

# AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD 2021 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.

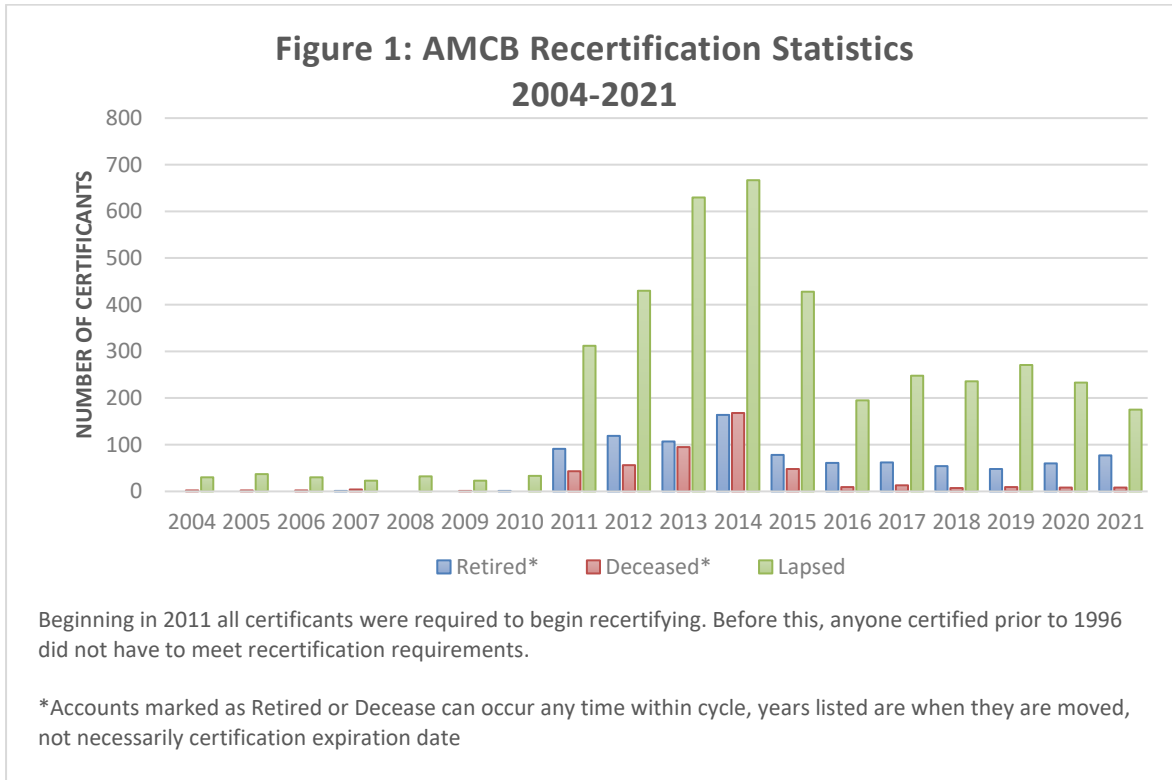
Since 2002, the AMCB has been accredited through The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs mandates that NCCA accredited organizations adhere to modern standards of practice in the certification industry. Both the Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM) and Certified Midwife (CM) certification programs are accredited by NCCA through 12/31/2026.

## Recertification

Since the move to time-limited certification, 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. 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. 2021 however, had a decrease of 3.6% in the number of midwives recertifying with a 3% increase in those choosing retirement status. It is unclear if the COVID 19 pandemic played a role in this change.

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 <sup>e</sup>	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%)
2021	1,937	88%	58 (3.0%)

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

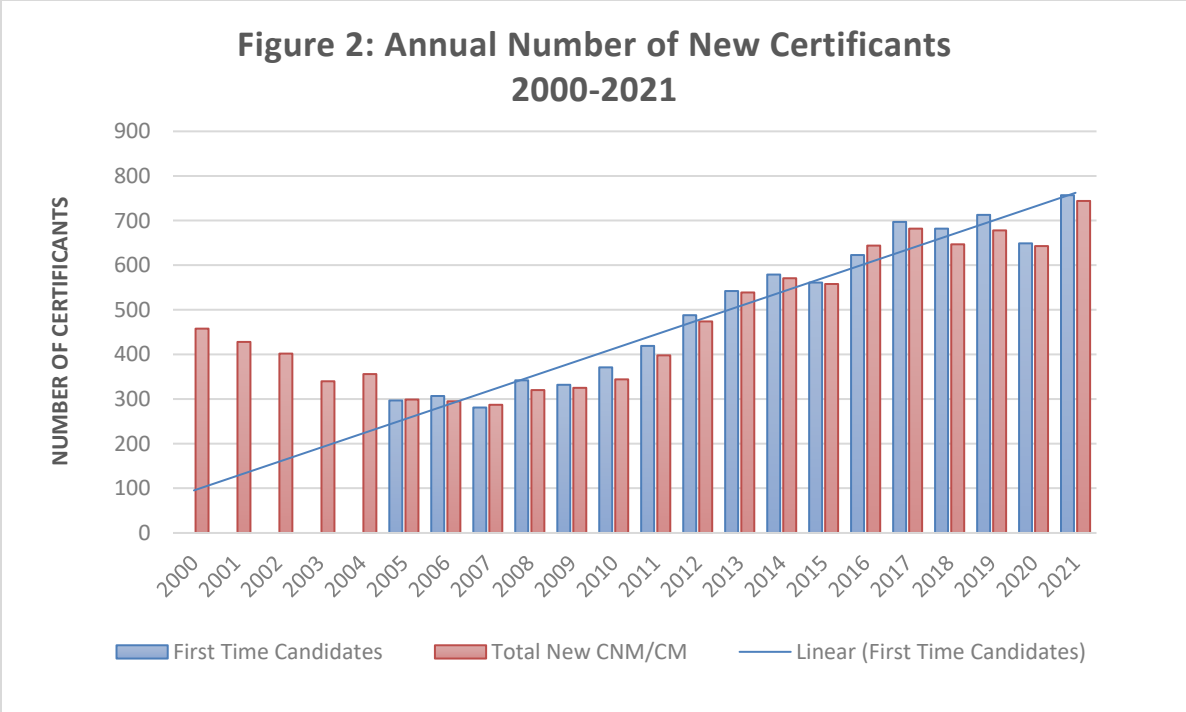


**New Certification**

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.

As noted in Table 2 and Figure 2, there was a 15.7% increase of newly certified CNM/CMs in 2021. It can be surmised that the reopening of test sites and availability of preceptors enabled record numbers of midwifery students to graduate and meet the qualifications for the certification exam. This rebound increase in new certificants is a welcome sign that hopefully will continue in the coming years. Additional details by state can be found at: <https://www.amcbmidwife.org/about-amcb/research-reports> .

<b>Table 2. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants 2000-2021</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%)
2019	713	678	665	13	4.8%
2020	649	643	639	4	(5.2%)
2021	757	744	737	7	15.7%
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 decreased slightly from 83.3% in 2020 to 81% in 2021. This data does not differentiate first time versus repeat test attempts (which can lower the over all pass rates). In 2019 for example, the first-time pass rate was 81.5% (decrease of 1.5%) with a repeat pass rate of 58.5% (decrease of 9.5%). 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 2021, the first-time pass rate was 84.7% (decrease of 2.4%) and repeat pass rates were 64% (marginal increase of 0.6%). Five midwifery programs had 100% pass rates in 2021.

**Table 3. Additional Information on CNM and CM Certificants, 2015-2021**

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 <sup>e</sup>	754	682/90.5%	72/9.5%	11,752	99 <sup>e</sup>	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
2021	918	744/81%	174/19%	13,382	123	13,259

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

## **Other Activities and Updates from the President**

Over the course of 2021, the COVID 19 pandemic has continued to affect our normal everyday lives. The initiation of the vaccine has helped to decrease cases and illness severity. However, with the appearance of new variants and surges in cases, AMCB spring committee and board meetings were again held virtually.

The ACNM annual meeting was also held virtually, and I was able to attend both ACNM BOD meeting and the DOME meetings via zoom. Both meetings were collegial with no new issues to report. I also attended the most recent ACNM BOD meeting in March and was able to provide their BOD with copies of AMCB's DEIB website information. I am proud of the work we are doing and appreciate everyone's commitment to learning and evolving together as an organization.

By the late summer, COVID 19 cases were down and for the first time in 2 years, AMCB was able to hold fall committee meetings in person. It was a wonderful reunion for everyone, and we were able to welcome our newest members, Elle Schnetzler and Robert Hawkins in person.

## **Summary**

2021 in some ways has felt like a recovery year for AMCB, the midwifery profession, and the rest of the country. While there were some challenges, we welcomed 744 newly certified midwives into the workforce in 2021. That is the highest year-to-year increase since 2016, bringing the total CNM/CMs to 13,574. With the pending ACME accreditation of new midwifery programs, it is anticipated this trend will continue to meet the growing need for competent, well-trained midwives.

While the ongoing effects of the pandemic may not be completely over, AMCB remains fiscally sound and steadfast in its mission and primary functions. At the heart of any successful organization, is its leadership, staff, and committee members. Over the course of the past 2 years, I have seen incredible fortitude and flexibility by everyone who is a part of this organization. For that I am incredibly grateful and fortunate to serve as your President. I look forward to easier times ahead but am confident that AMCB remains poised for whatever challenges the future holds.

**The 2021 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

Elle Schnetzler, DM, CM, FACNM, Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee Chair

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

Robert Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MPH, MS, MBA, CRNA, CAPT, USN, NC, Professional Liaison

Dominique Delma, MD, Professional Liaison Member

LaurenElizabeth Cohen, MPH, Consumer Member

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