

# AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD 2023 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.

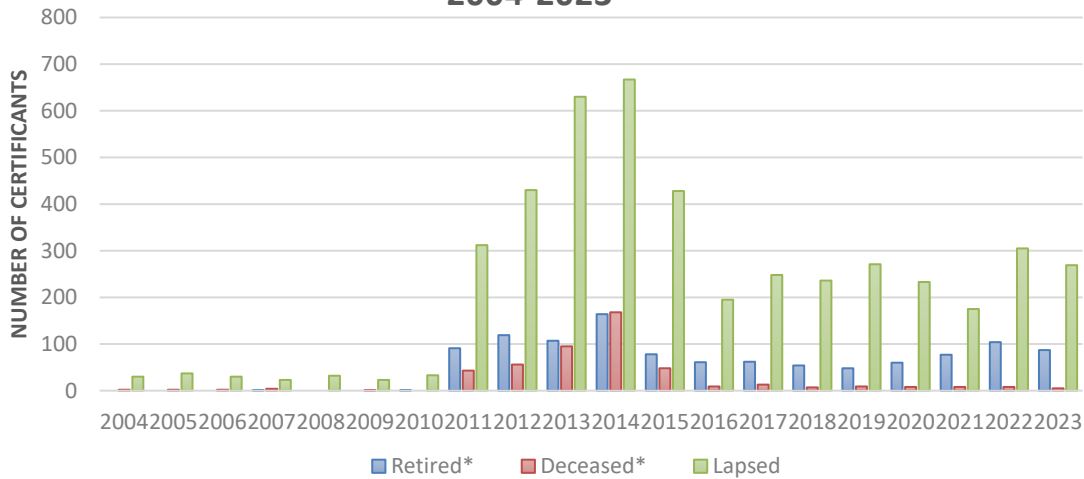
## Recertification

From 2015 to 2020, the annual number of midwives choosing to retire ranged from 1.7% to 2.4%. This number began to rise in 2021 to 3% and again in 2022 to its highest point of 4.2%. There was a slight decrease to 3.9% in 2023 (See Table 1 and Figure 1). These nominal fluctuations are expected as the workforce ages.

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%)
2022	2,469	83%	104 (4.2%)
2023	2,223	84%	87 (3.9%)

\*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  
2004-2023**



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

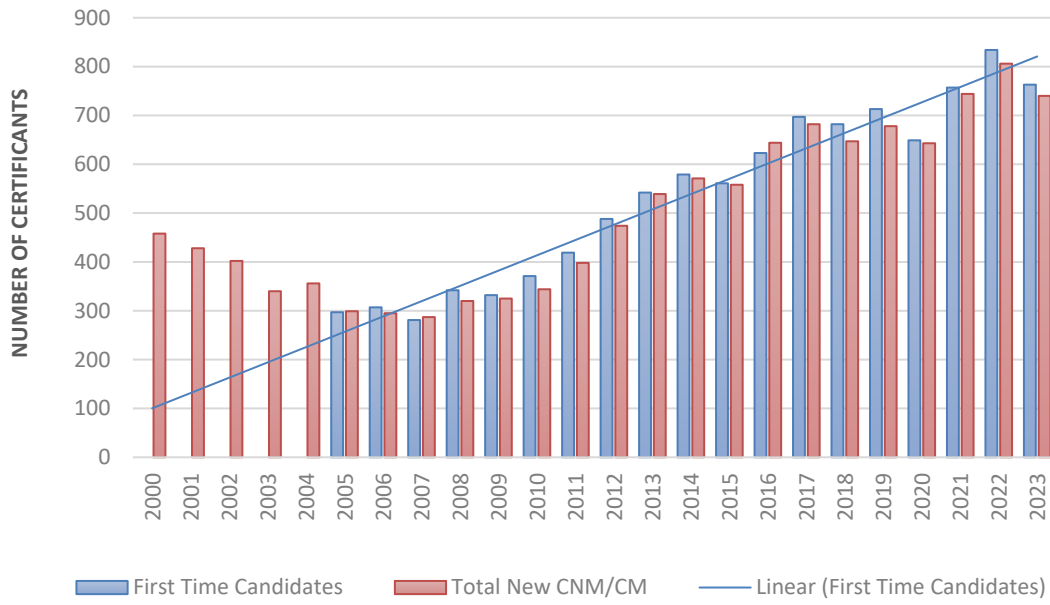
### New Certification

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.

In 2023, the increase in the number of newly certified CMN/CMs was 8.2%, a small decrease from 8.3% in 2022 (see Table 2, Figure 2). Following increases of 15.7% in 2021 and 8.3% in 2022, this decrease may represent a more stabilized post COVID-19 health care workforce. As more and more new midwifery programs are opened across the U.S, upward trends are likely to follow over the next few years to meet the rising demands for competent, well-trained midwives. Additional details by state can be found at: <https://www.amcbmidwife.org/about-amcb/research-reports> .

Year	First Time Candidates	Total New CNM/CM	New CNM	New CM	Annual % Increase or (Decrease) in new CNM/CM compared to prior year
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%
2022	834	806	799	7	8.3%
2023	763	740	736	4	(8.2)
Note: Total New CNM/CM includes successful first time and repeat testing					
ξ Overall increase in new CNM/CMs since 2000 is 62%					

**Figure 2: Annual Number of New Certificants  
2000-2023**



## 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 2023 was 79.7%, nominally decreased from 81.3% in 2022. This data does not differentiate first time versus repeat test attempts (which can lower the over all pass rates). In 2021, for example the first-time pass rate was 84.7 % with a repeat pass rate of 64%. Likewise in 2022, the first-time pass rate was 83% and repeat pass rate was 72.2%, a notable rise from previous years. Several midwifery programs continue to have 100% first-time pass rates: 13 in 2020, 5 in 2021, 8 in 2022, and 7 in 2023.

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>€</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
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
2022	992	806/81.3%	186/18.7%	13,798	130	13,904
2023	928	740/79.7	188/20.3%	14,065	131	14,196

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

## Activities and Updates

-2023 was a productive year for AMCB as the Board, CEO, and staff maintained the standards of excellence and carried on the important work of the organization. Noteworthy accomplishments included:

-A DEIB web page is now available and AMCB staff, Board, and committee members have continued this important personal and organizational anti-racism work. In addition, several board members have participated the ASAE DEIA and Conscious Inclusion Micro Credential Program.

-Plans were finalized for The Transition to Professional Midwifery Practice program with a January 2024 start date.

-The research committee led by Chair Dr. Brie Thumm, completed their workforce study: AMCB Certification Demographic and Employment Data, 2016 to 2020: the Certified Nurse-Midwife and Certified Midwife Workforce. This important research was published in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* in October/November 2023 and is available on the AMCB website.

## **Board Member Changes**

2023 marked the end of the terms for AMCB Secretary Erin McMahon, EdD, CNM, RN MSN and Professional Liaison Rick Garcia, PhD, RN, CCM, FAAOHN. The AMCB secretary position has been filled by Elle Schnetzler, DM, CM, FACNM which created an opening on the Board for the Chair of the Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee. This vacancy has been filled by Mary Barger, CNM, PhD, MPH, FACNM and the Professional Liaison opening has been filled by Suzanne Staebler, DNP, NNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN for 2024.

We would like to welcome Mary and Suzanne to our BOD. We would also like to thank Erin and Rick for their dedicated service to AMCB and acknowledge their significant contributions over the past 6 years.

## **Specific President and CEO Activities**

In 2023, The AMCB staff, CEO and myself attended the ACNM Annual Meeting in Orlando. In addition, AMCB was a platinum sponsor for this event. The meeting was productive and we attended several key events and meetings including DOME, ACNM Presidents reception, and a networking meeting regarding the future of USMERA.

AMCB Certification Manager, Rebecca Koskovich accompanied us to the DOME meeting to directly address program directors' questions and concerns. Although feedback from DOME regarding this face-to-face meeting was positive, it was decided at the last AMCB Board meeting to discontinue in-person attendance at future DOME meetings. As such, DOME was notified all future communication with AMCB will be in writing. We have since received written communication from DOME with several questions that will be discussed at the Spring 2024 BOD meeting.

We attended ACNM business meetings via zoom and participated in several brainstorming meetings with ACNM, ACME, and the ACNM Foundation. At the November AMCB Board meeting the Transition to Professional Midwifery Practice was approved. It is our hope that this program will help boost membership in ACNM moving forward. We will continue to keep these lines of communication open.

## **Summary**

2023 has brought continued success to AMCB. In-person meetings at the new office were productive, lively, and welcome gatherings. We welcomed 740 newly certified midwives into the workforce in 2023, bringing the total CNM/CMs to 14,196. As more midwifery programs become accredited, it is anticipated this trend will continue to meet the growing need for competent, well-trained midwives.

While we have much to celebrate this year, there is always ongoing work to be done and AMCB is well positioned to face any challenges that may arise in the coming year. We have had the good fortune of stable and dedicated leadership and staff with ongoing financial stability. I am grateful for the volunteer service of our board and committee members and proud to serve as your president.

**The 2023 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, WHNP CNS, Examination Committee Chair

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

Brie Thumm, PhD, CNM, RN, MBA, Research Committee Chair

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

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

Robert Hawkins, PhD, DNP, MPH, MS, MBA, MA, CRNA, Professional Liaison

Dominique Delma, MD, Professional Liaison Member

Clarissa Huard, MPH, Consumer Member

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