

# AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD 2017 Annual Report



## Background

The mission of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is to protect and serve the public by leading the certification standards in 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.

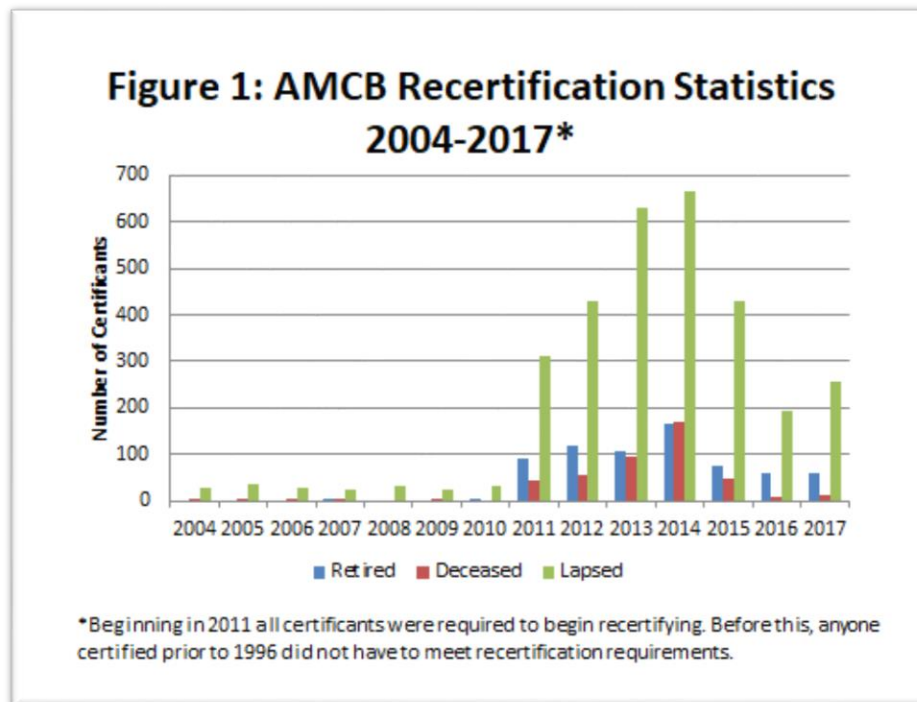
AMCB successfully received full 5-year reaccreditation from the Institute for Credentialing Excellence's National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) for both the CNM and CM credentials. Since NCCA has modified their standards and now require additional activities in exam development that increase the rigor and standardization of the certification exam. In response, AMCB added three additional subcommittees and created new versions of the exam. In addition, AMCB conducted its Task Analysis, which was released at the end of 2017 and is available at <http://www.amcbmidwife.org/docs/task-analysis/2017-task-analysis-report.pdf?sfvrsn=2>.

## Recertification

Since the move to all time-limited certificates, a small portion of the certificant pool continues to retire. AMCB continues to anticipate that the recertification pool will grow as the number of new certificants increases and the proportion of retired CNMs has begun to level off at 2.3% (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Year of Recertification	# Of Certificants Eligible to Recertify	% Recertified	# Chose to be put in Retirement Category
2006	551	93%	
2007	495	93.7%	
2008	458	92.1%	
2009	427	93.4%	
2010	402	90%	
2011*	1563	84.4%	87 (5.6%)
2012	2748	77.4%	115 (4.2%)
2013	2063	64.3%	100 (4.8%)
2014	2680	69.5%	147(5.5%)
2015	3120	84.3%	54 (1.7%)
2016	1535	85%	36(2.3%)
2017 <sup>€</sup>	2093	86%	48 (2.3%)

\*Beginning in 2011 all certificants were required to begin recertifying. Before this, anyone certified prior to 1996 did not have to meet recertification requirements.

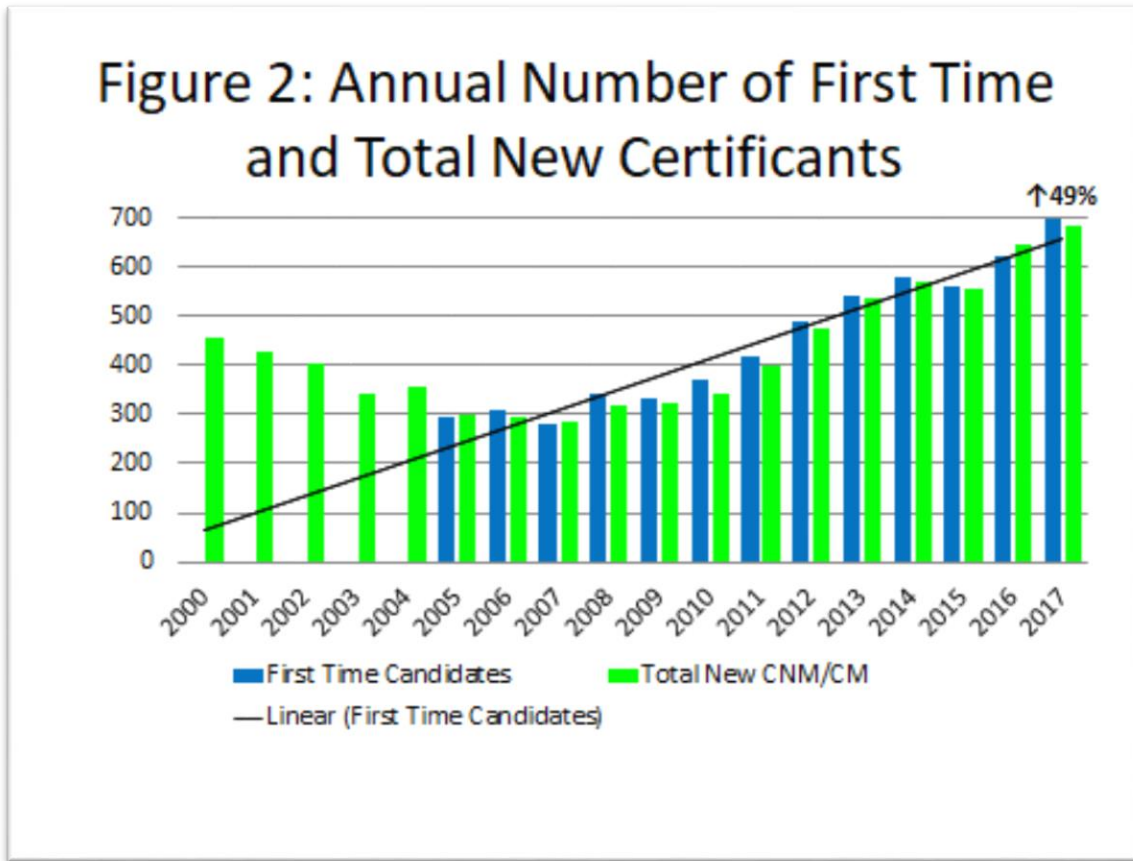


## New Certification

The national certification exam (NCE) has now been administered via computer-based testing (CBT) for 14 years. AMCB had collaborated with Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) as its testing partner. Recently, AMP was acquired by PSI Services, which has allowed AMCB to expand the number of testing sites from 170 to over 300. Testing continues to be available 52 weeks of the year, 5 days each week and at least one Saturday per month in all 50 states within the U.S. Candidates for certification are able to take the examination at their convenience at any of PSI'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.

The number of newly certified CNMs and CMs annually has steadily increased, except for a small decrease in 2015, and as of 2016 is 29 percent greater compared to 2000 (Table 2 and Figure 2). This upward trend appears to continue and the number could approach 700. Additional details by state can be found at: <http://www.amcbmidwife.org/about-amcb/annual-reports>.

<b>Table 2. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants 2000-2017</b>					
Year	First Time Candidates	Total New CNM/CM	New CNM	New CM	Annual % Increase or (Decrease) in new CNM/CM
2000		458	451	7	N/A
2001		428	422	6	(6.6%)
2002		402	400	2	(6.1%)
2003		340	335	5	(15.4%)
2004		356	341	15	4.5%
2005	297	299	293	6	(16%)
2006	307	295	291	4	(1.3%)
2007	281	287	285	2	(2.7%)
2008	342	320	318	2	10.3%
2009	332	325	323	2	1.5%
2010	371	344	339	5	5.5%
2011	419	398	392	6	13.6%
2012	488	474	467	7	16%
2013	542	539	536	3	12.1%
2014	579	571	563	8	5.6%
2015	561	558	547	11	(2.3%)
2016	623	644	632	12	15.4%
2017	697	682 <sup>ξ</sup>	677	5	5.9%
Note: Total New CNM/CM includes successful first time and repeat testing					
ξ Overall increase in new CNM/CMs since 2000 is 49%					



Traditionally, from 2000-2014, AMCB had not reported on the total number of candidates who have taken the exam, or pass/fail statistics, however, as of 2015, changes in reporting requirements by NCCA require that this information be included. Table 3 presents this information.

Year	Total Candidates Examined	Pass Rate	Fail Rate	Total Number of CNM Certified	Total Number of CMs Certified	Total Number of Certificants
2015	610	560/91.8%	50/8.2%	11,111	99	11,210
2016	687	648/93.9%	42/6.1%	11,728	100	11,628
2017 <sup>€</sup>	754	682/90.5%	72/9.5%	11,752	99 <sup>€</sup>	11,851

<sup>€</sup> Note decrease in CMs due to 3 conversions to CNM and 3 whose certification lapsed

## **Other Activities and Updates**

Over the past seven years, AMCB participated in meetings with the US Midwifery Education, Regulation, and Association (US MERA) workgroup. This workgroup has met through members of a steering committee throughout the year. These meetings have led to the potential for collaborative efforts between CNM/CM organizations and CPM organizations. Through US MERA there was the formation of a number of committees to address specific issues, have led to productive discussions on how to expand access to high quality midwifery care and physiologic birth for all women in all birth settings in the United States in alignment with global standards of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). Along with AMCB, the group included leaders from ACNM, ACME, MEAC, MANA, NACPM, and NARM.

2017 marked the end of terms for two AMCB Board members, Dr. Arlene Sperhac (one of our Professional Liaisons) and Kathy Bailey, Treasurer. We are grateful for their significant contributions to the AMCB BOD. Their contributions have been tremendous and they will be missed. This created two vacancies on the BOD, Treasurer and Professional Liaison that have been filled for 2018 by CDR Amy Wooten CNM WHNP CNS as treasurer and Rick Garcia PhD, RN, CCM, FAAOHN as professional liaison. Additionally, this is the last year of the presidency for Dr. Cara Krulewitch. The Board has elected Dr. Linda Hunter as president-elect for 2018, and she will be welcomed into the presidency in 2019.

## **Summary**

This has been a record year for AMCB, both in the number of people taking the exam, the highest quarterly increase in the third quarter of 2017 (231), and the total number of certificants, which is now approaching 12,000. AMCB has a vibrant and active Board of Directors and remains fiscally sound, with a bright outlook for the future.

**The 2017 AMCB Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:**

Cara J. Krulewitch CNM PhD FACNM, FAAN, President

Erin McMahon EdD, CNM, RN MSN, Secretary

Kathleen Bailey, CNM, MA, MS, Treasurer

Linda Hunter CNM, Chairperson, Certificate Maintenance Program Committee

Elizabeth Pickett, CM, LM, MS, Chairperson, Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee

Col Robin Neumeier CNM, MSN, FACNM Chairperson, Examination Committee

Tanya Tanner, PhD, MBA, RN, CNM, Chair, Research Committee

Kate Hodges, Consumer Member

Arlene M. Sperhac PhD, CPNP, FAAN, Professional Liaison Member

Nathaniel Apatov, PhD, CRNA, Professional Liaison Member

Ronald Burkman, MD, Professional Liaison Member

Carrie Bright, IOM, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, Ex-officio Member