

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD
2011 Annual Report

The mission of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is to protect and serve the public by establishing and maintaining 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 through professional discipline. In 2011, AMCB was reaccredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies for another 5 years. AMCB's research committee, under the leadership of Marie Hastings-Tolsma, CNM, PhD, completed the Task Analysis of Midwifery Practice.

This year was the first year when CNMs (all CMs were certified after 1996) who were certified prior to 1996 were required to be recertified. During 2010 the staff and volunteers had worked diligently to inform all CNMs of the requirement effective January 1, 2011 for maintenance of certification with accompanying time-limited certification for every CNM and CM. In order to distribute the expiration dates evenly, the length of the first cycle was staggered, with corresponding differences in the CMP requirements for that first cycle. A provision was made for CNMs and CMs who opt not to participate in CMP to be listed on the AMCB verification page as "retired". There were 1221 CNMs in the first cohort who were required to be recertified by December 31, 2011. Of those, 826 were recertified, and 87 opted for "retired" status. The remaining 308 or 25%, did not recertify or express interest in being moved to "retired", and are now listed as lapsed. AMCB will continue to follow the numbers of pre-1996 certificants who recertify, retire, or lapse as we continue with the 5 year roll in.

The eighth 8-year cycle of the Certificate Maintenance Program (CMP) was completed in December 2011 for midwives initially certified in 2003. There were a total of 342 CNMs/CMs up for recertification, of whom 93.8% recertified. One opted to be moved to "retired" status. Over the 7 year history the rate of recertification has ranged from 90 to 93.8%. With the implementation of a new database, AMCB will be able to begin collecting data regarding the reasons that a CNM/CM does not recertify, such as retirement, never actually practicing, disability, etc.

AMCB hosted its second Strategic Planning Retreat in November. Topics included the consideration of moving toward a shared vision with ACNM and ACME, the potential to develop an international certification exam that tests the ICM Education Competencies, and marketing to have AMCB be more widely recognized in the lay press as the highest standard for midwifery certification. Further development of these goals will proceed in 2012.

The national certification exam (NCE) has now been administered via computer-based testing (CBT) for 7 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 and at least one Saturday per month, at 170 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. Candidates receive official pass/fail results at the conclusion of their examination. AMCB issues wallet-sized certification cards in addition to certificates for ease in documenting current certification.

Once again, the number of newly certified CNMs and CMs increased over the previous year. This is the largest number of newly certified CNM/VCs since 2002. The overall pass rate on the NCE for first-time candidates in 2011 was 84%, which is consistent with previous years.

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

Year	First Time Candidates	Total New CNM/CM	New CNM	New CM	Annual % Increase or (Decrease)
2000		458	451	7	N/A
2001		428	422	6	(5.3%)
2002		402	400	2	(6.0%)
2003		340	335	5	(16.8%)
2004		356	341	15	4.7%
2005	297	299	293	6	(15.8%)
2006	307	295	291	4	(1.3%)
2007	281	287	285	2	(2.7%)
2008	342	320	318	2	11.5
2009	332	325	323	2	1.6%
2010	371	344	339	5	5.8%
2011	419	398	392	6	15.9%

The 2011 AMCB Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:

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