

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD 2019 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.

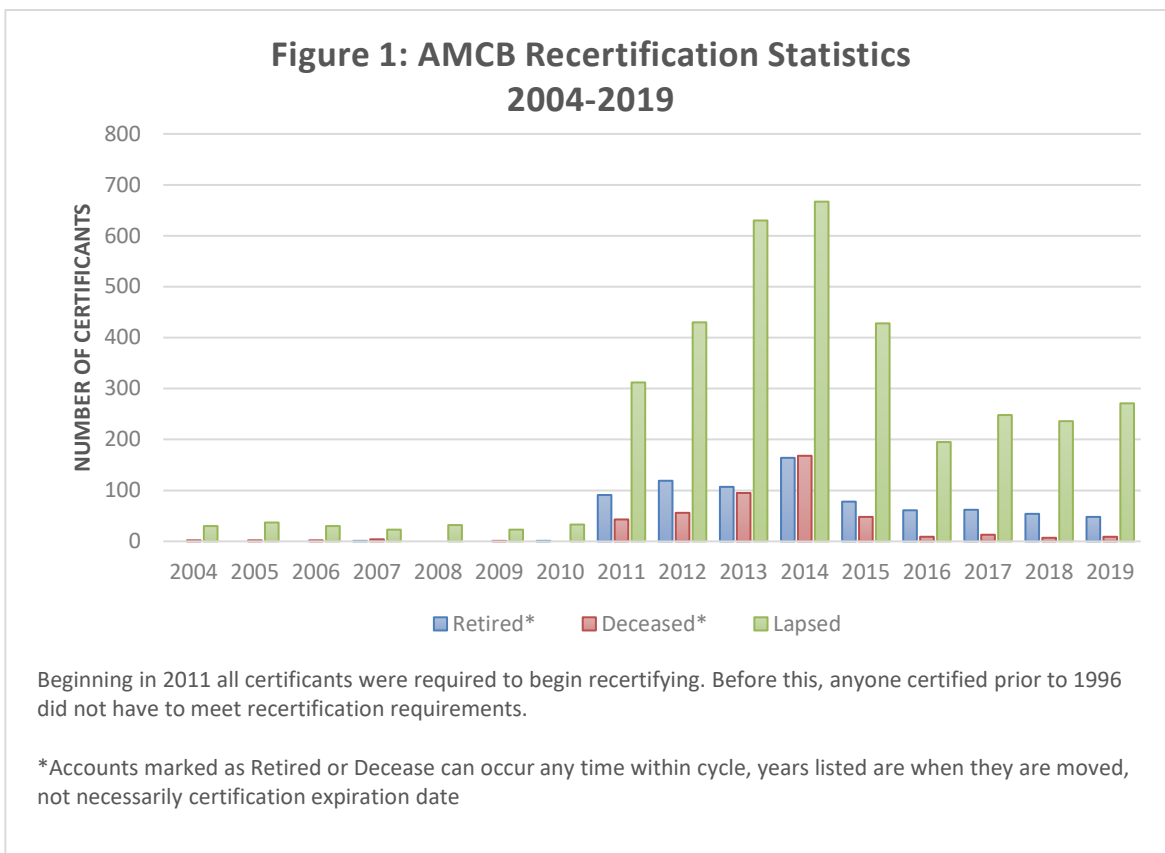
Since 2002, the AMCB has been accredited through The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs mandates that NCCA accredited organizations adhere to modern standards of practice in the certification industry.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

Recertification

Since the move to time-limited certificates, a small portion of the certificant pool continues to retire. As noted in Table 1 and Figure 1, the number of retired midwives over the last several years had remained relatively stable: 2.3% in 2016, 2.3% in 2017, with a slight increase of 0.1% (2.4%) in 2018. As anticipated, this number would decrease as the number of new certificants increases. This trend was seen in 2019 with a 3.6% increase in new certificants and a 1% decrease in retirees.

| 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* | 1,563 | 84.4% | 87 (5.6%) |
| 2012 | 2,748 | 77.4% | 115 (4.2%) |
| 2013 | 2,063 | 64.3% | 100 (4.8%) |
| 2014 | 2,680 | 69.5% | 147 (5.5%) |
| 2015 | 3,120 | 84.3% | 54 (1.7%) |
| 2016 | 1,535 | 85% | 36 (2.3%) |
| 2017 [€] | 2,093 | 86% | 48 (2.3%) |
| 2018 | 1,859 | 85% | 45 (2.4%) |
| 2019 | 2,388 | 88.6% | 33 (1.4%) |

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

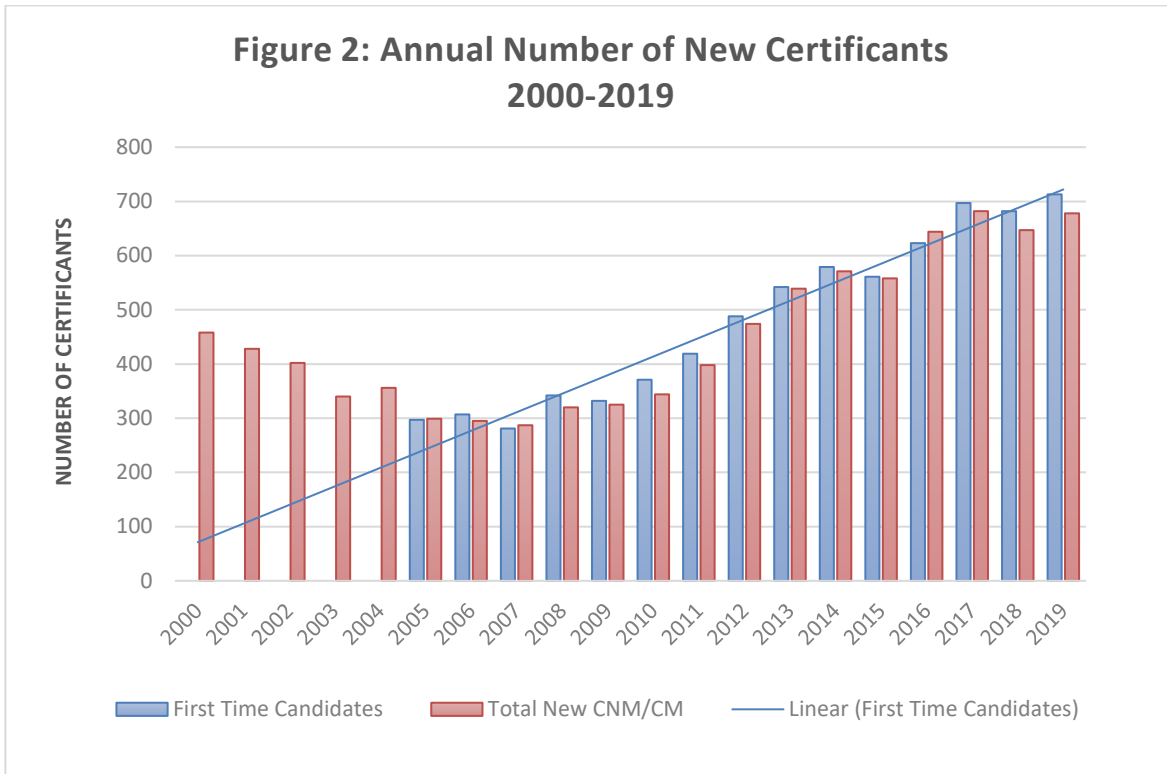


New Certification

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 an increase of 4.8% in the number of newly certified CNM/CMs in 2019. Of note is the increased number of newly certified CMs (13), from 2018 and 2017 (5 each year). Despite the decrease of 5.1% between 2017 and 2018, it is anticipated the number of new certificants will continue on this upward trend. (See Table 2 and Figure 2). Additional details by state can be found at: <http://www.amcbmidwife.org/about-amcb/annual-reports>.

| Table 2. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants 2000-2019 | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|---------|--------|---|
| 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 ^ξ | 677 | 5 | 5.9% |
| 2018 | 682 | 647 | 642 | 5 | (5.1%) |
| 2019 | 713 | 678 | 665 | 13 | 4.8% |
| Note: Total New CNM/CM includes successful first time and repeat testing | | | | | |
| ξ Overall increase in new CNM/CMs since 2000 is 49% | | | | | |



Exam Pass/Fail Rates

As required by NCCA in 2015, pass/fail statistics are now included in the AMCB Annual Report. As reported below in Table 3, the overall pass rate for all exam attempts in 2019 was 77.2%. This was a decrease of 3.6% from 2018. This data does not differentiate first time versus repeat test attempts (which can lower the over all pass rates). In 2018 for example, the first time pass rate was 83% and repeat pass rate was 68%. In 2019, first time pass rates were 81.5% (decrease of 1.5%) with a repeat pass rate of 58.5% (decrease of 9.5%). It is also important to note that in 2019, six midwifery programs had a 100% pass rate.

| 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 [€] | 754 | 682/90.5% | 72/9.5% | 11,752 | 99 [€] | 11,851 |
| 2018 | 802 | 648/80.8% | 154/19.2% | 12,111 | 101 | 12,212 |
| 2019 | 877 | 677/77.2% | 200/22.8% | 12,465 | 116 | 12,581 |

€Note decrease in CMs due to 3 conversions to CNM and 3 whose certification lapsed

Other Activities and Updates

AMCB continues to participate in regularly scheduled conference calls/meetings with the US Midwifery Education, Regulation, and Association (US MERA) workgroup. These meetings have fostered the potential for collaborative opportunities 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, NARM, and NAABB.

On November 8, 2019, the AMCB BOD hosted an Innovative Ideas meeting in Florida. The goals for this collaborative gathering were to solicit input, insight, and perspectives from our affiliated midwifery stakeholder organizations regarding the future of AMCB and its role in the midwifery profession. The meeting was facilitated by David Kushner (of Kushner & Associates), and included representatives from ACNM, ACME, DOME, and MOC. The small group format generated many thoughtful and productive ideas, and several opportunities for collaboration among midwifery stakeholders. Moving forward, AMCB will use this information in future strategic planning that will be more formally developed in 2020-2021.

2019 marked the end of terms for two AMCB Board members, Dr. Ron Berkman (Professional Liaison) and Kate Hodges (Consumer Member). AMCB is grateful for their significant contributions to the Board of Directors. They will be sorely missed. These two vacancies have been filled for 2020 by Dr. Dominique Delma as a professional liaison and LaurenElizabeth Cohen, MPH as a consumer member.

Summary

2019 has been a productive and successful year for AMCB, both in the number of new candidates taking the exam, and the total number of CNM/CMs, which is now at 12,581. AMCB remains fiscally sound with a talented, diverse, and active Board of Directors. Additionally, the Innovative Ideas meeting generated many possibilities for growth and collaboration. This coming year (2020) has begun with unprecedented challenges to the health profession workforce. AMCB is well positioned to support the current and future CNM/CMs.

The 2019 AMCB Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:

Linda Hunter, CNM, EdD, FACNM, President

Erin McMahon EdD, CNM, RN MSN, Secretary

Barbara Graves, CNM, MN, MPH, FACNM, Treasurer

Amy Wooten CNM, CDR,WHNP CNS, Examination Committee Chair

Jan Kriebs, CNM, MSN, FACNM, Certificate Maintenance Program Committee Chair

Elizabeth Pickett, CM, LM, MS, Credentials, Administration, Reporting Committee Chair

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

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

Nathaniel Apatov, MHS, MSN, PhD, CRNA, Professional Liaison

Ronald Burkman, MD, Professional Liaison

Kate Hodges, Consumer Member

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