

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD
2007 Annual Report

The mission of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is to protect and serve the public by providing the certification standard for individuals educated in the profession of midwifery. AMCB fulfills its mission through three primary activities: a national examination for initial certification as a nurse-midwife (CNM) or midwife (CM), a re-certification program for CNMs or CMs to assist certificants to fulfill their professional responsibilities to maintain competence, and professional discipline. In 2006, AMCB was reaccredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies for another 5 years.

The national certification exam (NCE) has now been administered via computer-based testing (CBT) for 3 years. In collaboration with AMCB's testing partner, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), the NCE continues to be available 52 weeks of the year, 5 days each week (except for federal holidays), at more than 150 sites serving all 50 states of the U.S. Candidates for certification are able to take the examination at their convenience at any of AMP's testing sites as soon as their application is approved. Effective July, 2007 the candidates receive official pass/fail results at the conclusion of their examination. In response to requests for more information about the administration of the CBT a link was developed from the AMCB examination application page directly to a sample examination at AMP. AMCB recently began issuing wallet-sized certification cards in addition to certificates for ease in documenting current certification.

For first-time candidates, the overall pass rate on the NCE in 2007 was 87.9%, which is consistent with previous years. The number of new CNM/CMs certified annually has declined 6.2% since 2000, as indicated in Table 1 below. While the rate of decrease seems to have slowed, the number of CNMs/CMs certified continues to decrease.

Table 1. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants since 2000.

Year	Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM)	Certified Midwives (CM)	Total New CNM/CM	Annual % Increase or (Decrease)
2000	447	7	454	N/A
2001	423	7	430	(5.3%)
2002	402	2	404	(6.0%)
2003	331	5	336	(16.8%)
2004	340	15	355	5.6%
2005	293	6	299	(15.8%)
2006	291	4	295	(1.3%)
2007	285	2	287	(2.7%)

The fourth 8-year cycle of the Certificate Maintenance Program (CMP) was completed in December 2007 for midwives initially certified in 1999. There were a total of 464 certificants to re-certify (93.7% of 495 original certificants), none of whom took the exam as a means of re-certification. The percentage for recertification was 93.7%. Of the 551 individuals initially certified in 1998, 513 (93%) were recertified. The vast majority of certificants complete the CMP modules for their recertification. Of the 1926 certified midwives/nurse-midwives that were recertified in these first four CMP cycles, only 5 have opted to retake the national certification examination. An additional 4 certificants had allowed their certification to lapse and were recertified upon passing the Certification Exam.

The 2007 AMCB Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:

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