

# AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD 2018 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. The AMCB fulfills this mission through three primary activities: developing and administering a validated certification exam to assess the entry-level competencies of nurse-midwives (CNM) and midwives (CM); requiring a mandatory certificate maintenance and re-certification program for all AMCB certified CNM/CMs, and maintaining professional discipline.

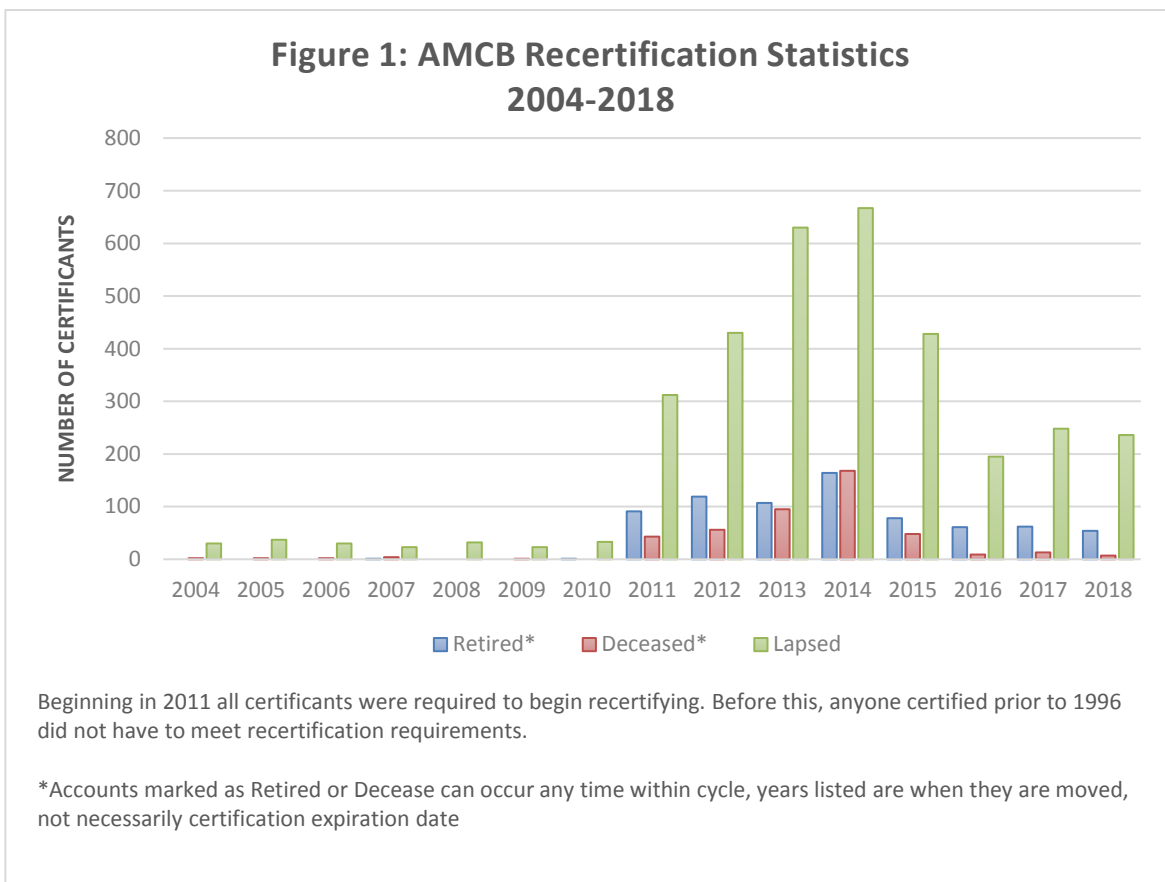
Since 2002, the AMCB has been accredited through The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs mandates that NCCA accredited organizations adhere to modern standards of practice in the certification industry. Both the Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) and Certified Midwife (CM) certification programs are accredited by NCCA through 12/31/2021.

## Recertification/Retirement

Since the move to 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. As noted in Table 1 and Figure 1, the number of retired midwives over the last 3 years has remained relatively stable: 2.3% in 2016, 2.3% in 2017, with a slight increase of 0.1% (2.4%) in 2018.

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>e</sup>	2093	86%	48 (2.3%)
2018	1859	85%	45 (2.4%)

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



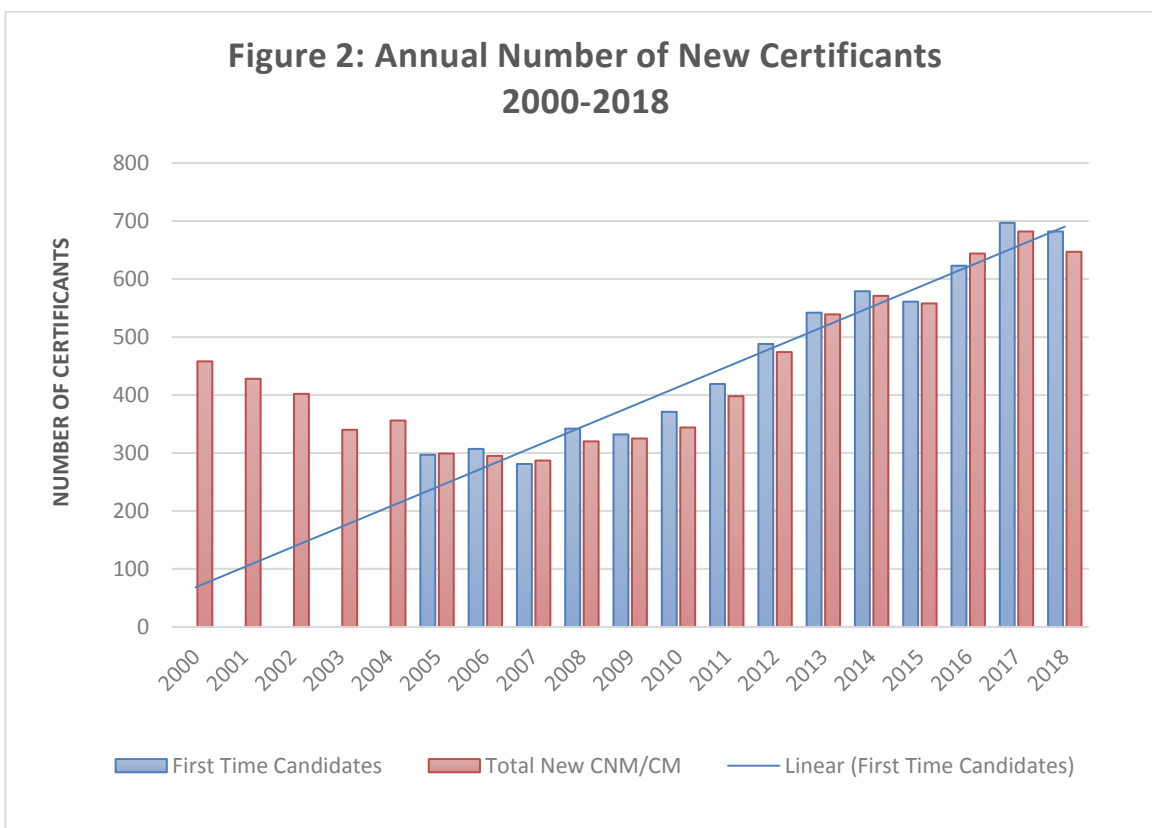
**New Certification**

The national certification exam (NCE) has been administered via computer-based testing (CBT) since 2005. AMCB’s testing partner; PSI Services, offers testing 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 300 plus testing sites as soon as their application is approved. Candidates receive official pass/fail results at the conclusion of their examination. AMCB then issues a formal certificate as well as wallet-sized certification card for ease in documenting current certification.

There was a small decrease (-5.1%) in the number of newly certified CNM/CMs in 2018. This is the first decrease since 2014 (See Table 2 and Figure 2). 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 2000-2018</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%
2018	682	647	642	5	(5.1%)
Note: Total New CNM/CM includes successful first time and repeat testing					
ξ Overall increase in new CNM/CMs since 2000 is 49%					

**Figure 2: Annual Number of New Certificants  
2000-2018**



**Pass/Fail Rates**

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. Note that the Total Candidates Examined includes initial and repeat exam attempts in one combined number and pass/fail rate percentages.

In 2018 there was a pass rate of 80.8%, this was decreased from the three previous years (91.8% in 2015, 93.9% in 2016, 90.5% in 2017). Following the results of the 2017 Task Analysis, the AMCB Certification Exam was updated to reflect changes in the typical tasks performed by beginning level CNM/CMs practicing less than 5 years. This can often result in changes in pass rates as reflected in 2018.

The 2017 Task Analysis is available at

<http://www.amcbmidwife.org/docs/task-analysis/2017-task-analysis-report.pdf?sfvrsn=2>.

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
2018	802	648/80.8%	154/19.2%	12,111	101	12,212

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

### **BOD Updates**

There were several changes to the AMCB Board of Directors (BOD) in 2018. Most noteworthy was the completion of Dr. Cara Krulewitch, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN's tenure as AMCB President. The entire AMCB BOD and staff would like to recognize Dr. Krulewitch's exemplary service and wish her the best in all future endeavors. Dr. Linda Hunter, CNM, EdD, FACNM will assume the role of President in 2019.

Other 2018 BOD changes were as follows:

CDR Amy Wooten, CNM, WHNP, CNS: Treasurer

Jan Kriebs, CNM, MS: chair, Certificate Maintenance Committee

Rick Garcia PhD, RN, CCM, FAAOHN: Professional Liaison.

### **Summary**

This has been a productive year for AMCB. The total number of CNM/CMs has now surpassed 12,000 and will continue to rise. Changes reflected in the numbers of new certificants and pass/fail rates in 2018 are consistent with trends seen in similar professions due to a changing health care landscape. AMCB has a vibrant and active Board of Directors and remains fiscally sound, with a bright outlook for the future.

**The 2018 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

CDR Amy Wooten, CNM, WHNP, CNS, Treasurer

Jan Kriebs, CNM, MSN, FACNM, 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

Rick Garcia, PhD, RN, CCM, FAAOHN, 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