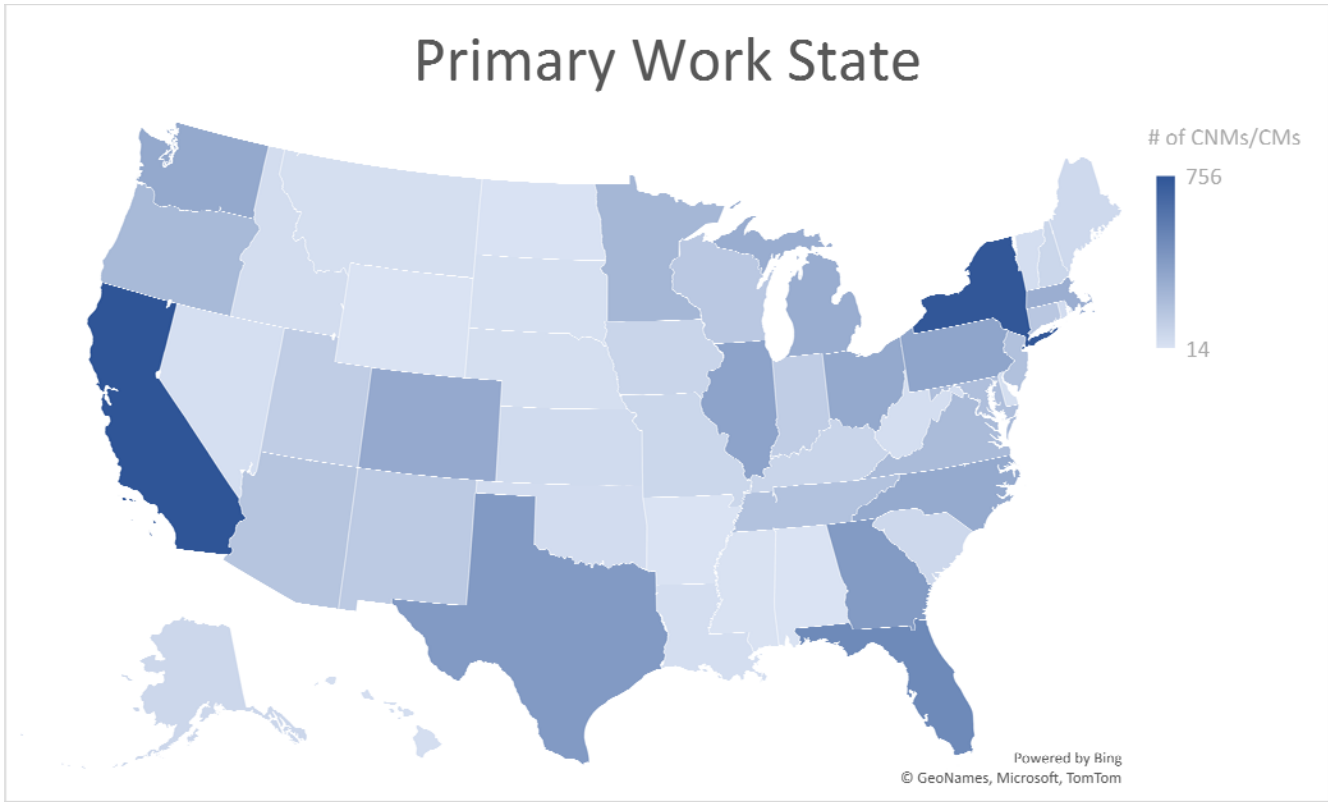
Employment Data

The majority of AMCB-certified midwives identified as working in full- or part-time midwifery positions (76.6%). Almost a quarter (23.4%) of certificants reported not working in the discipline of

midwifery. There has been an increase in midwives who are employed in a discipline other than midwifery over the last 3 years (11.7% in 2021, 10.3% in 2020, and 9.0% in 2019). Over 80 percent of full-time CNMs/CMs (84.1%) reported receiving an annual salary between \$75,000 and \$149,999. Only 1.5% of those in full-time employment reported earning more than \$200,000. The majority of full-time midwives (62.4%) earned between \$100,000 and \$149,999. There was wide variation in the number of practicing AMCB-certified midwives across states (range: 14 in Arkansas to 756 in California). The state with the second highest number of midwives certified was New York (745 CNM/CMs).

Midwifery Employment Status		
	<i>n</i>	%
Employed as a full-time midwife (35 hours or more per week)	5548	55.3%
Employed as a full-time midwife and employed in a second midwifery job (either part-time or full-time)	236	2.4%
Employed as a part-time midwife (34 hours or less per week)	1899	18.9%
Employed, but not in the discipline of midwifery	1173	11.7%
Not employed during the past year for reason OTHER than retirement	356	3.5%
Retired	499	5.0%
Other	321	3.2%

Salary Range for Midwifery-Related Work				
	Full-time		Part-time	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Less than \$30,000	101	1.6%	314	15.5%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	30	0.5%	111	5.5%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	41	0.7%	161	8.0%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	49	0.8%	217	10.7%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	205	3.3%	322	15.9%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	1354	21.7%	508	25.1%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	3895	62.4%	356	17.6%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	476	7.6%	29	1.4%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	36	0.6%	3	0.1%
\$250,000 - \$499,999	22	0.4%	1	0.0%
\$500,000 - \$999,999	5	0.1%	0	0.0%
\$1,000,000 or more	24	0.4%	1	0.0%



Education and Certification Data

A Master’s degree is required to obtain certification and almost 10.5% hold doctoral degrees (n=1,404). The largest proportion of AMCB-certified midwives have been certified for 10 years or less (48.3%), compared to approximately 21.9% certified for 11 to 20 years and 29.8% certified for over 20 years. The percentage of new entrants to the profession appears to be stable with 30.1% certifying within the last 5 years, compared to 29.5% in the 2020 Demographic Report.

Number of Years Certified		
	<i>n</i>	%
0-5 Years	4036	30.1%
6-10 Years	2445	18.2%
11-15 Years	1443	10.8%
16-20 Years	1487	11.1%
21-25 Years	1729	12.9%
26-30 Years	1077	8.0%
31-35 Years	537	4.0%
36-40 Years	420	3.1%
41-45 Years	183	1.4%
46-50 Years	52	0.4%

Academic Degrees*				
<i>Degree</i>	Examination (Certified 2017-2021)		Recertification (Certified before 2017)	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Precertification			15	0.1%
Certificate			378	1.5%
Associate, Not Nursing	156	1.9%	286	1.1%
Associate, Nursing	767	9.2%	1906	7.6%
Bachelor's Midwifery			20	0.1%
Bachelor's, Not Nursing	1099	13.2%	2559	10.3%
Bachelor's, Nursing	2544	30.5%	6250	25.0%
Master's, Midwifery	1859	22.3%	5208	20.9%
Master's, Not Nursing	82	1.0%	372	1.5%
Master's, Not Nursing, Midwifery, or Public Health	40	0.5%		
Master's, Nursing	1384	16.6%	5234	21.0%
Master's, Public Health	52	0.6%	367	1.5%
Post-Masters Certificate			339	1.4%
Doctorate (any type e.g. DNP, PhD, etc.)	258	3.1%	1146	4.6%
Other	89	1.1%	880	3.5%

*select all that apply

Conclusion

Monitoring and describing demographic trends within the midwifery profession is essential for determining policy, funding, and practices to ensure an adequate midwifery workforce to meet the demands of the national agenda to increase the integration of midwifery care in the US healthcare system to address disparities in perinatal outcomes. This report provides a snapshot of AMCB-certified midwives in the United States as of December 31, 2021. Data to consider monitoring in the future include trending types of degrees earned, the rate of growth and diversity of new entrants to the profession, the number of midwives leaving the workforce and reasons for their departure, and the impact of changing state regulations on the geographic distribution of CNMs/CMs. While this report is limited by temporal variation of data collection instruments and methodology, and lack of comparable long-term historical data, it represents a valuable source of information to describe AMCB-certified midwives at the present time.