

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD 2020 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.

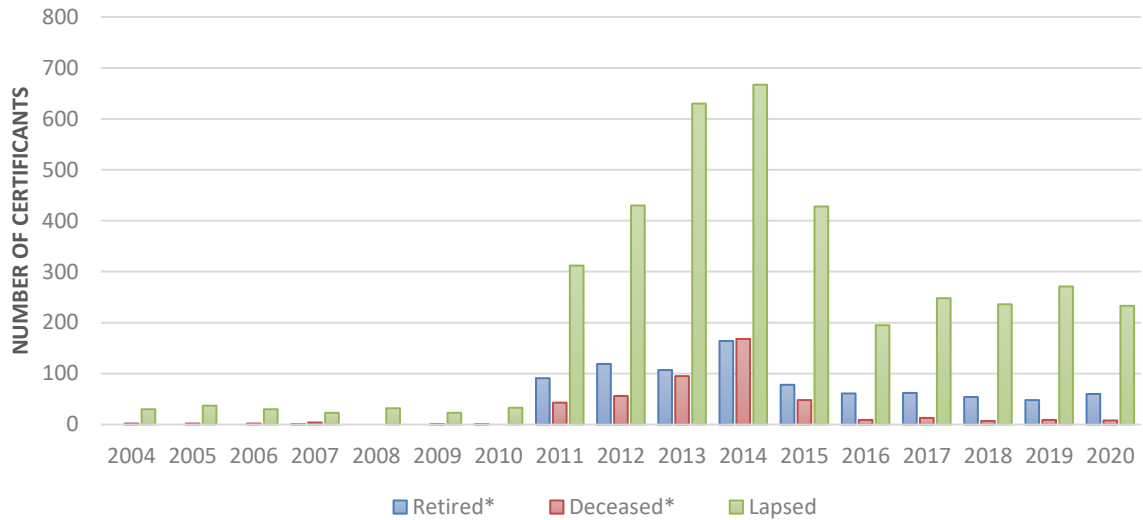
Recertification

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 both 2019 with a 3.6% increase in new certificants and a 1% decrease in retirees. In 2020, the number of certificants again increased by 3% with a nominal (1.1%) increase in those choosing retiree status.

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 ^e	2,093	86%	48 (2.3%)
2018	1,859	85%	45 (2.4%)
2019	2,388	88.6%	33 (1.4%)
2020	3,186	91.6%	35 (1.1%)

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

**Figure 1: AMCB Recertification Statistics
2004-2020**



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

*Accounts marked as Retired or Deceased can occur any time within cycle, years listed are when they are moved, not necessarily certification expiration date

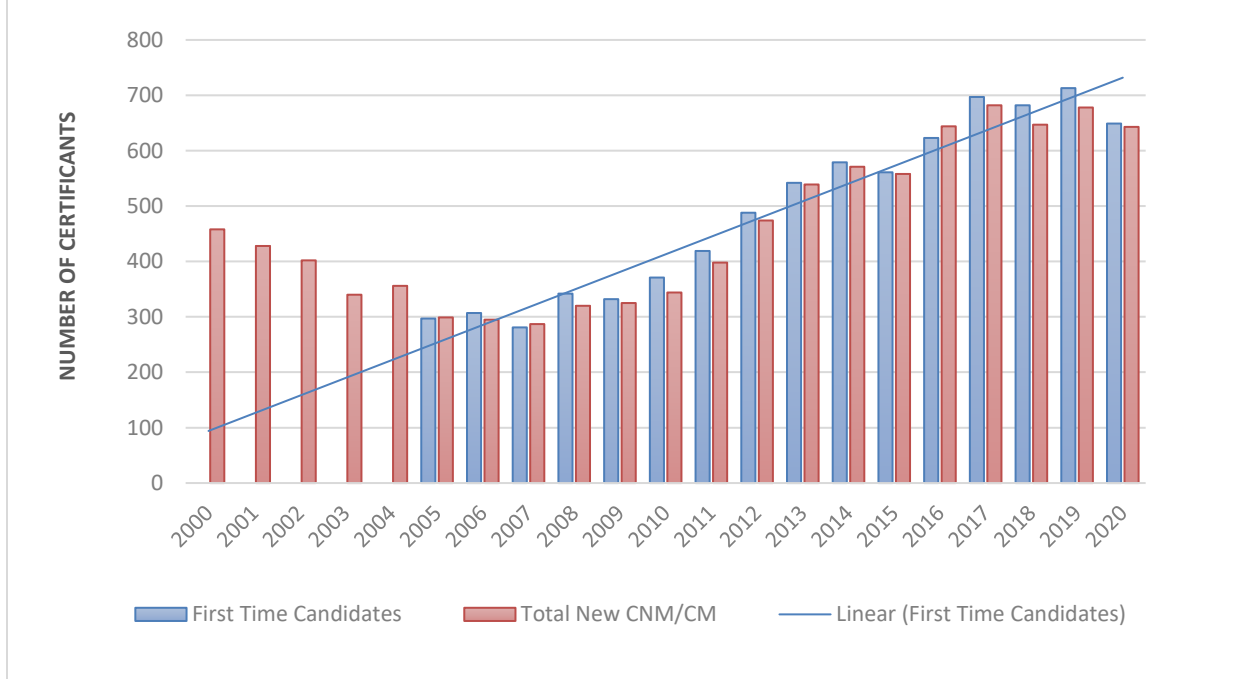
New Certification

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.

As noted in Table 2 and Figure 2, there was a 5.6% decrease of newly certified CNM/CMs in 2020. It can be surmised that the temporary closure of testing sites due to the Covid 19 pandemic affected this drop. In addition, many midwifery students were forced to delay graduation due to the loss of preceptors and institutional lockdown restrictions. PSI testing sites began to slowly reopen in May, 2020 under strict social distancing requirements. Site accessibility continues to fluctuate depending on specific State and/or National social distancing restrictions. On a positive note, the pandemic has resulted in a call-to-action for new health care providers and applications to midwifery, medicine, and nursing programs are rising. It is hoped this trend will result in a rebound increase in new certificants in 2021 and the years to follow. Additional details by state can be found at: <https://www.amcbmidwife.org/about-amcb/research-reports> .

Table 2. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants 2000-2020					
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%
2020	649	643	639	4	(5.2%)
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
2000-2020**



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 rose from 77.2% in 2019 to 83.3% in 2020. 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%). Likewise, in 2020 the first time pass rate was 87.1% (increase of 5.6%) with a repeat pass rate of 63.4% (increase of 4.9%). In 2020, thirteen midwifery programs had 100% pass rates.

Table 3. Additional Information on CNM and CM Certificants, 2015-2020

Year	Total Candidates Examined	Pass Rate	Fail Rate	Total Number of CNMs 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
2020	772	643/83.3%	129/16.7%	12,805	119	12,924

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

Other Activities and Updates

Over the course of 2020, the Covid 19 pandemic has profoundly affected our normal everyday lives. We have all dealt with personal and family illnesses, loss of jobs (or in contrast; long front-line work hours and exposure risks), working from home, school closures, cancelled vacations, social distancing and lack of physical contact with friends and loved ones. The word “virtual” became part of our daily vocabulary and like the rest of the world, we became zoom experts. Consequently, all AMCB Committee and Board meetings were held virtually in 2020. Although not ideal, we were able to continue our work and spend some quality time with each other “on screen”.

2020 also marked the end of the term for AMCB Board member Elizabeth Pickett, the chair of the Credentials, Administration, Reporting Committee. This vacancy has been filled for 2021 by Elle Schnetzler, DM, CM, FACNM.

Professional Liaison Nathaniel Apatov, MHS, MSN, PhD, CRNA resigned his position on the Board at the end of 2020. This vacancy has been filled for 2021 by Captain Robert Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MPH, MS, MBA, CRNA.

We would like to thank Liz and Nate for their dedicated service to AMCB and acknowledge their significant contributions. They will be sorely missed.

Summary

While 2020 has been a challenging year, day-to-day functioning of AMCB was not significantly impacted. Under the guidance and leadership of our CEO Carrie Bright, staff were able to work from home, allowing AMCB to remain open and available to students and midwives around the country.

Despite modest decreases in new certificants, pass rates improved and 2020 welcomed 643 new CNM/CMs. This brings the total of CNM/CMs up to 12,925, a 49% increase since 2000. It is anticipated this trend will continue in response to an overall growing need for competent, well trained midwives.

AMCB remains fiscally sound and steadfast in its mission and primary functions. With strong leadership at the helm, dedicated staff, and a talented, diverse Board of Directors, AMCB is poised for 2021 and whatever challenges the future holds.

The 2020 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

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

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

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

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

Dominique Delma, MD, Professional Liaison Member

Lauren Elizabeth Cohen, MPH, Consumer Member

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